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DROIT ET AVANT.

Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1892.

No. 505

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

THE OLD CLOCK IN THE HALL.

BY R. H. STODDARD.

IT stands in a corner of the room
Behind the door, in the shade and gloom
In a heavy and antique case,
Rich mahogany, maple and oak,
Battered and scratched and dim with smoke
And the hands are bent on the face !

The knob and hinges are red with rust,
The top o' th' mouldings covered with dust,
The panels are yellow with stains,
And a ragged web like a tattered pall
Runs from its side to the sombre wall,
And over the window panes.

The pendulum swings, the wheels go round,
Making a dull, monotonous sound,
As the vanishing moments fleet ;
A "tick," like the falling of grains of sand,
As Time was pouring from out his hand
The dust of years at his feet !

Years have vanished—forgotten years—
With all their sorrows and sins and tears,
And left their marks in the hall :—
The old have died, the young grown old—
Generations have gone to mould,
And the clock survives them all.

Beautiful girls have watched the hours,
Knitting at stands, or working flowers
In frames of 'broidery fine—
And mornings, the young folks playing late
Wished the moments fettered to "eight,"
For the school began at "nine !"

Mothers, with sons in distant lands,
Sorrowing, chid its tardy hands,
And dreamed of the meeting dear—
And wives whose husbands returned at night
Marked the time in the fading light,
And listened for footsteps near !

Blushing brides at their toilets gay,
In snowy robes on the happy day,
Have waited the hour to wed :
And sick folks, tossing on beds of pain,
Gazed at the clock again and again,
And watched beside the dead !

But years have vanished, and others fill
Their place, and the old clock standeth still

Ticking as in its pride :—

Summer and winter, day and night,
A sexton chiming the hours' flight,
Tolling the knell of Time !

THE "GOOD OLD TIMES."

A fig for the "good old times,"
Of which some love to sing ;
A fig for the dogg'el rhymes
From grumblers' brains that spring.

In these "good old times," say they,
"Men were as men should be ;
They fared on the best each day,
And lived right jollily !"

"Starvation was then unknown—
Taxation but a name ;
Now 'neath the latter men groan,
For thence the former came."

A plague on your "good old times !"—
"Ye drivelling dotards, cease !—
Say, what but their splendid crimes
Now rob us of our fleece ?

We're shorn to the very skin,
While still the debt remains ;
And, like some national sin,
The nation's life it drains.

Though many fared well each day,
The millions were oppress'd ;—
'T is a crowning lie to say,
The people then were bless'd.

And never again, let's pray,
May might alone be right ;
The sun of a better day
Now sheds its glorious light !

Then a fig for the "good old times,"
Of which some love to sing ;
And a fig for the dogg'el rhymes
From grumblers' brains that spring.

CATCH.

NEAR the moon a pale star clinging
Harbingers another morn,
Feeble spark to mortals bringing
Hopes and cares with daylight born.

Fare thee well, thou moon of sadness !
Silent night, awhile farewell !
Will the day give grief or gladness ?
Who of Adam's race can tell ?

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

Fare thee well, thou moon of beauty !
Hail, thou glorious rising sun !
Let the weak be strong in duty,
Till their course, like thine, be run.

NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THERE was a Ball at Belvedere on Thursday night—to dance out the Old and sing in the New Year. The Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne were present to bid farewell to 1891 and greet 1892. Just at the hour when the two Years met, the dancing ceased and the band played "Auld Lang Syne." The guests took up the strain and the old song was sung lustily. The party broke up with exchange of good wishes for the New Year.

SEVERAL churches had midnight services to bless the New Year. The ships on the river rang bells, blew steam whistles, and fired rockets to announce the departure and the advent.

THE Maharaja of Kapurthala is in Calcutta.

FOR manufacture of matches, there are, in Europe, about 50,000 factories, producing annually a quantity valued at 10,000,000*l.* sterling. The oldest and the largest place for their manufacture in the world is in Sweden.

A DARING robbery is reported from the bank of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co., Lombard Street. A gentleman entered and deposited the contents of his bag—gold, silver, and cheques—on the counter. As soon as the Cashier had checked the silver, some one spoke to the depositor, and when he turned round to answer, one package containing 300*l.* and another with cheques to the amount of 400*l.* or 500*l.*, had vanished.

BY way of answer to those who still assert that English soldiers are as good as ever, the military correspondent of the *Globe* quotes the following figures from the last issued authoritative document on the subject, shewing an alarming and steady deterioration :—

"Ten years ago the proportion of men under twenty years of age was 104 per 1,000, while in the last three years it has been 132, 147, and 158 respectively. Ten years ago men under 5 ft. 5 in. were in a proportion of 52 per 1,000, while in the last three years they have reached the proportions of 106, 115, and 117 respectively. Ten years ago men under 37 inches of chest measurement were 570 per 1,000, while for the last three years the numbers respectively are 641, 657, and 668."

AT a sitting of the Austrian Delegation, the celebrated surgeon Professor Billroth spoke of his experience of modern warfare. He said that

"statistics proved that the percentage of combatants wounded by bombs or cannon balls on modern battle-fields was very slight when compared with those disabled by rifle bullets. The speaker had been present at the battles of Woerth and Weissenburg during the Franco-German War of 1870, and had personal opportunities of observing that wounds inflicted by artillery or cavalry were comparatively rare. To put the case more plainly, he would say that about 80 per cent. of the total number of casualties consisted of bullet wounds, while 15 per cent. could be ascribed to artillery, and 5 per cent. to the sabre or bayonet. It was, moreover, a fallacy to suppose that the majority of wounds caused by artillery or bombs ended fatally. According to his observations this was not the case. In 5 per cent. of the wounds inflicted by the Mannlicher bullet sometimes two and sometimes three bones were shattered. An army at that rate would quickly melt away. Professor Billroth also spoke of the influence of smokeless powder in future warfare. In the storming of fortified places the sacrifice of life would be beyond all calculation. In the Franco-German war, when smokeless powder was unknown, such assaults were made at a fearful sacrifice. He urged the importance of efficiency in the ambulance service. In the fighting around Metz, although the Mannlicher rifle was not in use, two-thirds of the gunshot wounds were of a serious nature. In this connection he reminded the House that the aéronaut and the electrician might be expected to play an important part in the next war. He mentioned in laudatory terms the electric apparatus which has lately been adopted by the English, French, and German armies for the purpose of searching the battle-fields by night."

THE want of a good theatre in Calcutta being brought to the notice of Mrs. Potter and Mr. Kyle Bellew, Mr. Bellew, on behalf of Mrs.

Potter herself, writes to the *Englishman* "to make known to those in your splendid city who are interested in the drama, that we are prepared to lease and undertake the management of a theatre in Calcutta if a suitable one is built—in Chowringhee or some site as popular and accessible."

It is time that the omission should be rectified. The European quarter sadly needs a theatre worthy of the city of palaces.

THE Sub-Deputy Collector of Haflaspore, in the Madaripore subdivision of the Faridpur district, holding his court at Gopalgunje, will henceforth be officially known as Sub-Deputy Magistrate and Sub-Deputy Collector of Gopalgunje.

THE Secretary of State for India has accorded sanction to the commencement of work on the Mu Valley State Railway from Kailin to Mogong, the proposed terminus of the line, and on the Katha Branch.

THE Honourable Dr. Gooroo Dass Banerjee has made himself indispensable to the Calcutta University. He has been re-appointed Vice-Chancellor for another term of two years.

LAST week, there was a wrestling match at Fillis's Circus between a native named Karim Bux and the champion English wrestler Tom Cannon. The referee, the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, adjudged the native victorious. The *Mirror* was in high glee and taunted Tom Cannon or Captain Duncan C. Ross and other Europeans saying, that "it will be vain for them to try conclusions with Indian wrestlers, unless and until they sit at the latter's feet, and become their pupils. As it is, these matches between European and Indian wrestlers will continue to be hollow affairs, and a Karim Bux will always be pinning a Cannon flat on his back." The Captain thus replies to the challenge thrown out by the *Mirror*. He writes to the *Englishman* :—

"Now after the match between Cannon and Karim Bux I challenged any Native to wrestle me either in public or private for Rs. 1,000. I leave you and the public to judge why my challenge was not accepted."

Now Sir, instead of my having to take lessons from or sit at the feet of Native wrestlers, after about 15 years' wrestling amongst the best wrestlers of the world, and holding as I do the undisputed championship for mixed wrestling, I make the following propositions :—

(1.) I am prepared on one week's notice to throw Karim Bux for a stake of Rs. 1,000 ten times within one hour, according to International rules, Scotch, Irish, or American styles.

(2.) Or I will agree to throw any six Natives that can be produced on the same conditions within one hour.

(3.) I will wrestle any Native in his own style one fall, and one fall European style, the man winning his fall in the shortest time to be declared the winner.

Failing acceptance of any of the above very liberal propositions, I am prepared to wrestle any Native in his own style, provided I am allowed one European representative who thoroughly understands the rules of Native wrestling. In doing this I make no reflection on the decision of H. H. The Maharaja of Cooch Behar, in the recent match which according to the rules was absolutely fair and honest."

AFTER his acquittal, the jeweller Jacob received, as he says in a letter to the morning papers of Tuesday, "many expressions of the sympathy from the public generally." He thanks "all who have entertained towards me such kindly feeling." The gentlemen of the jury too come in for a share of his acknowledgments "for their patient and independent consideration during the protracted proceedings in the High Court." He has a suppressed smile at the Calcutta Bar. "With a strong array of legal professional gentlemen against me, I was chiefly supported and encouraged by my confidence in the English love of fair play, which in a contest generously leans to the weakest side." Lastly, he thanks the editors of the papers to which he sends his letter and wishes "to one and all a Happy New Year and many of them." Mr. Jacob is not profuse only in verbal thanks to those who merited them at his hands. He remembers the poor in this connection. To further mark his satisfaction at the end of the trial and in praise of God Who delivered him from the meshes of the law laid against his liberty, he has placed Rs. 5,000 in the hands of the Commissioner of Police in aid of the Calcutta charities. Mr. Lambert has distributed the sum as under :—

District Charitable Society (including the Alms House and Leper Asylum)	...	...	Rs. 2,000
Calcutta Free School...	...	...	" 400
Entally Orphanage ...	...	...	" 400
St. Vincent's Home ...	...	...	" 400

European Female Orphan Asylum	...	...	300
Women's Friendly Society	...	...	300
Society of St. Vincent de Paul	...	...	250
Catholic Male Orphanage	...	...	250
Little Sisters of the Poor	...	...	200
Police Poor Box	...	...	200
St. Mary's House of Charity	...	...	100
The Protestant (Fendall) Home	...	...	100
Old Church Parochial Home	...	...	50
St. Paul's Mission Home	...	...	50

ON the 1st of December, died at Bhownugger, at the age of 87 years, a Hindu devotee much respected in the Western Presidency, Satchitananda Saraswati. Before he took that name and the devotee's rôle, he had been, as Gaurishankar Udyashankar, an active man as a scholar and politician, who rose to be Minister of Bhownugger, obtaining the title of C.S.I.

NEW YEAR'S DAY HONOURS.

The following honours were published yesterday in a *Gazette of India Extraordinary* :—

STAR OF INDIA.

His Excellency the Grand Master of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India is pleased to announce that Her Majesty the Queen, Empress of India, has been graciously pleased to make the following appointments to the said Order :—

To be Companions.

The Hon'ble John Woodburn, Indian Civil Service, Chief Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and an Additional Member of the Council of the Governor-General for making Laws and Regulations.

William Lee-Warner, Esq., Indian Civil Service, Secretary to the Government of Bombay in the Political Department.

INDIAN EMPIRE.

To be a Knight Grand Commander.

His Highness Maharaj-Adhiraj Sardul Singh Bahadur, Maharaja of Kishenghar in Rajputana.

To be a Knight Commander.

His Excellency Ali Kuli Khan Mukhbar-ud-Daula, C.I.E., Minister of Telegraphs in Persia.

To be Companions.

Colonel John Charles Ardagh, C. B., Royal Engineers, Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General.

Frederic Clendon Daukes, Esq., Indian Civil Service, Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

Raja Ramchandra Vital Rao Shaib, Raja of Sandur in the Madras Presidency.

Major Henry Percy Poingdestre Leigh, Indian Staff Corps, Deputy Commissioner, Kohat.

Raja Gode Narayana Gajapati Rao, of Vizagapatam, Madras Presidency.

Herbert Hope Risley, Esq., Indian Civil Service, Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Financial and Municipal Departments.

Muhammad Abdulla Khan, Bahadur, Honorary Magistrate, Isa Khel, Bannu District, Punjab.

Joseph Bampfylde Fuller, Esq., Indian Civil Service, Commissioner of Settlements and Agriculture, Central Provinces.

Khan Bahadur Mir Ghulam Baba of Suat.

Herbert Thirkell White, Esq., Indian Civil Service, Commissioner of a Division in Burma.

INDIAN TITLES.

Nawab Bahadur.

Nawab Sir Khwaja Abdul Ghani, K. C. S. I., of Dacca.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Ahsun Ullah, C. I. E., of Dacca, Additional Member of the Council of the Governor-General for making Laws and Regulations.

Raja Bahadur.

Raja Gobind Lal Roy of Tajhat in Rungpur.

Nawab.

Nasir Ali Khan, son of the late Nawab Ali Raza Khan of Lahore. Maulvi Syud Ameer Husain, C. I. E., Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta.

Raja.

Babu Satis Chandra Pauré, Zemindar of Pakour in the Sonthal Parganas.

Dewan Bahadur.

Alexio Pinto, Deputy Collector in the Madras Presidency.

Khan Bahadur.

Maulvi Syud Muhammad Abu Saleh, Landholder of Gya. Khan Sahib Khudadad Khan, Political Head Munshi in the Office of the Commissioner in Sind in the Bombay Presidency.

Nawabzada Shamsher Ali Khan, Mandal, Chairman of the Municipal Committee of Karnal in the Punjab.

Fakir Syud Jamal-ud-din, late Extra Assistant Commissioner, Honorary Magistrate of Lahore in the Punjab. Darya Khan, Nasiri, Camel Jemadar, Baluchistan.

Rai Bahadur.

Cherukupalli Suriyandrayana, Agency Head Clerk, Vizagapatam, in the Madras Presidency.

Baru Venkata Rana Norasu Pantula, Tahsildar of Golconda, Vizagapatam, in the Madras Presidency.

Babu Ishan Chandra Mitter, Government Pleader, Hooghly.

Babu Iswar Chandra Sil, Honorary Magistrate and Vice-Chairman of the Dacca Municipality.

Babu Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, late Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, 24-Parganas.

Babu Baij Nath Singh, Honorary Magistrate, Gya.

Chaudhri Raghunath Singh, Honorary Magistrate of Najafgarh in the District of Delhi in the Punjab.

Konganda Moodiah, of Napoklu in the Padinalknad Taluk in Coorg. Cheppadra Somiah of Mercara in Coorg.

Munshi Hardyal Singh of Jodhpore in Rajputana.

Lalla Kishori Lal of Jodhpore in Rajputana.

Subadar-Major Bhagwan Singh, Upper Burma Military Police.

Sardar Rup Singh, Hakim-i-Ala, Kashmir.

Rao Bahadur.

Muthukarappa Arumugam Pillai, Tahsildar of the Ponneri Taluk in the district of Chingleput in the Madras Presidency.

C. Jambulingam Mudaliyar, Vice-President of the District Board of Cuddapa in the Madras Presidency.

Gunnoo Naidoo, Senior Hospital Assistant in the Bombay Presidency.

Dadoba Sakharum Shirvalkar, Sub-Engineer and Honorary Assistant Engineer in the Public Works Department in the Bombay Presidency.

Sardar Bahadur.

Sardar Harnam Singh, Honorary Magistrate of Kharar in the District of Umballa in the Punjab.

Baisakha Singh, late Inspector of Police in the Punjab.

Khan Sahib.

Massu Khan, Notkani, Inspector of Police in the District of Dera Ghazi Khan in the Punjab.

Syud Mustafa Hossain, Honorary Magistrate of Faridabad in the district of Delhi in the Punjab.

Bahadur Khan of Dab in the District of Jhang in the Punjab.

Abdur Ghafir, Sub-Surveyor, Survey of India.

Rai Sahib.

Pundit Diwan Chand of the Shahpur district in the Punjab.

Lala Hari Chand, Vice-President of the Municipal Committee of Multan in the Punjab.

Chaudhri Nathan Singh, Zaildar in the District of Delhi in the Punjab.

Babu Netai Chaund Chatterjee, Deputy Examiner, 2nd Grade, and Superintendent of the Commissariat Branch of the Military Accounts Department, Eastern Circle, Bengal.

Babu Mohendro Nath Chatterjee, Chief Clerk in the Office of the Commissary-General, Western Circle.

Lalla Jora Mull, Store-keeper, Bengal Commissariat Transport Department.

Babu Steekristo Ghose, 1st Class Assistant in the Office of the Commissary-General, Eastern Circle.

Rao Sahib.

Mangesh Callian Shastri of the Commissariat Department in the Bombay Presidency.

Morairao Khusagar, Inspector of the Bombay City Police.

Yesu Govind Nagwekar, late Chief Constable in the Ratnagiri District Police in the Bombay Presidency.

Raghunath Ramchandra Shingankar of the Public Works Department under the Kolhapur Darbar in the Bombay Presidency.

Ellappa Balaram, Building Contractor in Bombay.

Nirbhe Singh Mandloi of Sohpur in the Hoshangabad District.

Sardar.

Munshi Gurdit Singh, Mr. Munshi and Native Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India.

Kyet Thaye Zaung Shwe Salwe Ya Min.

Maung Taing, Extra Assistant Commissioner, 3rd Grade, Zeyawadi township, Toungoo District.

Thuye Gaung Ngwe Da Ya Min.

Maung Myat Tha, Inspector of Police, Myingyan.

Ahmudan Gaung Tazek Ya Min.

Maung Ba Bwa, Myook, 4th Grade, Monywa township.

Holloway's Ointment and Pills are the best, cheapest, and the most popular remedies at all seasons, and under all circumstances they may be used with safety and with the certainty of doing good. Eruptions, rashes, and all descriptions of skin diseases, sores, ulcerations and burns are presently benefited and ultimately cured by these healing, soothing, and purifying medicaments. The Ointment rubbed upon the abdomen checks all tendency to irritation in the bowels, and averts diarrhoea and other disorders of the intestines frequently prevailing through the summer and fruit seasons. Heat lumps, blotches, pimples, inflammations of the skin, muscular pains, neuralgic affections, and enlarged glands can be effectively overcome by using Holloway's remedies according to the instructions accompanying every packet.

NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE engagement of his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence and Avondale to her Serene Highness Princess Victoria Mary of Teck has been very popular in England. At the annual dinner of the members of the Civil Service, the Prince of Wales, in acknowledging the toast of "The Prince and Princess of Wales and other members of the Royal Family," alluded to the forthcoming royal marriage and expressed his satisfaction saying—"Not the least gratifying circumstance is, that it has received the approval of the nation. I am glad and proud to think that he (my elder son) marries one born in this country—living in this country, and who has the feelings of an Englishwoman." The news, however, has been a surprise at Berlin, where the feeling seems to be that there are German ladies of higher lineage and the Prince might have wooed and won one of these.

The Princess Victoria Mary is the only daughter of the Princess Mary Adelaide and the Duke of Teck. She was born on May 26, 1867. Her full name is Victoria Mary Augusta Louise Olga Pauline Claudine Agnes. The Duke of Clarence and Avondale and Earl of Athlone, K. G., K. P., was born on January 8, 1864. He had been in India in 1889. The wedding comes off at Windsor on the 27th February.

PRINCE George of Wales is still confined to his bed, though improving. The anxiety due to a relapse has passed away.

THE *World* says that the Prince will shortly be created Duke of Kent.

THE Duke of Connaught, Prince Henry of Battenberg and Prince Christian went out shooting at Osborne. It was a sad excursion. It ended with the shooting of Prince Christian in the face, one pellet entering the left eye. Think of the amazement of the party when it was discovered that the shot came from one of them—the Duke of Connaught. The injured eye had to be extracted. The consolation now is that the Prince is progressing very favorably.

TOWARDS the close of the last year, a Portuguese expedition bound to Nyassa was, about midway on the journey, destroyed. While the party was encamped, the whole stock of gunpowder exploded, killing sixty men on the spot, including two Europeans, and injuring 170, including Captains Continho and Andrade, the leaders of the expedition.

THE expulsion of a French Correspondent from Bulgaria, has been followed by a French and Russian protest to the Porte. Those two Governments consider the proceeding as opposed to the Treaty of Berlin and the common law, and insist upon the integrity of the capitulations of Bulgaria.

A PLOT amongst students, officials and officers against the Czar has been discovered in Russian Poland, and numerous arrests made.

ACCORDING to the *Times*, an attempt is being made by Germany to draw Russia into the new continental commercial league.

AT St. Etienne, two Englishmen were arrested for an attempt to obtain patterns of the new French carbines, tried, convicted and sentenced respectively to fourteen and two months' imprisonment.

THE subscription opened by the Princess of Wales among the wives of officers and men of the British Army, to mark their appreciation of the heroine of the Manipur disaster, amounted to thirteen hundred pounds, which has been made over to Mrs. Grimwood.

THE end of the Manipur tragedy is not yet. In his tour of enquiry in the villages round about Meiklethana, in connection with the attack by Nagas on a mule driver, Major Maxwell arrested three men, who will be tried as concerned in the murder of Mr. Melville, of the Telegraph Department.

FOR persistent obstruction to Government measures, among others, for the relief of the sufferers by the late earthquake, the Japanese Parliament has been dissolved.

MR. Allan Hume made the acquaintance of our native Indian politics late in life. But he has by this seen too much of its leading exponents to be taken in any more. So he has promptly stopped the flattering proposition of some private correspondents and other nobodies in the columns of a Madras newspaper to raise a permanent memorial in his honour. He knows it is all idle chatter—mere springes to catch woodcocks—for which our Stray Feathers from the groves of the Civilian Olympus is too old and knowing a fowl. He gives them a bit of his mind and of the mind of all intelligent observers. It is throughout a manly letter that Mr. Hume has written on the subject, which does credit to his head and heart. But for one expression, it would be faultless as a composition too. He writes:

"When India cannot erect a statue to Lord Ripon, to talk of any public memorial to any one else, on account of public services in the political line, is mere blasphemy."

That last word sticks in all refined throats. It is faulty from every point of view. Mr. Hume commits the very sin he charges on others.

THE Chief Magistrate sticks to etiquette in dress. He refuses to see advocates not donning a black coat. On Monday, Mr. Gaith appearing in a drab overcoat was told to go his way. He explained that he was suffering from a bad cold and cough and therefore was obliged to cover the black coat with the drab overcoat. The Magistrate still insisting, the advocate threw off the drab garment under protest, saying he considered the magistrate's repeated refusal a gratuitous and unwarrantable insult to the Bar.

It remains to be seen how the Bar resents the insult. Will an action be against the Chief Magistrate for thus exposing an advocate in a diseased condition, to the inclemencies of the weather?

THE question of dress has cropped up in another quarter. "We only hope that, in the rage for uniformity, black will not be insisted upon for black men."

MR. James Payn is a lover of cats, God bless him! and he is not ashamed of confessing it. All good men and true love Pussy, from Mahomet to Chisholm Austey. No man can truly worship God who is not kind to his creatures. No man can truly love his kind who does not love animals, and no man of refined thought and feeling but appreciates Pussy.

We are not surprised that Mr. Payn has been shocked at the speculation just started, to wit:—

"An island in Paget Sound has been set apart for the nutrition and entertainment of black cats. They are to be fed there on fresh fish twice a day. The announcement of this benevolent enterprise gave me great pleasure, for I love cats, and especially black ones. I did not quite understand as I read on why they should be imported from the Netherlands, unless indeed they wished it (which seemed improbable), and the last line was a most cruel revelation: 'A large profit is expected from the skins.'"

MR. T. E. Ravenshaw, late Commissioner of the Orissa Division has certain shares in the Cuttack Printing Company. He is anxious that the proceeds thereof be spent in the division which he had ruled. He has accordingly offered to the Bengal Government to establish a fund for the purpose of providing therewith an annual prize for the Cuttack Medical School.

MR. John Berney Worgan, the District and Sessions Judge of Dinapore, has worked out his time and retired from the Service. He, with Mr. Alexander Smith, arrived in India on the 16th December 1856, and both were put on the retired list on the 16th December 1891. Mr. Worgan had applied for two years' extension of time, but he could not hope for an indulgence which was not granted to a Halliday. That he was capable of work and loved it, was not considered a sufficient reason for his continuance in the Service. He, however, leaves it with the regret of the people of the district of Dinapore where he was last posted. We are told, by a pleader of the local bar, that he was a just Judge and that his decisions—on either side of the court—gave satisfaction. He was never discourteous. In keeping with his character, while finally making over charge, he took leave of all the pleaders, wishing them success.

We understand our business. It is not every knight of the grey goose quill, or, for that matter, every sharp-shooter of a steel-pen-wallah, who runs the hazards which we habitually encounter.

Our pleasure is in enterprise and in the success of surmounting danger. Few are the papers that would notice a commercial circular or a trade advertiser. It were *infra dig.*, to begin with. Dignity—that mysterious, impalpable, unknown quantity—is stupidity's first care, and stupidity is all over the world. And, then, there is the danger of blundering. The fear of miscarriage imposes on man the wholesome restraint of not going out of his depth. For our part, we have no dignity, always taking care to keep ourselves above it. Not dignity but honour and honesty is our Brahmanic *mantram*. And, being well up in our Vedas, and understanding what is what, we are not afraid of sudden disaster. The *Effective Advertiser* caught our eye and we noticed it with enthusiasm. That was at once a moral and a literary feat. It requires courage to think well of an advertiser, and, above all, to say well of it in the market place. Every one is ready to swell a plethora—to aggrandise the prosperous and elect. It is the appropriate mark of independent intelligence to discern the worth of strangers and new-comers. It is the part of right manly doing to help new aspirants and blow the trumpet of modest merit. The depravity of our nature, however, is ever after painting the lily. You will hear respectable and educated men talk of the perfection of organization of the giant of Printing House Square, although the blundering of the *Times* has added a word to the language—the "silly season." You will see the smartness of the great "Saturday Reviler" taken for granted at times when the *Saturday* has been truly respectable and sober as a Sunday preaching to the poor. Such was not our cue, however, and so the *E. A.* had a chance of genuine appraisement in the East.

The *Effective Advertiser* was woefully handicapped for public recognition. It was not simply a stranger, but a Pariah into the bargain. As a mere trade concern, it had no caste in the eyes of the blue-blooded political and literary press: all its accomplishments went for nothing. And this in a nation of shopkeepers! This contempt for trade among a people, every mother's son of whom is nearly or remotely a child of Trade and Commerce, is most extraordinary. But the fact is patent. So the *E. A.* had no fair play. Tainted with trade, all the admirable writing in its columns was lost upon the blue blood of the press and of society generally. Its points fell flat—its jokes caused at most a stare as who should say, Halloo! what does this mean? Is it possible that some gentlemen of education are plying this thing *in cog*? The exquisite beauty of the mechanical workmanship itself, almost removed it from the sphere of literary criticism. Could weak, envious human allow in a neighbour the highest merit, both external and literary?

Wa were above all that sort of nonsense. We reported as we saw, praising what was so eminently praiseworthy, without knowing whom we pleased. We did justice without fear or favour—we mean fear of reproach or ridicule or expectation of favour. But a good deed is never wasted, thank God! We cast our bread on the

salt estranging sea

and it has come back to us after many days. We struck the right vein of humanity. We have got our reward.

The *Effective Advertiser* thus acknowledges our notice:—

"We were not born to blush unseen, to waste our fragrance under a bushel, or hide our candle in the desert air, so we do not mean to do it. We get about. We even go, by the good ship *Postman*, as far as Calcutta, where we meet friends. The editor of *Reis and Rayyet* (Prince and Pasant), a weekly newspaper and review of politics, literature, and society, has burst our postal band and turned over our new leaves. Naturally he likes to do so, just as we are pleased to receive his deservedly popular journal among our numerous exchanges. Listen—

There's for you! It was one of the wettest days this wet summer when we received this from India, but we rushed out in our paper caps, and never stopped until we reached 'The Old Cheshire Cheese' of famous memory.

We foregathered. We drank that editor's health. We drank 'Prosperity to *Reis and Rayyet*.' We drank 'to the Indian Empire, especially Calcutta.' We drank to Mr. Mutty Lal Ghose (the publisher) of the 'Bee' Press. We drank to 'No. 1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane,' in the aforesaid Calcutta. We drank to 'the whole of the staff' of the clever little journal. We drank to 'ourselves,' because we felt like people of the Top Row. Having nearly knocked the arithmetic out of the fair creature who presides at the only part of the place where we are tolerated, we drank 'To Her.' Although the rain was still falling as gently as bucketfuls can fall we returned to our literary duties. It was a wet day. What cared we? Many of the merry jests we made would have been printed, but our shorthand

writer was taken ill. Fifty copies of the *Effective Advertiser* make a good pillow, if tied carefully so that the knot of the string fits into the bottom ear. No, not back numbers. We never have back numbers, because we sell out every time. We always jubilate when we get a shake-hands like this from a brother across the sea. We all threatened to go to India, and tell that man how much we like him, but when our genial director said, 'No ship would take such a lot of—' we missed the word—we pulled ourselves together and went home in cabs, to pass a pleasant evening with our wives, and have our fortunes told!

There! that is a literary outburst of true power which more than ever confirms us that our original impression was correct. All that rhapsody is sterling humour, redolent of character, buoyant and bounding, and withal delightfully pleasant. We shall look in vain for it in the literature of the day. The respectability of the political and literary Press fights shy of such "antics," as it probably calls it. But who that has a genuine sense of enjoyment and is familiar with the achievements of genius in the earlier years of this century, but must lament the growing fastidiousness. The writer of the foregoing passage in the *E. A.* is a true scion of the house of the Father Prouts and Christopher Norths, the Muggins and Mahonys of the past. Our best wishes for his success!

THE Lieutenant-Governor has issued his orders in the case of land-hunger noticed by us sometime ago, in a leading article headed "Annexation Petty." The attempt of the Howrah Municipality at downright spoliation of private property under color of the law, has been frustrated. The contemplated sacrilege also of removing the two ancient images of Hindu deities has been prevented. The order states that "after a full consideration of the circumstances of the case the Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that the object of the Commissioners, which is the widening of the road, will be attained by acquiring only so much of the land as is actually required for the purpose." The Collector of the District has been directed "to cause the preliminary proceedings (commenced for acquiring the *entire* homestead of the poor mechanic) to be cancelled." An amended declaration has been directed to be submitted for acquisition of the land actually required.

The order has given general satisfaction. It has assured the people of all Howrah, that the tenure of property under British rule is law and loyalty and not the will of a Corporation. Sir Charles Elliott has earned the thanks of the entire community of the small town, including hundreds of work people who were watching the case with extraordinary interest. Mr. Fiddian, the Magistrate of Howrah, we hope, has become wise. He had, in a moment of weakness, allowed himself to be misled against his own better judgment expressed on many previous occasions. In his report to the Divisional Commissioner he had referred to many irrelevant matters, particularly abusing a well-known gentleman of whom the late Mr. Macaulay used to say that it was he who "did the thinking of Seelchore," and who had from the beginning aided the poor mechanic with his pen. At times, some of our District officials become so intolerant of honest individuals who are forced by their culture and convictions to expose official high handedness of every description, that in confidential reports to superior authorities they seek to blacken their character. Such attempts are a sort of bear's repayment for the grudges they owe and for which they cannot exact due vengeance under a reign of law. They are unfair blows that do not much redound to the honor of those that deal them.

WE may shortly expect an ostrich farm in Bengal. Messrs. Anderson Wright and Company have concluded negotiations with the Bengal Government for the necessary site in the Western Doonars. Sanction has been given for a grant to them of a preliminary lease, for five years, of 4,000 acres of sandy sterile, including a moderate quantity of cultivable, land. The rental, to begin with, has been fixed at one anna an acre, a year. The other conditions are that the lease will confer no heritable or transferable rights in the lands, that the lands are not to be sublet or put to other than the particular uses for which they are leased, and that the lease will cease with the closing of the farm. The trees will belong to Government, subject to the right of the lessees to purchase them at the market value.

THE Hon'ble Dr. Rattigan has honorably repelled the charge brought against him by the Calcutta Bar. He takes it to task for publishing a private letter without permission of the addressee or before that letter reaches him and without waiting for the reply. The Calcutta

Bar attributed the notice of the *contempt* in certain daily papers to Mr. Rattigan's part propriety of the *Pioneer*. Mr. Rattigan explains that but for his connection with the *Pioneer* and the *Civil & Military Gazette*, these papers would not have left unnoticed "the unfair attacks the authorship of which can be no secret to certain members of the Calcutta Bar, which have been made upon me, since I returned to Lahore, in the columns of more than one Calcutta newspaper." The other dailies are left to speak for themselves. A full account of the matter follows, shewing that he took or attempted to take the steps which, it was taken for granted, were omissions on his part. Mr. Rattigan admits that he derived much of his information from Mr. Gaddes on whom he relied as an attorney of the Calcutta High Court and as a member of a leading firm of solicitors. He does not forget to apologise in his reply to Mr. Gaddes for dragging in the attorney's name in vindication of his own character. There is a word too in justification of his publication of his reply and of the previous correspondence.

THE condition of the Maharani of Cooch Behar, who was reported in the papers to be convalescent, causes anxiety. The Maharaja is obliged to keep home and to avoid all engagements.

THE Dewan of the Doomaon Raj has at last secured a very desirable bridegroom for the daughter of his Maharaja in the person of the minor Maharaja of Rewah. Government has sanctioned the marriage of its ward.

RAI BAHADAR Gopal Chander Sircar, the retired Treasurer of the Office of the Private Secretary to the Viceroy, is dead. He was admitted into the Private Secretariat when Lord Dalhousie was Governor-General, and left it during the Viceroyalty of Lord Dufferin. During the period that he was in service, he held different posts, and always enjoyed the full confidence of every successive Private Secretary. He was sixty years of age.

THE Congress met at Nappur, on the 28th, 29th and 30th December. About a thousand delegates were present. Rao Sahib Ananda Charlu, as arranged beforehand, led the deliberations. It will not be the last sitting of the National Assembly. They carried a Resolution for its next meeting at Allahabad. But they cannot do without Mr. Hume, and he too was elected the General Secretary for the current year.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, January 2, 1892.

THE YEAR.

THE record of the year just gone by is fraught with a series of the most painful incidents, and on the expiration of it we sincerely wish our countrymen a happier New Year. The past year opened with a bitter controversy. Monster meetings, Maha Poojas and lengthy resolutions were, for a time, the order of the day. The leniency of the British Government gave free scope to the operations of the belligerents. They had their fling for more than two months, and when all their demonstrations were over, any further prolongation of the warfare was rendered useless by the decision of the Supreme Legislature of India. The wirepullers who got up the formidable show of opposition, still threaten to renew the fighting. But they and their weapons have been so completely found out, that they have no chance whatever of being mistaken again as true warriors, or as genuine exponents of our ancient faith. Though *hors de combat*, the promoters of the agitation laboured, for a long time, under the delusion that the crowds which collected round them in the *maidan* and other places, accepted them as their leaders, and that they were powerful enough to defy the authority of the British Government. They indulged in a spirit of braggadocio with an amount of freedom which was unknown before, even in the annals of vernacular journalism. The hauling up of the *Bangabasi* staff before

the criminal courts, was the necessary consequence. Whatever they might think or say of us, and however much we might disapprove of their attitude, they had our heartfelt sympathy in their hour of trial, and no one felt happier than we did at their eventual escape from punishment. Our belief is, that gagging Acts and state prosecutions are neither expedient nor necessary for the purposes which they are intended to serve. The advantages of a free press far outweigh the mischief that can possibly be done by foolish journalism. Those who find it profitable to raise the cry of "religion in danger," cannot be repressed by the criminal law. By being prosecuted, they acquire the notoriety and the honor of martyrdom which they seek. The only way to render them powerless, lies in dispelling the darkness of ignorance in which alone they can thrive and work successfully. True Hinduism is amenable to reason and common sense. It is not an impracticable creed. If rightly understood, it is one of the best religions of the world. But it requires to be expounded by men who really know something about it, and are not interested in misrepresenting facts. The mischief that may be done by general ignorance of the shasters, has been accentuated in the strongest manner possible by the Age of Consent agitation, and we hope the time will soon come when Government will see its way to bring the great Pandits of the country *en rapport* with its institutions for Western culture, and to give greater encouragement to the publication, translation and study of ancient Sanskrit works than it has hitherto done.

The vituperations of professional fanaticism were followed by a real disaster to British arms, which, though nothing compared with what befell on more occasions than one in Cabool, is yet of sufficient importance to be memorable in history. The details of the Manipur imbroglio are still too fresh in every one's memory to require recapitulation. The policy of Government towards Manipur has been severely criticised even by its apologists. It is easy enough to be wise after the event. Perhaps, the best course would have been to restore the deposed chief Sura Chandra to his throne. But the responsible rulers of the country, with their fuller knowledge of the wheels within the wheels, decreed otherwise. Mr. Quinton and his comrades in death paid dearly for the policy which they attempted to carry out. By sparing their lives, instead of treacherously murdering them, the Manipur Darbar had everything to gain, and nothing to lose. But the whole affair has apparently been a tragedy of errors on both sides. If the Government of India adopted a wrong policy, the Manipur chief and his advisers were equally mistaken in the line of action taken by them, and they too have paid dearly for their folly.

By the pacification of Manipur and of Upper Burma, the political outlook in the east has been improved. But the safety of the western frontier has been lately threatened in a quarter where danger was least expected. The appearance of the Russian Bear in the Pamir makes the situation ominous. British power is, however, too deeply rooted in the loyalty of Her Majesty's Indian subjects to be easily shaken. And we may yet hope for the best.

The chief noticeable events in the internal affairs of the country were the opening of the Nagpore Railway, the completion of the Kidderpore Docks, the census, the Deccan Agricultural Commission and the cadastral survey ordered for Behar. The latter measure gave rise to a panic which has not yet

subsided. Prosecutions for defamation are of late years becoming rather too common. The Jain defamation case was characterised by the learned Judge who tried it, as "a mere carnival of foolish, wanton, mischievous and pettifogging litigation." The most important prosecutions against the press were those which brought to grief the *Eastern Herald*, the *Tribune*, and the *Banga Nibashi*. The victims of these prosecutions were all punished with too much severity. The result of these cases and that of the *Bangabashi* show that the real source of danger to the press lies, not so much in the attitude of Government towards it, as in the law of defamation now in force. But the organs of public opinion have hitherto been abusing their freedom too much to expect any modification of the law at once.

In the Native States, the most important event to be noted is the partial restoration of the Maharaja of Cashmere to power, and the reassurance of a non-aggressive policy given by both the Secretary of State and the Viceroy. The order which has vested the Political Agents with almost unlimited powers of control over the press in the localities directly under their jurisdiction, is a retrograde step. But it is not altogether impossible that it is only a temporary measure, and we may look forward to its cancelment before long.

With regard to New Indian politics, the budget of news was never and is not a very hopeful one. There is no sign yet of any disposition on the part of Government to concede to the Congress the ultra radical constitution that it demands. Mr. Hume and his following have determined to lead a forlorn hope to extort a Magna Charta for India by battering the ears of the British people in their native home. But the death-knell of the Congress has been already sounded, and, notwithstanding the recent assurances of renewed attempts to give it a longer tenure of life, its end seems nigh. To cover his retreat, Mr. Hume indeed says that it has done its work. But the fact probably is, that he is tired of feeding and working for the white elephant that he brought into existence, and he is now anxious to relieve himself and those who believe in his leadership, from the burden. The sooner they can back out of their present position, the better for their credit and financial resources. It is almost a national calamity, that a movement which began under such high auspices and which has cost the country not less than a million of rupees, should, after all, end in ignominious failure. Even now, we would ask the promoters of the Congress not to put an end to its existence, but to revise its programme so as to give it a chance of doing really useful work. The political autonomy which it aspires for, may have its advantages, but it is certainly not attainable by speeches and resolutions. In the present state of things, the safer and more practical course for our patriots and philanthropists lies in concentrating all their energies and resources to the improvement of our manufacturing industries. If we succeed in that respect, political privileges would be conceded as a matter of course. At any rate, if the industrial emancipation of our country be accomplished, it would not matter much, even if we continued to be ruled as at present.

Speaking of manufacturing industries, it is worth while to note that the Bengal Spinning and Weaving Company, organised by Raja Janaki Ballav Sen, of Rungpore, and Babu Hem Chunder Mitter, of the local bar, has become a *fait accompli*. The capital required

has, we believe, been fully subscribed, and the mill-buildings are in course of construction.

It is satisfactory also to note in this connection, that the Manchester cotton spinners themselves are taking steps to set up some mills in Bengal. We may now look forward to a time when, through their enterprise, if not through that of our countrymen, India will regain her position as a manufacturer of piecegoods. At any rate, there is some chance of our having less of Factory Commissions and Factory Legislations in the future. The philanthropic zeal of Manchester for the welfare of Indian mill operatives, has already abated, and may vanish altogether, if some of her mills be transplanted to this country.

The improvement which, after the American Silver Legislation of 1889, took place in the value of the Rupee, disappeared long before the close of the year under review, and silver is now at a lower level than it had reached ever before.

The gold mania which led to the formation of more than a dozen mining companies, in the course of a single month about the end of 1889, has subsided. The shareholders who have been defrauded are trying to bring some members of the "golden gang" to book. But, after the breakdown of the Chartered Bank case, the Bombay case of the Oriental Life Insurance Company and the Hyderabad Diamond case, very few can be inclined to throw good money after bad in criminal prosecutions. We suggested some time ago certain improvements in the Indian Company's Act, so as to empower the executive authorities to exercise some control over joint stock concerns. At any rate, a commission ought to be appointed by Government to make a searching enquiry as to the *modus operandi* of defunct and newly formed companies, against which there may be suspicion of dishonesty or improper dealing.

The past year was preeminently one of cyclones, and railway accidents. There were no less than half a dozen serious railway accidents within the last three months. The casualties in connection with the accidents in the vicinity of Nagpur and Mooltan were specially heavy. The disasters in the sea were not less numerous. The storm god visited with his wrath not only the shores of Bengal, but also those of England and America. The havoc done is well known. In connection with the cyclone in the Bay of Bengal, the fate of the *Coleroon* and the *Enterprise* cannot be soon forgotten.

While we had violent storms, the rainfall last year was very far below the average. In October, there was no rain whatever when it was most wanted. The result is that there is famine of a more or less serious character almost throughout the country.

Nor is the complaint of a deficient harvest and agricultural distress, confined to India. If the reports that reach us are not exaggerated, the peasantry in the dominions of the Czar are at present suffering from a famine which, in extent and intensity, must be very like the calamities that befell Bengal and Orissa in 1866, and Southern India in 1877-78.

In the year's obituary, prominent mention must be given to the names of Sir T. Madhava Row, Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, and Pundit Ishwar Chunder Vidyasagar. Our estimate of the two latter gave offence to their admirers. But we gave them every credit that they had any claim to, and if we did not say anything more in their favor, it was only out of a sense of duty as journalists to state the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

England lost two of her greatest men during the

year. The uncrowned King of Ireland who, successfully cleared his public character from every charge with which the malice and nefarious tricks of his powerful enemies attempted to stain it, at last fell a victim to an indiscretion in his private life. His disgrace and his eventual death have inflicted a crushing blow on the cause of Home Rule in Ireland. Equally irreparable is the death of Charles Bradlaugh, who, by sheer dint of ability, rose, from the position of a common soldier and a porter in an attorney's office, to be recognised as one of the greatest men of his country. The laborious work of his public life and the anxieties of his early struggles, undermined his iron constitution, and cut short his career while yet in the prime of life. In the death list of the year must be mentioned also the names of Lowell and Von Moltke. Their achievements, in their respective spheres, have secured for them immortal renown, and this is not the place to expatiate on the greatness of the American poet, or of the German strategist who reduced the game of manslaughter to a fine art.

• THE PURI LODGING HOUSE ACT IN NUDDEA.

THE Puri Lodging House Act has been recently extended to the town of Nuddea. Its working accentuates, in the strongest manner possible, the danger of extending a law originally meant for one particular place, to a different part of the country, where its provisions may not suit the local circumstances. Puri is an out of the way place, approachable only after weeks of tiresome journey. It is an ancient place of pilgrimage, and there are in it regular lodging houses for the accommodation of pilgrims, their food being always obtainable from the temple of Jagannath.

Nuddea is an ancient town also, but it is only in recent times that it has become a place of pilgrimage. It was the seat of the Hindu Government which ruled Bengal before the Mahomedan conquest. The Brahmanical population which settled in it in the palmy days of its political importance, made it subsequently the chief seat of Hindu learning in the eastern districts of India. The birth of Chaitanya, which has made it a place of pilgrimage, took place in the fourteenth century; but, like all prophets, he was never honored as a god by his own townspeople. In fact, he was bitterly hated by them, and the Brahman Rajas of Nuddea, while they had any power, never allowed his followers to worship him openly in his temple. In recent years, a coalition between the ancient Brahman population and the newly settled colony of Vaishnavas has commenced, but the line of demarcation is still wide enough.

In Nuddea, there are even now very few lodging houses properly so called. The majority of the pilgrims are provided with food and shelter in the Vaishnava Akras, which are Dharamsalas with temples attached. These monasteries are managed by Mohants or superiors who are under vow of celibacy. They have no wives or children, and the sole business of their life and that of their *confrères* is the feeding of pilgrims. They have no regular endowments, but their establishments are liberally supported by rich Hindus of their sect, and belonging generally to the Teli and the Chau castes.

Under the Lodging House Act, the Vaishnav Mohants of Nuddea have been called upon to take out licenses by paying heavy fees. They contend that their establishments are monasteries and not lodging houses. The rich men occasionally entertained by them as guests, pay something as *pranami* or reverential present to the idols worshipped in their temples. But there is no contract or compulsion for such payment, and their Akras are supported by their patrons, simply because pilgrims are fed by them *gratis*. They consider the application of the Puri Lodging House Act to them, as an insult and an unwarrantable interference with the discharge of the religious duty to which their lives are dedicated. One of these venerable Mohants actually shed tears in our presence for having been compelled by the action of the local authorities to turn out from

his Akra a party of about 60 Sanyasis, who at midday asked him to provide them with food and shelter. He supplied them with food secretly, but the sin of turning out guests at midday weighs heavily upon him, and his mental condition seems really pitiable. We hear that some of the Mohants have been already fined under the Act. They would rather leave the place than humiliate themselves by taking out licenses as hotel keepers. In their own community their position is exactly the same as that of bishops and abbots in Christian countries. The Brahman Municipal Commissioners of Nuddea may have recommended their humiliation. But surely the revered priests of an important sect of the Hindu community, can claim to be better treated than as innkeepers.

If the income of the local municipality is not sufficient for the sanitary improvements required for the town, the deficit might be met by the grant of a part of the large income derived from the local ferry. At any rate, the necessary funds might be raised by less offensive forms of taxation under the municipal Act.

THE HYDERABAD DIAMOND CASE.

FOURTEENTH DAY, TUESDAY DEC. 22, 1891.

The Judge's Summing up.

[Concluded from last issue of Dec. 26, 1891, page 598.]

THE 23 LACS DEPOSIT.

Then followed a very large number of telegrams all relating to the deposit of those 23 lacs. All that they showed was that there had been some little delay about the money, that on the part of both Mr. Jacob and Mr. Abid there had existed a complete misunderstanding as to how the money was going to be placed in Mr. Jacob's hands, that both evidently thought that the money was going to be placed to the credit of Mr. Jacob in Hyderabad, and thence remitted to him in Calcutta, whereas what actually took place was that 23 lacs was borrowed on Government security from the Bank of Bengal at Calcutta, credited to Sir Asman Jah, and afterwards transferred to Mr. Jacob's account. That transaction was completed on the 23rd July; so that it was unnecessary to refer to any part of this correspondence. After that transaction there were telegrams about other jewellery. That brought them to that date of the 10th of July. The Jury would remember that on that date Mr. Jacob had made his final bargain with Messrs. Kilburn and Co. He got back Rs. 50,000 and paid them 22½ lacs, the equivalent of £150,000 computed at the rate of one and fourpence. According to Mr. Abid's evidence, and it is clear from the correspondence, it was very promptly known at Hyderabad that Mr. Jacob had withdrawn this money, and consequently a telegram was sent from Hyderabad to Mr. Jacob. On this telegram great stress had been laid, and that telegram supports the theory for the prosecution that the money was to be held in deposit on an express trust in Mr. Jacob's name, and that it was not to be paid out until the diamond was approved. The telegram said, "Our mutual promise was that money should be deposited in your name only until *pasand* or *na pasand*," and if that stood alone it would have been a very strong ground. But in order to understand the bearings of the matter they must not be satisfied with statements made by one side without reading the answer. The answer in this case was, "Yes, you are right, if *pasand* you will pay the balance; if not *pasand* the diamond goes to Patiala, and you get your money back. I have deposited money with agents, and for balance given security." That asserted what was the arrangement. The next document was a letter of the same day on which Mr. Jacob sent the telegram, the letter having been sent first (reads). He then told him this, that he went to Messrs. Pittar Leverson's agents, and accompanied them to the Bank of Bengal, paid the money, and got the stone.

Nobody simply reading that letter would understand that he had paid the money to the credit of Messrs. Pittar Leverson's agents and got the stone, and that also showed that Mr. Jacob was about to proceed to Hyderabad, and he requested that certain officers might be sent to meet him and prevent danger. The answer to that was the telegram of the 18th, "Letter received to-day, no need of the Police, you can come here all right." Accordingly he went and arrived on the 21st July, and on that day he had an interview with the Nizam at which the diamond was rejected. Some correspondence passed when Mr. Jacob was there. One letter was written to him by Pestonjee, of the Customs, regarding the jewellery brought by him for sale by Mr. Jacob, to which his reply was that he had brought nothing for sale, but that he had come about the large diamond, which his Highness was supposed to have purchased. His Lordship did not know for certain at what period of the day this correspondence took place, but at whatever period it did, it was not an exact statement of the facts, for they knew that Mr. Jacob had with him jewellery for sale; they knew that he had the diamond in his possession, and he had a lien upon it to the extent of 17 lacs, if it was not his absolute property, and

it was for the Jury to see whether the mutual agreement had any bearing upon the charge of criminal breach of trust. They had to consider this interview with the Nizam. He rejected the diamond, and Mr. Jacob took it away. The important question was, what happened between Mr. Jacob and Mr. Abid, was it true that the effect of the conversation was that the money must be returned? On the other hand, was it true that he received from Mr. Abid, purporting to act for the Nizam, an offer of 40 lacs. This was extremely important, supposing Mr. Abid had the authority. If Mr. Jacob's story was true, and there really was an offer made by Mr. Abid, purporting to act for the Nizam, and if Mr. Jacob in good faith thought it was an offer coming from the Nizam, it was almost impossible to say that what he subsequently did was not done in good faith. It might be that Mr. Abid made a false statement. The whole thing rested on the two statements, the one made by Mr. Abid, and the other made by Mr. Jacob. Well, they (the Jury) were entitled to give credit to what Mr. Jacob did, if he did it under a mistake. By the light thrown upon it by the documents it was quite possible that they were not prepared to say absolutely what really passed on that occasion. It might be that they were satisfied that Mr. Abid was speaking the truth, it might be that they were not satisfied with either, and it might be that they thought that the whole matter was so obscure that they could not arrive at any confident decision as to what really passed on that occasion. If that was the frame of mind in which they found themselves they should give the benefit of it to the prisoner. His Lordship then asked the attention of the Jury to the letters and telegrams which passed after that time. First, Jacob left on the 22nd although he apparently intended to leave on the 23rd. It had been said that he knew that the diamond had been finally rejected, but it was suggested by the other side that the Nizam did not finally reject the diamond. His Lordship could not draw any confident inference from those telegrams. The first telegram was sent from the first important station from Hyderabad, Gungawarren. It was to the following effect:—"I trust to you to arrange that matter as soon as possible, otherwise I will be in difficulties," Mr. Abid said it referred to the request which Mr. Jacob had made before he left Hyderabad to get the Nizam to cover the expenses he incurred in getting out the diamond and taking it to Hyderabad and to try and see that he would not be a loser by the transaction. On the other side the construction put by the defence was that it related to the sale for 40 lacs and to the balance payable.

DEMAND OF A REFUND.

The next telegram was written after the prisoner reached Bombay on the 23rd and ran as follows:—"I leave for Calcutta this evening, hope you will arrange money as soon as possible." That was a little more definite, because it asked for some arrangement about money. But the prosecution said that it referred to the request made already to Mr. Abid for expenses. Mr. Jacob arrived in Calcutta on the morning of the 26th and telegraphed—"Arrived here. When will I get money; hard pushed." Mr. Abid said that he received these three telegrams, but that he did not show them to the Nizam until after he received the third, and he then got instructions for an answer. That answer was on the same day, the 26th, and was to the following effect:—"Deposit money must be returned before any question of expenses can be entertained." This telegram was certainly in favour of the view taken by Mr. Abid. He said it was written under instruction from the Nizam, and that a draft was shown to him. It showed the very singular way in which Mr. Abid transacted business for the Nizam. That was shown to the Nizam, but who was the writer of it? The writer was a Mr. Skinner, who was the manager of Mrs. Abid's shop. It had been said that this had occurred more than once, but if so that did not make it any the less singular. Then there was another telegram to which his Lordship thought he would have to call the attention of the Jury. On the 21st, the date on which the diamond was in the first instance rejected by the Nizam, Mr. Jacob telegraphed to Messrs. Kilburn and Co. Of course the telegram informed them of the transaction with the Nizam. It ran—"Diamond rejected, there has been foul play here, leaving to-morrow for Calcutta." What the force of the words "foul play" here was his Lordship did not quite know, and there was no direct explanation to be found in any part of the case. The Jury had heard the suggestions on one side and on the other, and they would have to judge for themselves, but he supposed it meant that there was some influence adverse to Mr. Jacob being exercised, and that on that account the diamond had been rejected. But before he got a long way on his journey, at Gungawarren he telegraphed again to Messrs. Kilburn and Co.—"Secure draft if favourable, if not wait my arrival. Nizam cut me six lacs."

That was understood by Messrs. Kilburn in this way, that the diamond was at first rejected, but it was afterwards taken at a reduction of six lacs, because they wired to Messrs. Pittar, Levenson and Co. "Cancel yesterday's telegram. Sale gone through." There was little doubt that the meaning of this telegram was the interpretation which Messrs. Kilburn and Co. put upon it. The

importance of it was this that it at least showed that, whether truly or falsely, at an extremely early stage after the interview on the evening of the 21st, Mr. Jacob had made up his mind to tell and had told the story he had told throughout that the diamond had been rejected at first, but that it had afterwards been bought for forty lacs. Whether that statement was made at the earliest period or afterwards the consideration was of the utmost importance. This story at any rate was put forward as early as the first station from Hyderabad Gungawarren, which was two hours' journey from Hyderabad on the line of road. That brought the correspondence and telegrams down to the 26th. The telegram of Mr. Jacob, when they, Messrs. Kilburn and Co., understood Mr. Jacob's meaning to be that the diamond had been sold afterwards for forty lacs seemed to throw light in the meaning of the telegram to Mr. Abid in which he asked for money. It would seem to shew that Mr. Jacob was trying to tell one story to Messrs. Kilburn and Co., and another to Mr. Abid if he intended to refer to the payment of expenses, and not to the money which would be payable to him under the transaction which he said took place. On the other hand the Nizam might not have been aware of what took place and put a different construction on this telegram. The last telegram his Lordship would refer the Jury to was Mr. Abid's telegram of the 26th: "Deposit money must be returned immediately according to agreement before any question of expenses can be entertained." That telegram arrived in Calcutta either on the night of the 26th or the morning of the 27th. It was ready to go out very early on the morning of the 27th and was in fact delivered to Mr. Jacob's servant at the Great Eastern Hotel about six o'clock on the morning of the 27th. About that telegram there has been a good deal of comment on one side and on the other. It had been said on one side that beyond doubt, coming as it did promptly and within a very short time of Mr. Jacob's telegram and immediately on his arrival in Calcutta, it showed that the Nizam would not have sanctioned any transaction for the purchase of the diamond at 40 lacs. On the other hand if these letters and telegrams to Mr. Jacob were understood only to refer to the same allowance for expenses why had Mr. Abid wired to him to return 23 lacs. He was to have returned it according to the evidence after he reached, and it was more particularly mentioned three days after his arrival, but he reached Calcutta on the morning of the 26th, and the telegram was sent on the same day before it could be possible for him to remit the money. Of course there was the third possible explanation that the Nizam had in perfect good faith understood the telegram to refer to the allowances to be made for expenses, and did not know anything about the purchase for 40 lacs. It was perfectly possible from all which took place between Mr. Jacob and Mr. Abid that he justified Mr. Jacob in thinking that Mr. Abid had the authority of the Nizam to make a bargain for 40 lacs, and the telegram from Mr. Abid explained that the Nizam knew nothing about this bargain, but was under the impression that the money was to be returned, and Mr. Jacob might have been perfectly justified in expressing surprise. His Lordship thought it was his duty to remind the Jury of the very important transaction about Mr. Jacob's dealing with the 22½ lacs which had been transferred to Messrs. Kilburn and Co. They had an account of that transaction from several persons. Mr. Cheetham's account of it was that Mr. Jacob came to his office and saw him about 10 o'clock on the 27th July, and told him that, notwithstanding the first rejection of the diamond, it had ultimately been accepted; that Mr. Jacob then asked the rate of exchange, and he authorised them to obtain a remittance for the £150,000, and the remittance was accordingly made; that there was only one interview, that Mr. Jacob remained in his office from 10 to 12 o'clock; that the transactions were finally completed within that time; that during that interval Mr. Jacob showed him or had in his hand a telegram and referred to it; that Mr. Jacob spoke of it, as the telegram from an underling to which he was going to pay no attention, and he also showed him a draft telegram which he was going to send to the Nizam.

CONFLICTING EVIDENCE.

That would show that when Mr. Jacob went out on that morning he had evidently read that telegram, he had brought a draft reply, and that steps were being taken to transmit the money. Mr. Cheetham also stated that Mr. Jacob had told him that he had an interview personally with the Nizam, but with regard to this there are contradictions. The story told on the other side by Mr. Jacob was that he did not open the telegram of the morning of the 27th, that he had first an interview with Mr. Cheetham, at which certain arrangements were made; that he went away back to his hotel; that he then found the telegram, and read it, and had a second interview with Mr. Cheetham at his office; and that at the time of the second interview he produced the telegram, and made the statement that it came from an underling, and so on. His Lordship then called the attention of the Jury to the telegrams which followed this. They had a very important bearing upon the events of the 1st when the bargain for 40 lacs was said to be made. The first was the long telegram spoken of as the long telegram in three parts, and was dated the 27th July and signed by Mr. Jacob, addressed this time not to Mr. Abid, but

to the Nizam himself, and accordingly it was handed to the Nizam, who read it. The long telegram was here read by his Lordship, who went on to say that this was the first statement where they had Mr. Jacob's view of the transaction. On the other hand, the Jury had the story he had told Mr. Cheetham about being cut six lacs, and he told the same story here, but in more detail. He here mentioned that at that interview on the evening of the 21st between him and Mr. Abid the bargain was made on behalf of the Nizam, and he said that if it was not made by the authority of the Nizam, then Mr. Abid had told him a falsehood; on the other hand it was said that the telegram was adverse to Mr. Jacob if he really had a binding agreement or an agreement which he believed to be binding for the purchase of the diamond for 40 lacs why should he be making these generous offers to let the Nizam give him what he liked. Assuming him to believe that Mr. Abid had the authority which Mr. Jacob said he exercised on the evening of the 21st, assuming for a fact that it was a genuine bargain, it might well have struck him with surprise when he got the telegram asking for the return of the 23 lacs, and he said in his letter to the Nizam, "If you did not authorize, then I have been deceived." Though he might if he could prove the contract with the Nizam, though he might hold a strong position with regard to the Nizam, by doing so he would risk his relations with the Nizam who was the very best customer he ever had. These were the most important statements made by one side or the other.

THE TRIPLE TELEGRAM.

His Lordship went on to say that the Jury would recollect that he had carried down the correspondence to the 27th July, which was the date on which the accused and Messrs. Kilburn & Co. had carried out the transaction in reference to the diamond, for which 22½ lacs was deposited, representing the sum of £150,000. It was in reference to this transaction that the three sets of telegrams were despatched, and on which so much stress had been laid. It had been suggested on one side that there was no contradiction of Mr. Abid's statements in reference to this. It was admitted on the part of Mr. Jacob that Mr. Abid would have got his commission on the 40 lacs, which was spoken of as having been agreed upon on the second occasion. His Lordship referred to the telegram of Mr. Jacob to Nawab Mahaboob Yar Jung, the A.-D.-C. to the Nizam. Then the answer to this was the long telegram on which so much stress had been laid and containing the assertion that this was the first time that Mr. Abid and he had agreed to the transaction for purchasing the stone for 40 lacs. Then there was the letter which also had been referred to as bearing out Mr. Jacob's statements on this point. His Lordship did not propose to read all that evidence, but it was clear upon the evidence of Mr. Abid himself that he was aware that Mr. Jacob knew he was getting a commission upon all sales in the palace. The Jury would have to see what that letter meant, and would have to draw their own inferences from it. They would have to consider whether this document changed in any way the terms of the original contract, or whether there were any expressions in it which tended to show that Mr. Jacob had the right to the deposit made in his name as to the diamond, and whether any portion of that deposit he was entitled to or not. In following telegrams Mr. Abid says that the diamond was to be returned, and that there was no talk between him and Mr. Jacob as to the 40 lacs. Of course the Rs. 50,000 represented the equivalent at that time of the £2,000 which Mr. Jacob had agreed to forfeit, having the balance of 23½ lacs representing the equivalent of £150,000 to be accounted for. This evidence in regard to the Rs. 50,000 was more or less of a formal character, and his Lordship would now refer to the evidence of various witnesses.

MR. ABID'S EVIDENCE.

The first and most material one was Mr. Abid. This witness occupied lately a high position in the service of the Nizam, and though of humble origin at the same time occupied a position of considerable confidence, which enabled him to render very considerable assistance to people. His Lordship read a good portion of Mr. Abid's evidence, and then went on to deal with his examination-in-chief and cross examination as to his presence upon the occasion of the visit of Mr. Jacob to Hyderabad. His Lordship referred to Mr. Abid's letters and telegrams, and to the events which preceded the transaction of the 20th July, which among other things described the meeting at the Chowmala Palace. There was no dispute as to this and although the Nizam objected to the diamond, this letter referred to a discussion as to the 40 or 46 lacs, but went no further. It was to be remembered that Mr. Jacob pressed the Nizam to deposit half the amount of the value of the stone, and that the Nizam said, "Very well, I will deposit this on the condition of *passand* or *na passand*," and that there was some evidence in support of Mr. Jacob's statement that the money was paid or transferred to him upon the terms which he mentioned. Mr. Abid denies all the statements made by Mr. Jacob in reference to this transaction. He was cross-examined as to his position and antecedents, on which point his Lordship would not trouble the Jury, or as to the commission which he received from Mr. Jacob and other persons, or about the matter arising in

reference to the jeweller named Panna Lall. His Lordship really did not think that much came out of these matters. The important matter was when he was asked about the "history of the diamond" which he handed to the Nizam, and which Mr. Jacob gave him. There was a great deal of evidence which went to show that the Nizam did not read this paper and that Abid was not anxious he should know. On the face of it this was improbable. His Lordship referred to the evidence on this point, and also to Mr. Abid's examination in the Police Court on this and other points, and also to his cross-examination by Mr. Inverarity. Mr. Abid was then asked about the telegrams he had sent; but these his Lordship considered were not essential parts of the case. But his evidence in relation to the deposit of the 23 lacs was a most important part of it.

The deposit was to be in the Bank in Mr. Jacob's name until the diamond arrived. The Jury had to ask themselves whether the owners of the stone had agreed to its coming out to this country in no one's name or in the name of anybody who could offer a price for it, and this was a stone which was valued at £150,000. This was a transaction the Jury would have to consider very carefully and understand. They were men of business, and it might be that they would consider it a very simple one. This was the whole of the oral evidence of Mr. Abid as to what took place upon the occasion the diamond was supposed to be bought by the Nizam.

His Lordship then proceeded to comment on and deal with the evidence of Mrs. Abid and that was more or less in reference to conversations with Mr. Jacob, and to certain letters which she had written, and which the jury had already before them. There was the question for the Jury to decide whether she took any interest in the matter. They had heard her evidence and could draw their conclusions from it. The next witness was Mr. Ker, the Alliance Bank Manager, to whom His Lordship would refer very briefly. This witness had given Mr. Jacob a good character, and had referred to the Rs. 13,000 which he had agreed to receive for the transfer of the 23 lacs from Hyderabad to Bombay or Calcutta. The next witness His Lordship called the attention of the Jury to were the witnesses who spoke to the transactions of the 20th and 27th July, in reference to the transmission of the 23 lacs to England. The 22½ lacs had been made over to Messrs. Kilburn & Co. for transmission to Pittar Leverton and Co. That money was drawn out on the 27th at a quarter past ten o'clock, and there was no question of this, and no point had been made in regard to it. Mr. Cheetham's statement bearing on the bargain on this point was somewhat important. His Lordship read this witness's evidence, and proceeded to remark that in the case of a gentleman like Mr. Cheetham it may have been that so far as his memory was concerned he may have been at fault. But the gentlemen of the Jury were aware that men in Mr. Cheetham's position from their avocations were very exact, and it could hardly be that he could be mistaken as to the time he saw Mr. Jacob on this occasion. The gentlemen of the Jury were essentially business men but it must be remembered that some time had elapsed since this transaction took place. Then there was the evidence on the side of the defence of Messrs. Davis and Penniger. If their evidence was true it did not follow that what had previously been said was untrue. The Jury had to consider on the face of these depositions, the question of *bona fides*.

THE MAIN POINT.

The main point in the case was, Was there any arrangement between the accused and Mr. Abid as to the offer of 40 lacs on the part of the Nizam? Did the Jury think that the approval of the stone was left to him on these conditions "*passand* or *na passand*." It was suggested that this had been arranged by Mr. Abid in his anxiety to earn his own commission from Mr. Jacob on the bargain. These were all the matters, his Lordship went on to say, which the Jury had to consider. The first three charges referred to breach of trust, and the others were charges of embezzlement of certain sums and criminal misappropriation of them. If the Jury was satisfied from the evidence of Mr. Abid, from the statement of Mr. Jacob, and from the letters and telegrams which he had referred to, without a reasonable doubt that the money was paid to Mr. Jacob upon the terms of this trust, they would be justified in finding that the accused was guilty of breach of trust. If the Jury was satisfied that the prisoner was not so trusted, that there was no misapplication of funds on his part, they would be justified in returning a verdict of not guilty. The first question was, did they think that the amount lodged in the Bank was deposited as a trust with Mr. Jacob; second, was there any question as to the misapplication of that amount of Rs. 50,000 by him; and third, did they think there was a distinct violation of that trust upon the 27th July; and fourthly, did they think there was a distinct misappropriation of the money, of the amount which had been deposited? These were the only questions which the Jury had to consider. His Lordship then proceeded to explain to the Jury what the law in charges of breach of trust as a merchant were. He referred to the evidence as to Mr. Jacob's standing and position, and told the Jury that they were the best judges as to whether he was a merchant or not.

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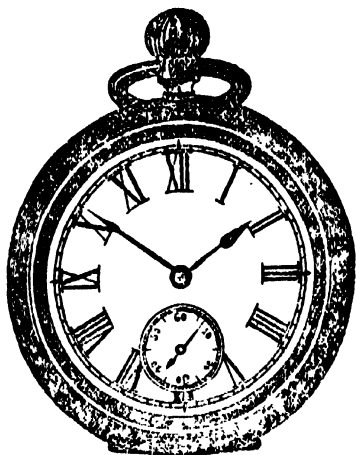
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OFFICE: 1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane, Wallington Street, Calcutta.

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)
WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND
REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1892.

No. 506

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

"TOO LATE."

BY MRS. L. H. SIGOURNEY.

A STORM without a cloud !
A sweeping whirlwind woke !
And Europe's wariest monarch bowed,
And Gallia's sceptre broke,
While Paris, with a maniac shout,
Exulting rent the sky,
And throngs in frantic zeal embraced,
They scarcely knew for why.

France, in her halls of power,
A gathering conclave eyed,
Elated with their sudden deed
Of wonder and of pride,—
While one,* who mused amid the stars,
And one,† who held more dear
The poet's thrilling reverie, poured
Strong counsel in her ear.

But as a fleeting dream
Doth shift its chart of flame,
Strangely, to that tumultuous scene
A mournful woman came ;
The widow's sable wrapped her form,
As one estranged from joy,
Yet graceful, with a mother's care,
She led a princely boy.‡

Bright was his sunny brow,
Though bearded warrior frowned,
And strong in childhood's innocence,
He fearless gazed around,—
While, gathering courage from that hour
Of trial and of dread,
She claimed for him the father's throne,
Who slumbered with the dead.

A hush !—as when the sea
Her stormiest wave hath borne,
And the old, seamed and riven rocks
Await its dire return,
In breathless silence of the soul,
Each listener bent his head,
For France with trembling pulse stood still,
In syncope of dread.

* Arago.

† Lamartine.

‡ After the revolution of Feb. 1848, a strong sensation was produced in the National Assembly, by the appearance there of the Duchess of Orleans, leading the young Count of Paris, and asking for him the throne of France.

A moment since, she deemed,
In ecstasy divine,
Her grasp was on the altar-horns
Of freedom's glorious shrine ;
What should she do ?—relapse ?—relent ?
Bewildered and amazed,
Almost to penitence she turned,
As on that child she gazed.

Then, from a deep recess,
Pealed forth the voice of fate,
Quelling that agony of doubt,
With the strong tones—"Too late !"
"Too late !"—Those cabalistic words
The threatening billow swayed ;
And Bourbon's throneless dynasty
Passed like an empty shade.

"Too late !" those sounds of woe,
Alas, have sometimes hung,
And the parting gasp and groan,
Upon the quivering tongue—
Death hath no other pang so keen,
Though all his terrors roll—
The knell of life forever lost,
The funeral of the soul.

THREE UNPUBLISHED SONGS.

BY THE LATE THOMAS HOOD.

THERE is dew for the flow'ret,
And honey for the bee ;
And bowers for the wild-bird
And love for you and me !

There are tears for the many,
And pleasure for the few ;
But let the world pass on, dear,
There's love for me and you !

There is Care that will not leave us,
And Pain that will not flee ;
But on our hearth unaltered
Sits Love, 'tween you and me !

Our love, it ne'er was reckoned,
Yet good it is and true ;
It's half the world to me, dear,
It's all the world to you !

"THOSE EYES THAT WERE SO BRIGHT, LOVE."

THOSE eyes that were so bright, love,
Have now a dimmer shine ;
But what they've lost in light, love,
Was what they gave to mine.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

And still those orbs reflect, love,
The beams of former hours;
That ripened all my joys, my love,
And tinted all my flowers.

These locks were brown to see, love,
That now are turned to gray;
But the years were spent with me, love,
That stole their hue away.
Thy locks no longer share, love,
The golden glow of noon;
But I've seen the world look fair, my love,
When silvered by the moon.

That brow was fair to see, love,
That looks so shaded now;
But for me it bore the care, love,
That spoilt a bonny brow.
And though no longer there, love,
The gloss it had of yore;
Still memory looks and dotes, my love,
Where hope admired before.

A TOAST.

COME! a health! and it's not to be slighted with sips,
A cold pulse, or a spirit supine;
All the blood in my heart seems to rush to my lips,
To commingle its flow with the wine!

Bring a cup, of the purest and solidest ware,
But a little antique in its shape;
And the juice it shall be the most racy and rare,
All the bloom with the age of the grape!

Even such is the love I would celebrate now,
At once young, and mature, and in prime,—
Like the tree of the orange that bears on its bough
The bud, blossom, and fruit at one time!

Then with three, as is due, let the honors be paid,
Whilst I give with my hand, heart, and head,—
"Here 's to her, the fond mother, dear partner, kind friend,
Who first taught me to love, woo, and wed!"

NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THE next general municipal election for the town of Calcutta will be held on Tuesday, the 15th March 1892. The latest day for application for mutation of names—to enable the owner of any land or house or the occupier of any house, separately numbered and valued for assessment purposes at not less than Rs. 300 per annum, to vote at the election—is the 15th January next.

HER MAJESTY in Council has been "pleased to declare her consent to a contract of matrimony between his Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor Christian Edward, Duke of Clarence and Avondale and Earl of Athlone, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter and Knight of the Most Illustrious Order of Saint Patrick, eldest son of his Royal Highness the Prince and his Consort her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, and her Serene Highness the Princess Victoria Mary Augusta Lousie Olga Pauline Claudine Agnes, daughter of Her Royal Highness the Princess Mary Adelaide Welhelmina Elizabeth and his Royal Highness Francis Paul Charles Louis Alexander, Duke of Teck, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath; which consent her Majesty has also caused to be signified under the Great Seal and entered in the books of the Privy Council."

The apartments of the St. James's Palace formerly occupied by the late Duchess of Cambridge, are being fitted up for the residence of the Duke and Duchess of Clarence and Avondale.

The Duchess of Teck has announced her acceptance, from the Ladies' Committee of the National Silk Association, of which she is president, of the wedding dress to be worn by her daughter. The Prince of

Wales is glad and proud to think that his son marries one born in England, and living in England and who has the feelings of an Englishwoman. According to the wishes of the Princess of Wales, the travelling as well as the bridal costume of the Princess and the bridesmaids' dresses are all to be composed of purely British manufactured material.

Each of the younger sons of the Queen commenced married life with a Parliamentary allowance of 25,000*l*. The provision for the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, it is understood, will come out of the sum granted by Parliament in 1889 for the family of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

THE head that wears a crown and lies most uneasy, is that of the Czar. Various precautions are taken for his safety. The latest in that direction is the design for two armour-plated trains for his Majesty.

FROM observations made in Germany of the transit of Venus in 1882, Professor Arthur Auwers, the wellknown Berlin astronomer, has calculated that the earth is about 92,043,074 miles distant from the sun, and that the parallax of the sun is 8'800 seconds, with an error of three-hundredths of a second at most.

THE total value of the foreign trade of the United States, during the last year, was 1748,000,000 dollars, or nearly 350 millions sterling.

"PILADEX" or Hand Ball is the latest English game going. It is played with an inflated bladder by two parties of players, without any limit to their number, who strike it with the hand, and try to prevent its falling on their side of a boundary line.

DURING December last, 885 male and 305 female Europeans, and 32,271 male and 8,238 female Indians, visited the Indian Museum, being a daily average of 1,895 during the 22 days the Institution was open to the public.

MR. J. J. D. La Touche, Chief Secretary to the Government of the North-West Provinces and Oudh, succeeds Mr. W. C. Benett, who has taken leave, as a member of the Local Legislative Council.

AN Indian Engineer, Mr. W. J. Wilson, Under-Secretary to the N.-W. P. Government in the Irrigation Branch, Public Works Department, has secured the appointment of Inspector of Irrigation in Lower Egypt.

MR. M. S. Howell, L.L.D., C.I.E., District and Sessions Judge, Shahjahanpur, has been appointed Additional Judicial Commissioner of Oudh in the room of Mr. W. R. Burkitt, who succeeds Mr. W. Young, C.S.I., as Judicial Commissioner.

MR. D. R. Lyall, C.S.I., Officiating Commissioner of the Patna Division, Mr. W. B. Oldham, Officiating Commissioner of the Chittagong Division, and Mr. G. Toynbee, Officiating Commissioner, Orissa Division, and Superintendent of the Tributary Mehals, Cuttack, have been confirmed in their respective places, Mr. C. F. Worsley, Commissioner, Orissa Division, and Superintendent of the Tributary Mehals, Cuttack, being appointed Commissioner of the Dacca Division.

KUMAR GOPENDRA KRISHNA DEB has returned to Sealdah as sub-divisional officer, Moulvie Syed Mahomed, who was understood to be permanent in that post, being unceremoniously transferred to Rampore Beaulah.

IN place of Mr. W. H. McKewan, resigned, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce has elected Mr. James Turner as a Commissioner of the Port of Calcutta.

THE next Pleaders' examination will begin on the 22nd February, in the Senate House of the Calcutta University. That for Mooktears'hip will commence the same day, simultaneously at Calcutta, Patna, Cuttack, Gauhaty and Sylhet, and will be continued on the 23rd and 24th February.

Two newspapers in Europe have been suppressed for speaking disparagingly of the Emperor William. *Rays of Light*, published at the German capital, is a Social Democratic periodical and professes to be "an organ for the Propagation of Popular Science and Atheistic Philosophy." Commenting on the "Suprema lex Regis voluntas" incident, it spoke of the German subjects who continued loyal for the future as "debased boot-lickers." *Le Stamboul* is a French journal published at Constantinople. It had the impertinence to allude in offensive terms to the Emperor.

DR. GREGG, the Young Czech Deputy, has been indulging himself in disloyal patriotism. On the 16th December, while the Reichsrath was occupied with the Appropriation Bill for the Budget for 1892, the Deputy broke out saying—Bohemia was being sucked dry by Austria, which behaved to it like a vampire. He continued :—

"The majority of the Czech population of Bohemia is utterly wretched in the midst of this alien empire, and the longing to emerge from their Babylonian captivity has already penetrated into the lowest strata of the Bohemian people. Could the Bohemians of long ago have foreseen what would become of their descendants, their choice of a King in 1526 would have been very different. Their nationality is oppressed and persecuted in this Austrian State, which is a State of violence and tyranny towards all Slavonic races. The bond between the Crown and Bohemia will be severed if the traditional rights of Bohemia are scouted much longer, and the future relations of the two countries will be those of the conquered towards the conquerors. The Mannlicher rifle will be of little avail in the hands of a people without loyalty and without enthusiasm, but instead of kindling that enthusiasm for the State by making the Bohemian people contented, they are brought to hate—I repeat, to hate—this State. And, mark my words, the day of reckoning will come."

He was twice called to order. This inflammatory speech elicited a reply from Prince Charles Schwarzenberg, a young member of the great Bohemian family of that name.

"He protested, as a Bohemian himself, against the unpatriotic speech of the Young Czech leader. He reminded him that whenever Bohemia had deviated from the choice of 1526—as, for instance, during the Thirty Years' War—the country had repented of it and added :—'If you and yours hate this State—and it is, unfortunately, a fact that hatred of Austria is spreading in Bohemia, through your teachings—what will you do with your country, which is too small to stand alone? Will you give it to Germany or to Russia, for you have no other choice if you abandon the Union?'"

IN a village in Western Hungary, a man aged thirty, who said he had come from America, asked for shelter over night from a peasant woman. To ensure compliance with his request, he displayed a purse of 7,000 florins. That display was at once a blessing and a curse. He received the shelter he sought, for the woman had coveted his silver. When the night was advanced and the wearied traveller was fast asleep, the hostess cut his throat and secreted the florins. On the return of her husband who was absent that night, the woman made known her exploit to him, but horror upon horror! it was discovered that the murdered man was their own son who had emigrated sixteen years before.

IN his meteorological summary of the monsoon period of 1891, Mr. Pedler, the meteorological Reporter to the Government of Bengal, thus speaks of the two cyclones of November last :—

"In November, two very severe cyclones formed in the Bay, one of which appeared in the Indian region on the 1st of November and afterwards travelled through Bengal, giving moderate amounts of rain, while the second was formed on the 21st to the west of the Andamans and advanced rapidly in a northeasterly direction crossing the Burma Coast on the night of the 23rd, or on the early morning of the 24th, between Akyab and Diamond Island, and then rapidly broke up in the Arakan Hills. It was a very severe storm, and did much damage at sea, and it gave rather heavy rain to Burma.

The cyclone of the early part of November was, on the whole, a small one in diameter, but its fierceness was very great and was quite equal to the majority of cyclones which have been previously described. It is probable that this cyclone was generated in the Gulf of Siam, and that it crossed the Malay Peninsula into the Andaman Sea as a severe storm. It certainly existed as a violent storm on the 1st of November, a little to the east of the Andaman Islands, and it crossed Port Blair on the night of the 1st and morning of the 2nd. Even at this time it was a very severe storm, though the diameter of the hurricane winds was probably not more than 60 or 80 miles, and it did a large amount of damage both at sea and on land at the Andamans. It then moved in a west north-westerly or north-westerly direction towards the Ganjam Coast, and as it began to approach that coast, it increased very decidedly in intensity, and became one of the most severe storms on record. On the morning of the 4th it was to the south-east of Gopalpur, but as it approached the coast it changed the direction of its movement and travelled first in a northerly and then in

a north-easterly direction. The centre passed very close to False Point between 4 and 5 P.M. of the 5th, and passed over the Intermediate Light-vessel off the mouth of the Hooghly at 2.30 A.M. of the 6th.

It then passed through South Bengal between Saugor Island and Chittagong, and passed through East Bengal into Sylhet and Upper Burma and Upper Assam. In its progress it did a large amount of damage to the shipping and on land, but as it passed into South Bengal it commenced rapidly to decrease in intensity and soon became a feeble storm."

IN his new book of Travels in Tibet, Mr. Rockhill exposes the injustice and ingratitude with which native Indian explorers have been systematically treated by the Government of India in its survey department. The London *Spectator* reviewing the book writes :—

"The story Mr. Rockhill relates of Pandit A—K—, or Krishana, in reality Kishen Singh, ought to be investigated and brought to light, for if it be really true that the results of the wonderful four years' journey, in which he crossed Tibet from north to south, and from east to west, arriving at Ta-chien-lu from the Ts'aidan in 1882, having made an excellent survey, were really 'carefully pigeon-holed by the Indian Government,' such a proceeding can only be said to be simply disgraceful. Mr. Rockhill boldly says :—'If any British explorer had done one-third of what Nam Singh, Lama Urjenjyats'o, Sarat Chandra Das, or Kishen Singh (*alias* A—K—), accomplished, medals and decorations, lucrative offices and professional promotion, freedom of cities, and every form of lionising would have been his; as for those native explorers, a small pecuniary reward and obscurity are all to which they can look forward."

THE Gazette of the North-West Provinces and Oudh contains the conditions under which the Bishen Prakash Trust Fund, amounting to some Rs. 17,000, is to be applied for the benefit of the youth of the Fyzabad District. There will be two scholarships, of Rs. 12 a month in the first year of tenure and Rs. 15 a month in the second, for students passing the Intermediate Examination of the Allahabad University. Failing these, three scholarships will be awarded among those who pass the Entrance Examination.

AMONG the principal "lions" of Cashmere, is the *Takht-i-Suleiman* near Srinagar, which the Viceroy visited. It is thus described by a correspondent :—

"One of the things to be done at Srinagar is to climb the Takht-i-Suleiman. It is a stiffish climb of a thousand feet, but the view from the top is an ample reward. The city lies at one's feet, and the valley is stretched out like a map. In the upper part of the valley the Jhelum can be traced for many miles. No fewer than six of its serpentine loops or windings can be seen, and parallel to the river an almost continuous line of broad marshes may be traced, forming what looks like a still mightier river flowing through the entire length of the valley. On the west side lies the Dal Lake with its extraordinary network of islands and water courses, extending from the Dal ke Darwaza for nearly a third of its length. The fort of Hari Parbat, the Polo ground, the Poplar Avenue, the Chenar Bagh, all the features of the city are seen immediately below. The view of the snows from the Takht is in itself a sufficient reward for making the ascent. At this season when the snow has crept lower down and closer in, the valley is seen to be completely environed, and the hills to the south have a particularly bold and striking appearance. To the north of the valley some of the higher peaks of the more remote mountains are seen peeping over the shoulder of the nearer range. Of the Hindu temple on the top of the Takht to which, by the way, the Mahatajah sometimes goes to say his prayers, there is not much certainly known. It is a high octagonal structure, built of massive blocks of stone. According to some writers, it dates back to the time of Asoka, in 200 B.C."

MR. V. G. Kirtikar succeeds the late Mr. Shantaram Narayan as Government Pleader in the Bombay High Court.

IN the Taltalla murder case, the Jury found Jonah Hall Farlam guilty of the murder of his wife, but strongly recommended him for mercy. Mr. Justice Wilson sentenced the prisoner to penal servitude for life.

Holloway's Pills and Ointment.—Influenza, Coughs and Colds.—In diseases of the throat and chest, so prevalent in our changeable climate, nothing so speedily relieves, or so certainly cures, as these inestimable remedies. These disorders are too often neglected at their commencement, or are injudiciously treated, resulting in either case in disastrous consequences. Whatever the condition of the patient, Holloway's remedies will restore, if recovery be possible; they will retard the alarming symptoms till the blood is purified and nature consummates the cure, gradually restoring strength and vital nervous power. By persevering in the use of Holloway's preparations, tone is conferred on the stomach and frame generally. Thousands of persons have testified that by the use of these remedies alone they have been restored to health after every other means had failed.

NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

DOCTOR Pfeiffer, a step-son of Dr. Koch, of Cholera bacillus fame, claims to have discovered Influenza bacillus. It is a distinct species and found in the bronchial secretion in every case of influenza. The infection, he believes, is communicated through the sputum. He is kept in countenance by Dr. Canon who has found in the blood of patients suffering from influenza the Pfeiffer bacillus.

MAHAMED TEWFIK PASHA, the Khedive of Egypt, is dead. He had been ailing from pneumonia following an attack of influenza. That death prolongs the British occupation of that country. The late Khedive leaves two sons—Abbas and Mehemet Ali—and two daughters—Khadijeh Hanem and Naemet Hanem. The sons were at Vienna at the time of the death, and have been summoned back to Cairo.

Tewfik, the eldest son of Ismail Pasha, was born in 1852, and proclaimed Khedive in June, 1879. He had been, since the deportation of Arabi Pasha in 1882, under the guidance of the British.

AT the instance of President Harrison, the American Senate voted one hundred thousand dollars for a cargo of breadstuff for the starving Russian peasants. But the House of Representatives negatived the vote, it is said, as a protest against the Russian treatment of the Jews.

M. de Laveleye is no more. He died at Brussels on the 3rd January of influenza.

ANOTHER notable death is that of Sir George Biddell Airy, late Astronomer Royal.

LORD Vivian, British Minister at Brussels, has been appointed Ambassador to St. Petersburg in succession to Sir Robert Morier. The *Journal de St. Petersburg* expresses regret at the departure of Sir Robert Morier, who, it says, has largely promoted good relations between Russia and Great Britain.

WE are surprised to learn that a circular has been issued in the Bombay Presidency prohibiting Government Pleaders from attending the Congress. This is distinctly unconstitutional. It is, besides, against the treaty concluded by Lord Lansdowne with Mr. Hume, as the only means of saving his Lordship's newly appointed Lieutenant of Bengal from the effects of the irrational letter written by Sir Charles Elliott's Private Secretary, in response to the Congress invitation. Well may Mr. Hume threaten, as he does in a letter to the *Bombay Gazette*, to bring the matter to the notice of the India Government, the Parliament and the Home public, unless the circular is immediately withdrawn. It will have to be withdrawn, sooner or later. And the dying Congress will score another gratuitous triumph from the folly of those who wish it no good. So much of the vaunted ability of the great Indian Civil Service!

THE *Indian Spectator* thus sums up its views on the National Congress which lately held its sitting at Nagpore:—

"For seven years have our Congress orators played at politics. It is time they thought of working at politics now. So long as earnest continuous work is avoided, the movement can make but poor impression on friends or on opponents, whether it asserts itself once every year or every five years."

THE same paper speaks with equal plainness of the other palaver:—

"If the Congress, on its practical side, does not encourage its friends much, the Social Conference is even less cheering. * * * the local working Committees, both of the Congress and the Conference, ought to show real work, however humble in character or limited in extent. The great annual gatherings can lay down any number of principles and go through any amount of talk. But all that can do little without everyday workers to work it into the life of the people."

There is not a truer friend of either Congress or Conference than the *Indian Spectator*. But the true friend will not stoop to falsehood or flattery.

THE *Advocate* reports that Babu Mahabir Prasad Chatterjee, a clerk in the Lucknow Audit Office, has been appointed Interpreter to the

Resident at the Court of the Native Chief of Perak, on 864 dollars per annum. It is added that this lucky *Kerani* possesses an exceptionally good knowledge of Urdu and is the author of some works, published and unpublished, in that language.

It is a pity that our contemporary does not give the names of even the published works, to say nothing of the unpublished ones. Men of Bengali lineage domiciled in Upper India—the home of their early progenitors—ought to show themselves more frequently in the field of the literature of Hindostan. Our contemporary's news suggests another question. Is Urdu the court language at Perak? Or, does the learned Mahabir add to his other accomplishments command over the Malayan?

JOHN BULL is admittedly a greedy fellow. He so thoroughly believes in the efficacy of good eating and good cheer in everything, that he does nothing without its compliment of a *bhoj*. All his numerous progeny scattered throughout the globe are, however, not quite up to the parental mark. Some are more thurine, or rather canine, than others. The Anglo-Indians of the North-Western Provinces are more true British than those of any other part or Province. Thus, we observe that the Allahabad University signalises its Convocation with a public dinner. The eating, drinking and merry-making ceremony of the Prayāga Pandits for this year takes place on the 12th, under the presidency of the Chancellor *ex-officio*. Fellows who wish to partake of the fine things on the table, are told to apply to the renowned *gourmand*, Judge Straight.

By the bye, who pays the piper?

THE election, on the first January, for two Fellows of the Calcutta University, resulted in the return of Pandit Prannath Saraswati and Baboo Woopender Nath Mitter. There were fifteen candidates, and the votes recorded, 1322. Of these, Pandit Prannath obtained 363 and Baboo Opendar Nath 209, the rest being divided among

Baboo Upender Nath Mozumdar...	...	166
" Norender Lal Dey ...	...	122
" Hirambo Chunder Moitra ...	...	107
" Chunder Nath Singh ...	...	100
" Govind Chunder Das ...	...	89
" Guru Prasad Sen ...	...	86
" Soshi Bhusan Dutt ...	...	41
Dr. Nilrutton Sircar ...	...	22
Baboo Kristo Lal Dutt ...	...	11
" Nilkanto Mozoomdar ...	...	6

Baboo Satis Chunder Roy, Gyan Chunder Ghose and Nogender Nath Mitter, though nominated, were nowhere.

The two elected have been accepted by the Governor General in Council. He has added six more to the list of Fellows, namely,

Prince Jahan Kadr Mirza Mahammad Wahid Ali Bahadur.

Mr. Romesh Chunder Dutt, Indian Civil Service, Barrister-at-Law.

Mr. Alexander Macdonell, M. A., Bengal Education Department.

Moulvi Khuda Bakhsh, Khan Bahadar, Government Pleader, Bankipore.

The Revd. A. P. Begg, B.A., London Missionary Society's Institution, Calcutta.

Baboo Kailas Chandra Bose, L.M.S.

SIR Charles Elliott has relaxed the rule laid down by him in March 1891, in regard to any increased emoluments to the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation. The Commissioners having again voted the Rs. 500, not as an increase of pay but as house allowance, Sir Charles no longer requires that that vote should represent the deliberate opinion of at least half the number of total Commissioners and that sufficient reasons should be given that would satisfy their constituents. Under date Calcutta the 4th January, 1892, the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Municipal Department, writes to the municipal Chairman:—

"I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. D-E 6/92, dated the 23rd December 1891, forwarding, for the approval of Government under Section 43 of Bengal Act II. of 1888, a Resolution passed by the Commissioners in meeting, granting to the Chairman a house allowance of Rs. 500 a month, and submitting a full report of the proceedings of the meeting.

2. In reply I am to say that it is clear from these proceedings that, although the conditions which the Lieutenant-Governor laid down in Mr. Cotton's communication of the 3rd March 1891, as those on which he would sanction an increase of salary, have not been fulfilled to the

letter, still the intentions and spirit of those orders have been met in a fairly satisfactory way. The Commissioners have given very full consideration to this question, and the Resolution now submitted for the approval of Government has been passed by a substantial majority at a meeting attended by a sufficient number of Commissioners to represent the deliberate opinion of the Corporation. This being so, the Lieutenant-Governor does not desire to call in question the decision of the Commissioners to exercise the discretion, vested in them by the Act, of allowing their Chairman house-rent, nor will he insist on the condition that this decision should be affirmed by an absolute majority of the entire number of Commissioners now holding office.

3. I am to observe, however, that if the allowance which it is proposed to grant represents only house-rent, as seems to be the intention of the Act, and is not also of the nature of a sumptuary or entertainment allowance, to the grant of which very serious objections must be entertained, the amount fixed by the Commissioners appears to be excessive. In the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion, the proper measure of the house rent to be allowed to the Chairman of the Corporation should be not the entire amount which he might reasonably be expected to pay for a house in Calcutta (though even on this assumption Rs. 500 seems to be too much), but the difference between the rent of a good house in Calcutta and the rent that an officer of the Chairman's standing would have to pay for a house in the mofussil. Taking the former sum at from Rs. 350 to Rs. 400 and the latter at Rs. 100 or Rs. 150, it seems to the Lieutenant-Governor that Rs. 250 a month would be a fairly liberal sum to allow the Chairman for house-rent in Calcutta. I am therefore to say that on further consideration, the Commissioners decide to grant this amount, the Lieutenant-Governor will be prepared to accord his approval to their Resolution, under Section 43 of the Act."

There was a special meeting of the Commissioners on Thursday, when this letter was laid on the table. A resolution was moved and seconded, granting Rs. 250 as house allowance to the Chairman from January 1892. Objection being taken that the resolution was premature in the absence of notice thereof, the motion was not pressed. The matter will come up again in proper form next Wednesday. Sir Charles Elliott has bound himself to allow Rs. 250 as house-allowance to Mr. Lee. It still rests with the Commissioners to record a vote granting the allowance.

The fight over the five hundred has ended in a victory to both sides. Those who fought for it have gained at last the Governmental sanction to an increase and those who opposed it have the satisfaction that Government will not allow the full amount.

At the Special meeting, one of the Commissioners pointed out that the notice of that meeting which appeared in the morning papers on the 3rd instant, was dated the 2nd, but that the Government letter—the subject of that meeting—bore date the 4th instant.

The mystery was not explained, as we read the report in the *Indian Mirror*.

THE addresses delivered by popular preachers in Exeter Hall, are sometimes enjoyable enough. But the opium agitation is about to convert it to a recognised place of public amusement. The leaders of the crusade against opium, have managed to get hold of an Australian "Chinee" and a Mahratta Baiji, whose performances bid fair to surpass all that has yet been exhibited in any theatre or circus. The "Chinee" is a convert to Christianity and is the Superintendent of Church Missions in Melbourne, Victoria. As to the antecedents or position of the Baiji, nothing is known in this part of India. Under the stage managership of Sir J. W. Pease and of the reverend members of the Church of England who have been made his cat's paw, they both played their parts with all the skill of carefully trained actors. At least, the reports to hand make them appear to have done so. An English paper writes:—

A largely-attended public meeting was held in Exeter Hall on Dec. 4, for the purpose of welcoming Mr. Cheok Hong Cheong (Superintendent of Church Missions at Melbourne, Victoria) and Miss Soonderbai Powar (of Bombay), who are visiting this country for the purpose of protesting on behalf of their fellow-countrymen and women in China and India, against the continuance of the British opium traffic. The Rev. H. W. Webb-Peploe (St. Paul's, Onslow-square), presided, supported by the guests of the evening, Sir J. W. Pease, M. P., and others interested in the movement, letters expressing regret at inability to be present being received from Lord Polwarth, Lord Kinnaird, Sir Harry Verney, Mr. W. S. Caine, &c.

In opening the proceedings the Chairman said the question they had met to consider did not seem to have taken that hold of the Church of England which it should have done, and which it would do when the clergy were fully informed on the matter, and thus led to act on the right side. It was said that this was a question of finance, but if it was right that the traffic should be suppressed then it should be done whatever the cost. (Cheers.) Their forefathers paid £20,000,000 to free the slaves, and surely in these days, when the wealth of the country had doubled, they ought not to hesitate to make a similar sacrifice (Cheers.)

Mr. Cheong, who met with a hearty welcome, spoke from experience gained among the Chinese, both at home and in Melbourne, of the

detrimental and often fatal results which attended indulgence in the drug, and announced, amid cheers, that the Government of Victoria had drafted a measure restricting the cultivation and importation of opium, and inflicting penalties upon those who kept smoking dens or frequented them. He appealed to his audience to heed the cry of the perishing, and go to their rescue, earning thereby not only the gratitude of the victims, but the reward of Him whose reward they valued most (Cheers.)

Miss Soonderbai Powar drew a piteous picture of the results which attended the use of opium in India, where it was the fruitful cause of infanticide, suicide, and other evils. She brought many messages from the women of India to the people of England, asking for help in this time of difficulty. If, said Miss Powar, a man knocked down another and robbed him because he needed money, he was sent to prison. What then should be done to a Christian Government which was knocking down millions of men and women for the same reason?

Other speakers followed, and the subjoined resolution was adopted:—

This meeting, representing the aroused conscience of the nation, in view of the fact that the traffic in opium carried on by the British Government of India brings upon countless numbers of our fellow-men in China, India and Burmah physical and moral degradation, and upon their innocent families unutterable misery and ruin, is a grievous hindrance to the spread of the Gospel, by identifying this professedly Christian country with the sin of propagating an odious vice, and also dries up the sources of legitimate commerce, calls upon the Government to immediately direct the stoppage of the growth, manufacture, and sale of opium in India, except for strictly medicinal purposes, and its export therefrom, in harmony with the vote of the House of Commons of April 10 last, which condemned this traffic as 'morally indefensible.' This meeting further expresses its conviction that the people of the United Kingdom will not hesitate to repeat a sacrifice similar to that by which they put an end to Negro slavery in British colonies, and to give such moderate temporary assistance to the Indian Exchequer as may be needed to enable the Government of India wholly and at once to dispense with the revenue from the opium trade, without placing any fresh burdens upon the people of that country."

It is rather curious that neither the English priests nor their chellas had one word to say against English beer and French wines. The fact is that the Church of England has in these days become *functus officio*, and, like the puppet emperors of Delhi in the last century, it has now nothing but a great name, which it will readily lend to any adventurer whose movements serve to bring it into prominence. Its members were made to take a part in the agitation by which English merchants and shipowners managed to get the Government monopoly of salt manufacture in the sea board of Bengal abolished. The same sort of agitation has been got up again to break the monopoly of opium. But the Government of India cannot afford to do away with the revenue derived from it, and this time we are perhaps safe enough.

SNAKE HILL is a terrible name. It is in New Jersey, United States. But curiously enough, it is celebrated more for venomous mosquitoes than for reptiles like the cobra and the krait. We are told, that last year the New Jersey mosquitoes gave a very emphatic proof of their venom by biting to death a man who had lost his way in the swamp round Snake Hill. We have in India enough of little fleas to bite and disturb our peace now and then, but happily none yet of the exact American type. There may be hybrids, but these are quite as harmless as the pure indigenous breeds.

PRESIDENT Harrison's message presented to the Congress of the United States on the 9th December last, recommends that a full trial should be given to the existing laws, and that business interests should be spared the distressing influence which threats of radical change always import. He opposes free coinage, but it appears that he is a bimetallist at heart. He observes:—

"I believe that the majority of our people earnestly desire that full coinage use should be made of silver as soon as other nations co-operate and a ratio be fixed. The business of the world requires both metals. I endeavoured by official and unofficial agents closely to observe the state of public sentiment in Europe, and I did not find it to be such as would have justified me in proposing an international conference. I am sure, however, that there is a growing sentiment in Europe in favour of a larger use of silver, and I know of no more effectual way of promoting this than by the accumulation of gold in this country. The scarcity of gold reserves in Europe would be the most persuasive argument for the use of silver."

THE *Tribune* hears that Rai Dewan Chand, of Sealkot, intends bringing out an Urdu translation of "Shri Bhagwat." A most unfortunate idea. We suppose the Rai's vernacular is Panjabi. We do not know either the capabilities or the prospects of that dialect. Remembering that the nightingale of Lucknow, Jani, chose it for his passion-

ate lyrics, going to reside in the Punjab on purpose to learn it, we cannot think it a contemptible vehicle of thought. At any rate, there is the sister tongue, the Hindi, which must come home almost equally to the Rai. Surely, there cannot be a moment's hesitation that that is the better language to translate the Bhagavat Purana into than the Urdu. We might understand a Mussoman's partiality for the latter. But that a Vaishnava, as we take Babu Dewan Chand of Sealkot to be, should think of that artificial, though charming, language in the connection, greatly surprises us, and seems to argue something abnormal.

THE annual examination for the titles conferred by the Nuddea College of Pandits took place during the Christmas, in the house of Babu Mohendra Nath Bhattacharya, M.A., B.L., of the Subordinate Executive Service. There were seventy candidates in all, most of whom came from a great distance. A few were from Benares with their professor Pandit Kailas Srivastavi. The cost of the examination had to be borne this time, as on several previous occasions, by Babu Mohendra Nath Bhattacharya alone, and it is much to be regretted that the Pandits had no help whatever from any of the Rajas or Reises of the country, beyond a small sum of Rs. 20 promised by Kumar Binaya Krishna of the Sova Bazar family. Kumar Indra Chandra Sing, of Paikpara, who was honored by the Nuddea Pandits by being appointed their president, gave liberal rewards to the successful examinees and their teachers at the last two examinations. In a matter like this. The great houses of Darbhanga, Burdwan, and Kishnagur ought to take the lead.

THE titles conferred by the Pandits of the chief seat of Sanskrit learning in Bengal, have a value which the honors of the Government Sanskrit College cannot possibly possess, so long at least as it is not placed under the headship of a Nuddea Pandit. For nearly a thousand years, the superiority of Nuddea has been admitted by the whole country, and no Bengali Pandit considers it beneath his dignity to pay his allegiance to it. But with all the resources and prestige of the British Government at his back, a political Pandit, hailing from the country of the Pods, can never hope to command the respect of the giants of Sanskrit learning, to be still found in Nuddea and its neighbourhood. Pandit Mahesh Chunder was lately deputed by Sir Alfred Croft to inspect the toles of Nuddea. He might as well send the Headmaster of the Darjeeling Hill school to inspect the Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

WE read in the morning papers the following telegraphic report of a curious double-barrelled movement in Chittagong :—

"At a meeting of the Buddhist Association of Chittagong, held on the 27th December 1891, His Holiness Maha Thero Gnana Lankara Tissa, Head Priest, Maun Raja's temple, presiding, it was resolved to raise money from the Buddhist community of Chittagong in aid of Buddha-Gya movement of the Ceylon Buddhists, and for a feast in honor of Sir Alfred Croft, Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, and also to wait on him with a deputation of the leading Buddhist priests and laymen when he is on a visit to Chittagong, the Buddhist community being under obligation to that officer for what progress it has recently made in education."

Sir Alfred Croft certainly deserves the honor that has been and is intended to be accorded to him. But the demonstration smacks strongly of the hand of some underling, and even if it is the outcome of genuine gratitude and regard, still the dragging of a High Priest to join a movement which is at least partly for secular purposes, may not appear commendable in the estimation of the orthodox.

THE Marquess of Ailesbury contracted with Lord Iveagh for sale of the Ailesbury settled estates in Wiltshire and Berkshire, for 750,000*l*, and applied to Court for the necessary sanction to complete the transfer. Lord Henry Bruce and others, interested in the property, strongly opposing the sale, Mr. Justice Sterling refused the permission. The matter went up to the Court of Appeal which, however, granted the application of the Marquess. Lord Justice Lindley in his judgment said :—

"Although the Marquess of Ailesbury was only thirty years old, he had managed since he came of age to get through a great deal of money, and he could not describe him otherwise than as a spendthrift who had ruined himself by his own extravagance and folly. The Marquess was not a person with whom the Court was disposed to sympathise; still, he was the master of the situation unless it could be proved that he was sacrificing the pecuniary interest of the remainder men. The consequences of handing over the estate to a mortgagee

might be disastrous. Indeed, the estate was so situated that, unless it were sold, everyone connected with it would in all probability be ruined. Sympathising as he did most acutely with those interested in the property, yet he dare not take the responsibility of refusing sanction to the sale."

Lord Justice Bowen and Lord Justice Fry concurred, the latter saying that it could scarcely be to the honour of the family name that the property should remain for years in the hands of money lenders and mortgagees.

There are occasions when opposing remainder men or coparceners do not understand their own interests, though they must be supposed to be acting on that understanding, and the Judge who is scared away by such mere opposition, fails in his essential duty.

WE read in the English papers :—

"At Bridgeend County Court, on Dec. 16, Judge Williams had to hear an action in which 50*l*. was claimed as compensation for damages caused by careless driving. The evidence of one important witness had still to be heard when the hour arrived for the Judge to leave by train, and it being deemed desirable to finish the case without adjourning it to a future date, his Honour, with the legal advocates, and the remaining witnesses, travelled together to Llantrissant, the witness giving his evidence in the railway carriage *en route*. On reaching Llantrissant Judge Williams gave his decision in the station-master's office, finding for the plaintiff."

Will the decision be upheld in appeal? In India, the law is different, though there be Judges who would follow Judge Williams and commit other and more grave illegalities.

THE following Notification appears in the *Calcutta Gazette* of January 6 :—

"The 31st December 1891.—It is hereby notified for general information that, in exercise of the power vested in him by section 139, clause 2 of Act III (B. C.) of 1885, the Lieutenant-Governor confirms the bye-laws set forth below, which have been framed by the District Board of Nuddea under clause 1 of the said section—

Bye-laws relating to roads, tanks, water-channels and cattle-pounds, framed by the District Board, Nuddea, under section 139 of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act, 1885."

Then follow the bye-laws.

The law quoted runs as follows :—

"Every District Board or Local Board empowered in this behalf by the Lieutenant-Governor, may make bye-laws for carrying out all or any of the purposes of this Act.

Bye-laws made under this section shall have the force of law when confirmed by the Lieutenant-Governor and published in such manner and for such time as the Lieutenant-Governor may direct."

The authority of the Board to initiate bye-laws does not appear in the notification. Nor will their confirmation by the Lieutenant-Governor and publication in the official Gazette give them the force of law unless "published in such manner and for such time as the Lieutenant Governor may direct." What may be that manner and what that time necessary to fully give the bye-laws the force of law, yet remain to be known to the general public.

In the Interpretation section of the Act, the District Engineer is not defined to mean the Chairman of any District Board or any Local Board, yet the explanation to one of the bye-laws, says—"Orders passed by the District Engineer in anticipation of the sanction of the Chairman of the District Board or any Local Board in emergent cases will have the force of orders passed by the Chairman of such Board." The order of the Engineer may not be sanctioned by the Chairman, yet a person disobeying the order of the Engineer will be punished for breach of the byelaw. The worst absurdity is that the legislature delegates its power to the Lieutenant-Governor, the Lieutenant-Governor delegates his to the Board, and the Board transfers its to the District Engineer. Here is delegation to the fourth degree, whereas the accepted law allows only one transfer.

THERE was a theft of jewellery at Government House this week. Three gold bangles, valued at Rs. 10,000, belonging to Lady Lansdowne, were missing at 6-30 P.M. of the 6th instant. They were in an open box on the dressing table. This is the second instance of the kind. The Police was communicated with and Mr. Lambert himself enquired into the matter. Suspicion fell on the body-guard in charge of the room, where no other native servant has access except in presence of the sentry. An immediate search of the body-guards on duty in the House

at the time being demanded by the Police, Lord William Beresford opposed it on the ground that they were honorable men of respectable birth and position in life. Mr. Lambert still suspecting, they were searched when off duty, and the bangles were traced to the body-guard Aroor Singh—a Shikh—at the Ballygunge Line. He was placed before Mr. Marsden on Friday, who sentenced him this day to eighteen months' rigorous imprisonment. It is lamentable that a man in such confidence should be found in such a disgraceful situation.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, January 9, 1892.

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EDUCATIONAL SHAMS.

THE authorities of the Calcutta University are credited with having under consideration a set of rules for controlling the management of the private schools and colleges affiliated to it. These institutions are not subject to the supervision of the Director of Public Instruction, and the abuses that have grown up in connection with them, can be checked only by the interference of the University. With very few exceptions, the private schools and colleges in Calcutta and in the larger towns in the interior, are set up solely with an eye to profit, and their proprietors direct their efforts only to securing the largest income with the minimum of expenditure. Without any regard to the extent of accommodation at their disposal, they admit to their institutions as many boys as they get. A law, similar to that which restricts the carrying capacity of public conveyances, is, it seems, required for all school buildings, though, in its practical application, it would perhaps only arm the subordinate inspecting officers with power to enforce the adoption of their worthless compilations, which would be a still greater infliction to the boys and the teachers. In some of the private educational institutions in Calcutta, it is common to find a single teacher in charge of a class of more than two hundred boys, all closely packed up in a small, ill-ventilated room. The health of the little prisoners, who are there thus kept in confinement for five hours every day, is undermined for ever, and surely their case is far more pitiable than that of the objects of Manchester philanthropists.

And, after all, what do our boys gain by their daily incarceration? The amount of instruction which they get in school is very often *nil*. The progress which they make in their studies is due, either to their self exertion, or to the assistance that they derive from their parents, friends and private tutors. The teachers in the private schools are so ill paid, that the service can very seldom attract competent men. The energy of those who do accept such service is paralysed by their having no prospect of prospering in life, and generally they can have no zeal for their work. When the proprietor takes a part in the work of teaching, he exerts his best to make his adventure successful. But the case with the other teachers is quite different. Even those that possess the necessary amount of zeal and capacity, find themselves terribly handicapped by the number of boys they have to manage. With a large class, it is exceedingly difficult for the best teachers to make themselves heard by their pupils with interest, and their task becomes an impossible one when they have to correct exercises in translation, composition or mathematics.

The success of an educational institution at the University Examinations, is generally taken as an indication of the efficiency of its teaching staff. But

the fact is well known that, even in the colleges which have been from year to year achieving the best results in the University tests, there have been professors who were almost quite innocent of any knowledge of the subjects they had to teach, or were too indolent to give their pupils the benefit of their learning. On the very appearance of some of these luminaries, the students left the class, or had to be kept in their seats by the terror of punishment. The state of things in the Government colleges may have improved of late years. But the private colleges are now the most important factors in the educational system of Bengal, and they require careful looking after. The rules which are said to be in the contemplation of the University, will compel their proprietors to increase their teaching staff. That would be a step in the right direction. But a great deal more is required, and we wonder that so little has yet been done, either by the University or by the Department of Public Instruction, to insist upon even the most elementary requisites of a sound system of education. New schools and colleges are affiliated to the University as a matter of course, and neither its wise senators, nor the inspecting officers under Sir Alfred Croft, ever think of directing their attention to the real educational needs of the country.

Every affiliated institution ought to have a good library or at least a sufficient stock of dictionaries, maps, atlases, globes, &c., for the use of each class. But what is the case at present? There are, we believe, even higher schools and colleges which have no library at all. An old copy of Webster's dictionary, or a few tattered and antiquated maps may be found in some of them. But really good books of reference and charts very seldom form part of their stock in trade. The students are told that the earth is a spherical body, and that it moves round the sun, but without globes and other accessories they cannot grasp the ideas thoroughly—the result being that very few of them can intelligently explain even the proofs regarding the rotundity of the earth, which they have all learnt by heart. In the absence of good charts and properly qualified teachers, history too is learnt only by cramming. The boys are made to get by heart the narratives of the Peninsular War and the war of American Independence, without acquiring the least idea of military strategy. The provisions of the Regulating Act, Pitt's Bill, Fox's Bill and the Charter Acts, are similarly committed to memory without any insight into the policy of which they were the outcome. Among the teachers and students of this country, very few have even any idea that history can be enjoyed or mastered. Their belief is that it must be swallowed in the solid condition, in order to be vomited in the examination hall in the same state. The usual method of teaching it, is to ask questions, and the teacher is satisfied if these are answered *verbatim et literalim* in accordance with what is stated in the text books on the subject. Maps, being generally *non est*, are very seldom referred to in connection with history. Thus the students are trained to rely, in all things, on the habit of cramming, and the humdrum way in which the questions set in the University Examinations are usually framed, serves only to strengthen the habit. To eradicate it completely, may not be within the range of practical politics. But surely the University can insist upon the colleges affiliated to it that they must have in their possession such books and other school requisites as are indispensable in educational institutions. We believe there are

law colleges affiliated to the University which have not a complete set of the Indian Law Reports, or even of the Acts of the several legislative councils in India. Shams are the order of the day in every department, and, in the department of education, we have had of late years too many of empty phials with gilded labels.

Some of these may, by proper management, be made really useful, and need not be demolished altogether. But there are others which deserve no mercy whatever. The educational shams which require to be weeded out completely, are the text books favored and patronised by the department under the control of Sir Alfred Croft, or rather that of his lieutenant—a Rai Bahadar himself. These books, as we must call them, are mainly of two classes:—

1. Works written or compiled by authors like the late Pandits Iswara Chandra Vidyasagara and Akhoy Kumar Dutta, within the first decade, after the despatch of 1854.

2. Books brought out within the last twenty-five years, by the subordinate officers of the education department, by their relatives, and by their friends.

Authors belonging to class 1., have acquired too firm a hold to be excluded from the patronage of the education department at once. Some of their books as, for instance, the *Bodhodoya* and the *Charupatha*, fully deserved, at one time, the popularity which they still enjoy. But there are other books by the same authors which are a regular nuisance. The *Charita-boli*, the *Jibana Charita* and *Bahya Bastu* are preeminently so. Had the department of education been properly regulated, not only these, but even the genuine coins claiming the same authorship would have been withdrawn from circulation long ago. The absurdity of appointing as text books such primers on scientific subjects as were first brought out thirty-five years ago, and have never been subsequently revised, is too obvious to require expatiation.

To avoid doing injustice to the educational officers, we must mention here that it is due to no fault of theirs that the works of Pandits Vidyasagar or Dutta are still patronised by the department. They have never betrayed any partiality in favor of an author outside the circle of their kith and kin and obliging friends. In fact, for a time, the works of a village school-master and of an influentially connected limb of the press, entirely superseded the *Sitar Banabash* and the *Charupatha*. But this arrangement could not last long. The milkman who adulterates his milk with water, knows that there is a limit. When complaints became too loud, the question arose, How to maintain a show of decency without incurring the danger of losing the preserve altogether? The *de facto* rulers of the department are far too wise in their generation not to know that a live dog is decidedly more powerful than a dead lion. For their own safety, they had to prefer the stuffed lion to the more dangerous living animal that would claim the entire field, if once ennobled by being admitted to the sacred enclosure. While they howl and bark from outside, they may be treated as pariahs for whom it is preposterous to claim to be fed on the same table with the lions that people actually worship. The latter may be only skins stuffed with straw and paper. But they are nicely adapted to bamboozle the people, as well as the responsible head of the department, who, with all his learning, cannot constitute himself a judge of Bengali books. He has been long enough in the country to know well that Pandits Vidyasagar and Dutta, who were the authors of the oldest Bengali school books, are both

regarded by the people as the best writers in Bengali prose. When complaints are made to him about the selection of text books by his subordinate authorities, and he asks for their explanation, they point to the two aforesaid names in the list, and succeed in satisfying him at once.

Looked at from outside, the machinery for selecting text books is unexceptionable. There is a text book committee which decides what books are readable and what books are not. This committee is strong enough so far as English is concerned. But the number of members in it whose judgment with regard to the merit of Bengali books can be accepted, is very small. At any rate, judging the tree by the fruit, the work that they have hitherto done, cannot ensure for them the confidence of the public. In the list of books approved by them, we find the names of some which are a tissue of nonsense from beginning to end. Whether the favor shewn towards them is due to the obliging nature of the judges, or to their want of sufficient critical power, the result to the public is all the same. The committee has been recently strengthened by the appointment of Rai Bahadar Bankim Chundra Chatterjee as member. A few more similar appointments may go some way towards improving matters. But the real source of the mischief has taken too firm a root to be easily eradicated.

Until recently, the text books for the Vernacular and Middle English schools were prescribed each year by the Divisional Inspector of Schools. This system, which led to great abuse, has now been abolished, and a list including a large number of approved text books on each subject was, by order of the Director of Public Instruction, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 15th July last. At the same time, it was announced that the school authorities were left at liberty to choose any book they liked from among those declared eligible. The list, however, was not given publicity in any other manner. And the intentions of Sir Alfred Croft are, we are told, about to be frustrated by a rumour, which the school authorities have been led to accept, that the list of text books prescribed in the previous year by the Inspector of Schools is to be taken to be in force for the current year also. If there is such a rumour, it is the inevitable result of the indefinite character of the list that has been prescribed authoritatively. Other mischiefs flow also from the same cause. The books of several authors being declared eligible for selections on each subject, every one of them is advertising that his is the only authorised text book on the subject. In the absence of a list of authorised text books specially sent to them, the school authorities are confounded by these conflicting advertisements, and are placed in a great difficulty in arriving at any decision. It seems to us that, instead of presenting an indefinite list, the better course would be to give, by turns, a chance to all approved authors. If Sir Alfred Croft will thus try to give a share of his patronage to every true votary of literature, really good books would come into existence, in much larger numbers than at present, and the country would be benefited in every way. At present, mere compilers sometimes get lacs of rupees, while really good writers have very often to pine in the cold shade of neglect. This state of things is prejudicial to the best interests of the country, and the sooner it ceases, the better for the cause of education and for the reputation of the department over which Sir Alfred presides.

AGRICULTURAL INDEBTEDNESS IN THE PUNJAB.

NOTE BY THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

THE opinions both of Revenue and Judicial Officers have almost all been given carefully and earnestly. They show a strong feeling of the existence either developed or commencing of a lamentable state of things, and even those officers who have least apprehension of political danger, who have least sentiment or repress it most carefully, and who are disposed to expect least advantage from radical alterations of law and procedure, virtually admit the great unsuitability of some parts of our legal system to the condition and circumstances of the agriculturists of the Province. On the other hand, there are a great many officers who feel that unsuitability so keenly as to find a difficulty, as Mr. R. Clarke says, in repressing intemperate language in writing about it. I have the advantage of knowing more or less well all the officers, European and Native, who have given opinions, and am able to judge of their weight even when they give them without full argument. There is great unanimity on certain points, but on other important ones the men of most weight are much divided. But from the whole body of opinions as well as from the statistics it may, I consider, be safely assumed to be proved that it is a fact, as we have already reported, that under the influence of indebtedness and of our present law and Civil Court procedure transfers of land are proceeding in all districts in an increasing ratio, and in many with dangerous rapidity, and that measures to check this process, so far as it is due to the action of our laws and Courts, are required throughout the Province. The fact that by a large proportion of these transfers the possession of the land passes from the old agricultural classes to men of the old commercial money-lending classes greatly increases the political danger of this state of things; but, on the other hand, even transfers from one agriculturist to another agriculturist, so far as they are due to unsuitability of our law and Civil Court procedure to the condition and circumstances of the poorer agriculturists, are also a serious reproach to our system and tend to make our Government unpopular. The whole body of opinions and the statistics also prove that the indebtedness and transfers are not due, except perhaps in certain tracts, and there to a most insignificant degree, to too great fixity of the land revenue demand, or to any other fault in our revenue system which can be cured. No one ventures to say that we can go back from the gift of proprietary right, and it is generally admitted that it existed before our time, and that what we have really done is to make it more valuable, and thereby to promote its being encumbered and eventually transferred. But there is no opinion of any weight in favour of seeking a remedy by reducing the value of the proprietary right by high land revenue assessments and short term settlements. Officers who are in contact with the agriculturists of the Punjab and in sympathy with them know how they would regard such a policy, and feel how little we can afford at the present day to shake the belief in the liberality and friendliness of our Government by adopting such an attitude. It was that belief, based mainly on the recognition of their right, and the improvement of their position in the early land revenue settlements, which reconciled the Punjabi peasant proprietors to our rule though an alien one, and made them throw in their lot with us at the time of the Mutiny, and it is from these peasants that we have since recruited the bulk and the flower of our Native Army. Mr. Kennedy's phrase of "sullen acquiescence" is I think a true enough description of the attitude to our Government of a large part of the rural population of the Montgomery District. This is due to hereditary temper and to forest reservations and mistakes made in land revenue and tinni management. To other districts it would be a gross exaggeration to apply it, but we could easily make mistakes which would make it generally applicable, and that there has been a marked tendency to a decline of good feeling in many if not in all districts is, in my opinion, very evident.

2. After carefully reading all these opinions, I am more strongly of opinion now than I was when we last addressed the Government of India that a remedy is required, and that a measure of reform of the nature of the Dekkhan Rayyets Relief Act is the only measure by which much can be effected. I think an Act very closely following most Chapters of that Act should be passed without delay for the whole of the Punjab. The Chapters on Village Munsiffs, Conciliators and Village Registrars would be permissive in their application as in the Dekkhan Rayyets Act. I believe they will all be useful, at once in some tracts and in time generally. In drafting our Village Munsiff Chapter I think we may get some good hints applicable to the Punjab from the Madras law. Another fact which points to the urgency of dealing strongly with the matter by special legislation is this, that, as I shall show later on, certain parts of our existing law which are calculated to accelerate the transfer of land from agriculturists to money-lenders, such for instance as the provisions for imprisonment and insolvency of the Civil Procedure Code, have till quite lately been practically inoperative against Punjab agriculturists, but are now beginning to be used to deprive them of their lands, and our special rules under Section 327 of that Code, which have hitherto immensely retarded

the natural effects of the general law, are too loose and vague to be continued much longer without alteration. We have in fact come to a point where we must soon make a decided change in some direction.

3. I will now as the simplest method of dealing with this very difficult case go through the Dekkhan Agriculturist Relief Act, and see how far in my opinion a Punjab Agriculturist Relief Act could be based on it.

Chapter I of the Dekkhan Agriculturist Relief Act would do for Chapter I of the Punjab Act with the omission of the local extent clauses, and of Section 2 A. As to "local extent" our Act might extend I think to the whole of the Punjab.

Chapter II of the Dekkhan Agriculturist Relief Act could be adapted to apply to our Subordinate Judges' Courts. Its effect would be (1) to give the Subordinate Judges' power to hear (a) suits by an agriculturist for an account unlimited in amount, and (b) suits of classes w, x, of certain limited values (whoever parties may be), and suits of classes y and z (when defendant is agriculturist in one case and when plaintiff is in the other) according to a certain simplified procedure (Sections 7, 8, 9), and (2) to prevent appeals from the decrees and orders passed by the Subordinate Judges under the Chapter. But to make the Chapter have sufficient extent to be useful in the Punjab I think power should be taken in the Punjab Act to confer all or any of the powers of a Subordinate Judge of the 2nd Class under the Chapter upon Munsiffs of the 1st or 2nd Classes, and upon Special Judges and Benches appointed under Section 28 of the Punjab Courts Act. With a Chapter for Superintendence and Revision similar to Chapter VII, Dekkhan Agriculturist Relief Act, I do not think this would be dangerous, and the relief to litigation would be great. I think it would be better than the Small Cause Court procedure for rural tracts at all events. The definition of class (x) suits would have to be amended so as to exclude suits for rent for agricultural land. Suits for damages might also probably be excluded with advantage.

I think it would be necessary, as suggested by Mr. R. Clarke, Deputy Commissioner of Delhi, to appoint officers under the title of Registrars or Assistant Munsiffs to the establishment of the Munsiffs' Courts with powers to examine the parties as witnesses and make the inquiry into the history and merits of the case under Section 12 for the Court. This would be a good training for these officers who would rise to become Munsiffs if fit. At present the establishment of the Munsiffs' Courts in the Punjab is, as many officers note, scandalously small: it is about 5 times as large in Madras.

4. *Chapter III of the Dekkhan Agriculturist Relief Act* applies generally to trial of suits to which agriculturists are parties in all original Courts.

Section 11 would be adopted in our Act. It is in accordance with the first instructions for trial of civil suits issued when we annexed part of the Punjab.

As to Section 12 I think that after the words "hereinafter provided" the following sentence might be inserted: "Provided that when a registered bond or deed has been executed by the parties which purports to declare the amount of the creditor's claim at the time of execution thereof the Court shall so enquire and take account from the date of the said registered bond or deed only, unless the debtor denies execution of the bond or deed, or alleges that it is voidable under the Contract Act for want of free consent, and the Court for reasons to be recorded by it in writing deems it advisable to enquire into transactions antecedent to the said bond or deed for the purpose of testing such defences to the suit." This proviso would of course give a great stimulus to registration which would I think be good. I would leave the rules as to compulsory and optional registration as they are. The cost in time and money of registration is a heavy burden on business.

After Section 12 I think a Section 12A. might be added to following effect: "In suits and proceedings under this Act Section 16 of the Contract Act shall be read as if it contained the following additional clause: Clause (3). When a person obtains a grossly unfair advantage from a person who is ignorant and improvident, or hard pressed by debt or want." This is Mr. Benton's suggestion. It seems to me that with this addition to the Contract Act we might refuse to open accounts behind registered bonds and mortgage deeds, in the case of which we have generally some security that the debtor did deliberately settle accounts knowing what he was doing. There is no real security for this in the case of unregistered bonds or deeds, or balances of account struck in money-lenders' books.

Section 13 would have to be amended so as to be consistent with the principle of not going behind any registered bond or deed on the question of amount due at execution so long as the bond or deed is not declared to be void. This might be done, I think, sufficiently by inserting the words "with a view to taking an account between the parties" after the words "under Section 12." In other respects our section would follow Section 13 of the Dekkhan Agriculturist Relief Act except that I would leave out the words "or setting off the profits of mortgaged property without an account in lieu of interest," as this is a very old and common form of taking interest in the Punjab, and it is almost impossible to say to what

the interest amounts, much or little, in such cases, and it would be very difficult to take the account. It is also a convenient form of agreement for paying interest for illiterate zamindars which I do not think ought to be upset. The last words of this section embody the important principle that the Court after taking account shall not award interest in excess of principal. This, as pointed out in many opinions, is in accord with old Punjab native custom.

5. A section of the nature of Section 14 is I think very necessary, but I should prefer to add at the end of clause (b) the following proviso: "provided that the Court shall not except for special reasons to be recorded award under this clause a higher rate of interest than $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum on cash (2 annas in rupee) and 25 per cent. or one-fourth per annum on transactions in kind." A rule of the kind, by which the Courts would ordinarily refuse to be instruments in recovering higher rates of interest in accounts between agriculturists and their creditors, would be in accordance with native feeling and old custom, and would not, I hold, prevent agriculturists getting necessary loans. It would prevent their getting improvident loans, and taken with the rule of interest not to exceed principal it would make creditors shy of going into Court unnecessarily and also shy of letting accounts run on too long. The principle that the Courts should award any interest agreed on, however exorbitant, rests, I suppose, on the Act of 1855 for the repeal of usury laws, which was extended to the Punjab in 1874. Before that, by the provisions of the old Punjab Civil Code, the Courts were directed not to decree more than 12 years' interest, and were empowered to cut down exorbitant rates of interest. Under the law, Regulation I of 1798, as to *bai bil wafa* mortgages or conditional sales still applicable in the Punjab, the lender cannot recover more than 12 per cent. interest, whatever the terms of the contract may be. This rate of 12 per cent. used to be called the legal rate in old Regulations and orders, and was commonly so regarded in early Punjab days.

6. Section 15, Dekkhan Agriculturist Relief Act, is very important. Some such section is in my opinion urgently necessary in our Act, as with creditors whose honesty is commonly open to the gravest doubt, and debtors who are commonly ignorant and illiterate, the unregistered bonds, deeds, or account books produced in support of a claim are constantly quite unreliable, and so is the oral evidence in Court of witnesses produced by the parties. The consequence is that the Court, being satisfied that there have been dealings between the parties, and being unable to satisfy itself as to the details, ends by attaching a weight to the bonds, deeds, or account books to which it feels that they are not really entitled. Arbitrators from their knowledge of the persons and the locality are in a better position to judge in such cases, and if doubts have to be solved by guesses at the truth, they are better qualified to make such guesses, and it is better that this duty should be put upon a body of arbitrators, and not upon the Court itself. It was on this account that in the first rules for administration of civil justice issued for part of Punjab in 1847-48 the Courts were specially enjoined to refer questions of account and some similar questions to arbitrators. The same instruction was contained in the old Punjab Civil Code, which was treated as law till some 20 years ago. But the last clause of Section 15, Dekkhan Agriculturist Relief Act, which applies Sections 508 to 522, Civil Procedure Code, to the arbitrations by order of Court under it, would be unpopular in the Punjab, and would not, I think, work well.

I think that our Section 15 might run as follows. After the words "may, of its own motion," insert the words "suggest that such amount be ascertained by arbitration under Chapter XXXVII, Civil Procedure Code. If all the parties agree and put in the necessary application the Court shall pass the order of reference under that chapter and proceed accordingly. If all the parties do not agree the Court may, with the consent of both parties, or with the consent of one of the parties only if he is the debtor, direct that such amount be ascertained by arbitration in accordance with the provisions of Sections 128 to 135 (1) of the Punjab Land Revenue Act and proceed accordingly." As to Section 131 (3) of the Land Revenue Act, which refers to appeals from orders in compulsory arbitration cases, if strong powers of supervision and control are taken, I do not know that power to appeal would be necessary, and if appeal was allowed it would only be where the decree was appealable if passed without arbitration, and perhaps not then if the Court accepted the arbitrator's award. The rest of the Dekkhan Agriculturist Relief Act section would not be wanted.

7. Sections 15 A. to 18, Dekkhan Agriculturist Relief Act, seem required in the Punjab and fit to be incorporated in our Bill without change. They will facilitate redemption and check the tricks of those mortgagees who having got possession dishonestly oppose redemption.

They will also greatly check those money-lenders who encourage agriculturists to take improvident loans and to run deeply into debt with a view to getting their land by means of mortgages with conditions of foreclosure and sale.

These sections would of course apply to registered as well as unregistered mortgages. The only difference would be as to going behind the deed to take account.

8. Sections 15A. and 15D. (1) are in accordance with the existing Punjab law as to *bai bil wafa* mortgages, Regulation I of 1798, though I am not sure that that law is not overlooked. They will tend no doubt like the interest sections to restrict the borrowing credit of the agriculturist, but not I believe to a dangerous extent. I agree with those officers who think that the money-lending capitalists in the Punjab will and must go on loaning money to the agriculturists. What we want to do is to discourage those who lend not with a view to get back their money with interest, but with a view to get hold of the land by forcing the agriculturist to sell, or by selling him up through the Courts. It is the transactions of these men which come most into the Courts. I think that clause (2) of Section 15 B. should run in our Act after the words "in writing" as follows: "either (a) instead of making an order for the sale of the entire property mortgaged or for foreclosure, order the sale of such portion only of the property as it may think necessary for the realization of that sum, or (b) with the consent of the mortgagor transfer the mortgage of the whole or any part of the property mortgaged, with such modifications of the terms as may be agreed upon, to any person of the classes mentioned in Section 12 of the Punjab Laws Act who pays into Court the amount remaining payable by the mortgagor under the decree, or gives security for paying such amount within one month. Where security for payment in one month is accepted, the Court shall postpone the case to allow of such payment being made." A similar addition should be made to clause (2) of Section 15 (c).

These additions would help to keep money-lenders from obtaining a footing in village communities by foreclosure or sale under deeds of mortgage, and would meet the views of many officers who advocate the extension of right of pre-emption to mortgages, which proposal does not seem to me advisable and presents many difficulties.

9. Section 19 and Chapter IV of Insolvency have proved I believe inoperative in the Dekkhan, and Section 19 should I think be omitted in our Act. I doubt whether any Insolvency law by which an agriculturist can be made insolvent except on his own application is wanted in the Punjab, or whether any could be devised which would not do more harm than good. I believe the existing Insolvency laws (Punjab Laws Act and Civil Procedure Code) have hardly ever been applied to them yet. See as to this my note on Chapter IV below.

10. Section 20, giving power to fix instalments in execution, is I think much wanted in a Punjab Agriculturist Relief Act, as is held by the great majority of Punjab Officers, Revenue and Judicial. The power should be not only to fix instalments where none were fixed by the Court of decree, but also to revise instalments fixed by that Court; but, in the latter case, and in the case when the Court of decree had refused in writing to fix instalments, the Court of execution should record its reasons for revising or allowing instalments after hearing both parties and recording their statements. The Court of execution should also be allowed to revise, for reasons given, any order passed by the Court of decree or by itself to effect that if any one or more instalments are not paid on due date the whole decree money will be recoverable at once.

If full powers of supervision and control are secured to District or Divisional Judges in the Act, I doubt if any appeal against orders in execution revising or allowing instalments will be necessary, but this is a question to be considered in drafting the Act.

After the above section I think we should want in our Act another section (1) directing the Court of execution to fix an upset price on cattle and other moveable property of agriculturists attached and to release the property absolutely or on security if that price was not bid at auction; (2) empowering the Court with consent of the debtor after the upset price was fixed instead of proceeding to auction to require the decree-holder to take the property at the upset price under penalty of either (a) auction at his risk to the extent of the difference if any, or (b) release of the property from attachment at his cost. The opinions of most officers are in favour of some provisions of this kind. The Court might be directed to fix the upset price as near as might be 2 annas in rupee or $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. below the estimated full value. The price to be fixed by arbitrators if either of the parties objected to the valuation of the Court or of the officer deputed by the Court.

The section might also empower the Local Government to direct with regard to any district or tract that proceedings for attachment and sale or sale of agriculturists' cattle should be transferred to the Revenue authorities for execution. That is already the rule in the Punjab as regards all sales of agricultural land and standing crops in execution of decree.

Another section is also I think wanted in this Chapter modifying Section 258, Civil Procedure Code, by giving Courts of execution discretionary power to admit evidence as to and recognize uncertified payments out of Court in the case of illiterate agriculturists presumably ignorant of the law and also imposing on decree-holders under penalty the duty of certifying all payments. The law as it stands is too advanced for the mass of agriculturists and should be made looser.

(To be continued.)

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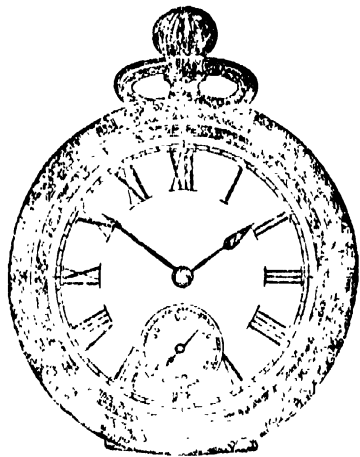
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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 1892.

No. 507

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

THE FIRST SNOW-STORM.

BY EPES SARGENT.

As for the first wild flower,
In the early time of spring,
As for the summer shower,
When earth is languishing ;
As for the rainbow's blending ;
As for the day-star's glow—
Have I looked for the descending
Of the first November snow.

It comes ! on pinions airy
The virgin flakes alight,
Like the torn plumes of a fairy,
Or the apple-blossoms white ;
With undulating motion,
The frozen ground they reach,
Or melt into the ocean
That booms along the beach.

Why watch I thus the falling
Of the first November snow
Because on me 't is calling
In the voice of long ago ;
Because it ever blendeth
With the memories of the boy ;—
Each flake, as it descendeth,
Enshrouds a perished joy !

O ! for those days when, rushing
Into the powdery air,
I felt the free, wild gushing
Of a spirit without care !
How, through the drifts that whitened
Our widow-sills at home,
I dashed, with heart unfrightened,
Like a dolphin through the foam !

And then the merry ringing
Of the sleigh-bells at the door,
And the winter evening bringing
A thousand pleasures more !
And the dear friends who surrounded
Our log-devouring hearth,
And the old songs that resounded,
And the hours of blameless mirth !

Ah, first snow of November !
Thou joys thou dost recall ;
But with them I remember,
They shall no more befall.

Companions have departed,
With whom that season fled ;
And some are weary-hearted,
And some are with the dead.

THE DAISY.

The daisy is the meekest flower
That grows in wood or field ;
To wind and rain, and footstep rude,
Its slender stem will yield.

And when they 're passed away again,
As cheerfully it springs
As if a playful butterfly
Had bent it with his wings.

The daisy is a hardy plant,
And in the winter time
We find it by the sheltered nooks,
Unhurt by snow and rime.

In spring it dots the green with white,
It blossoms all the year,
And so it is a fav'rite flower
To little children dear.

Before the stars are in the sky
The daisy goes to rest,
And folds its little shining leaves
Upon its golden breast.

And so it sleeps in dewy night
Until the morning breaks ;
Then, with the songs of early birds,
So joyously awakes.

And, children, when they go to bed,
Should fold their hands in prayer,
And place themselves, and all they love,
In God's almighty care.

Then they may sleep secure and still,
Through hours of darksome night,
And with the pretty daisy wake
In cheerful morning light.

LINES ON LIFE.

JOY comes and goes ; hope ebbs and flows,
Like the wave ;

Change doth unknit the tranquil strength of men ;
Love lends life a little grace,
A few sad smiles ; and then,
Both are laid in one cold place,
In the grave.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipts will be

Dreams dawn and fly ; friends smile and die,
 Like spring flowers.
 Our vaunted life is one long funeral.
 Men dig graves, with bitter tears,
 For their dead hopes ; and all,
 Mazed with doubts, and sick with fears,
 Count the hours.

We count the hours ; these dreams of ours
 False and hollow,
 Shall we go hence and find they are not dead ?
 Joys we dimly apprehend,
 Faces that smiled and fled,
 Hopes born here and born to end ;
 Shall we follow ?

NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THE Convocation of the University of Calcutta will be held next Saturday. Particulars will be found in the notice in the advertisement columns.

SIR John Edgar, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., has been taken in as an Additional Member of the Council of the Governor-General for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations. It is an honor done to the Bengal Secretariat. Another new Member is Mr. Palli Chentsal Rao Pantulu, C. I. E. We have already noticed the appointment of Dr. Rash Behari Ghosh and the reappointment of Mr. J. L. Mackay, C. I. E. These four members took their seats yesterday.

THE new Honorary Presidency Magistrates for Calcutta, are Babus Hem Chunder Ker and Brahmo Nath Sen and Messrs. John Gillham, Womack and Walter Davies. The two Bengalis are retired Deputy Magistrates.

WE are glad to find that fresh honours await our distinguished countryman Babu Bankim Chunder Chatterji, every day since his retirement from Government Service. An Anglo-Indian contemporary hails him "the patriarch of the Bengali Pundits."

THE *Saturday Review* of the 21st November contains a puzzle. There is a political leading article with a queer heading as follows :

1885-6—And

What does it all mean? one wonders. Let the intelligent reader try his wits at it.

THE Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has exempted Maharaja Khetish Chundra Roy Bahadur of Kishnaghur, in the Nuddea District, from personal attendance in Civil Courts.

MR. T. G. S. Hodgkinson, C. S., Commissioner of the Irrawady Division, Burma, and formerly Manager and Guardian of the present Maharaja of Huiwa, having died, the Maharaja, now in Benares, has, in honored memory of the deceased, ordered the closing, for three days, of the Raj offices in Huiwa.

WITH the concurrence of Rani Surja Mani PatmahaDeyi, Superintendent of the Temple, the Pooree Temple Repairs Committee have decided "to put up a memorial tablet in a conspicuous part of the Temple precincts, shewing the names of donors from Rs. 100 and upwards." The Committee evidently think that that inducement will spur those who still lag behind.

THE Dogras too are up and doing. On the 9th instant, a great meeting of the representatives of the Dogra Rajputs, previously duly elected by their brotherhoods in meetings held specially for the purpose in the Sialkote, Gurdaspur, Kangra and Hushiarpur Districts, took place in the Town Hall, Lahore. There appears to have been some good speaking. The principal resolutions adopted were these:—

"(1) Raja Indar Doo of Dina Nagar was elected President and Babu Daswandhi Ram, Choudhari Malah Singh, Sardar Changan Singh and Mian Ghasitoo were nominated Vice-Presidents and Mian Moti

Singh and Pundit Maghar Ram Dogra were appointed Joint Secretaries and Babu Beli Ram, B. A., was made Assistant Secretary and Choudhari Malah Singh accepted the post of Treasurer. (2) That in view of the growing poverty of the Rajputs and their incapability to afford to pay the high fees levied in the schools and colleges of the Province, and considering the peculiar mode of living of the Rajputs, a Central Rajput College be established somewhere near Rajput homes. (3) That an association under the name of Rajput College Establishment Association be formed with Headquarters at Gurdaspur and branches in the Districts of Sialkote, Hushiarpur and Kangra to collect funds and do such other things necessary for establishing such a College. (4) That a deputation wait upon His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab with a memorial asking the support of the Government to the proposed College."

THE facts brought to light by scientific investigation, are oftentimes far stranger than anything we read in works of fiction. We are told that there are plants which not only seize and prey upon insects, but have the power of assimilating animal food and being nourished by it. One of the most important of this class of plants is the *Disman muscipula* which is a native of America. The following is a description of it in the *Popular Science News*:—

"The appearance of this plant is so peculiar that when once seen it is not readily forgotten. A leafless scape, 6in. in height, rises from the root, and terminates in an umbel of white flowers; these are, however, of a distinctly subordinate interest. Its winged leafstalks spread themselves out like a kind of rosette about the root, each bearing a broad leaf, so curious in the strange powers which it displays as almost to convince one that the plant can lay claim to a sentient life. The leaf proper is orbicular in shape, and has a hinge-like mid-vein, upon which the halves swing smoothly, opening and shutting with great speed and ease. Each half is somewhat concave upon the upper surface, and is bordered by a row of spines thickly placed around its outer edge, and set at such an angle as to cross when the blades are closed. They have also a power of separate movement, and interlock like the fingers of two hands. They remind one irresistibly of the teeth of a steel trap, which, in fact, they also resemble in the use for which they are designed. On the central part of each blade we find three conspicuous hairs. These are of the greatest sensitiveness, delicate, irritable, and so placed that even a small insect can hardly alight or move about upon the leaf without touching one or more of them. Over the surface of the blades are also strewn many small red globules, or glands, which are most numerous in the vicinity of the hairs. Provided the leaf upon which it grows be vigorous, no sooner is one of these irritable hairs touched—be it ever so lightly—than the blades spring together, the spines cross at right angles, and presently a slightly glutinous secretion begins to flow from the red globules, which is supposed to be the active agent in the process of digestion. It is not improbable that the fluid from these glands may also serve to attract insects and cause them to alight upon the plant."

If this curious plant can afford any protection against mosquitoes, its cultivation would certainly be worthwhile in every Indian home.

IN the papers brought by the last mail, we read a curious love story of which the hero is a retired army surgeon, 55 years old. In spite of his age and the experience which he presumably has in the business, he seems to lack altogether the wisdom which usually guides the movements of successful strategists. He was hauled up before a London Magistrate on a charge of indecently assaulting a young lady of 24—Miss Maud Ridley. He saw her at a railway station and, resolving at once to honor her with his attention, pursued her through the streets, and finally rushed after her into her bedroom. The foolishness displayed by him in his plan of campaign, characterised also the defence that he made in court. He virtually admitted the complaint of his lady love and declared before the Magistrate that he "merely put his arms round her waist, pressed her and asked her to be his wife." The lady who was the object of this demonstration gives a different version as to the details. Whatever was the case, the adventure was cut short by the police coming in and taking him into custody. Samuel Gamble White, the gay Lothario we are speaking of, does not seem to have figured in any criminal court during his Indian career. But in his native country he has apparently that renown for which he is destined. At any rate, the adventure related above is not the only one of the

Holloway's Pills.—In general debility, nervous tremor, and mental depression, these unrivalled Pills have a marvellous effect. They have won the confidence of millions in all parts of the civilised world. Constitutions shaken by sensual excesses, or by long residence in unwholesome climates, or by sedentary habits, are wonderfully renovated by a course of this extraordinary medicine, which, powerful as is its action on the whole system, is perfectly harmless to the tenderest frame. The Pills are composed of rare balsams, without the admixture of a grain of any mineral whatever, or of any other deleterious substance. They operate directly, powerfully and beneficially upon the whole mass of blood, nor can we question the fact when we see indigestion cured, liver complaints arrested, the oppressed lungs brought into healthful play, and every physical function renewed and strengthened by their agency.

kind for which he has come to grief. During the hearing of the case under notice, it was proved that he had pestered other ladies with his amorousness and had been, at the instance of a fair damsel, kicked out of her house by her footman.

THE *Tribune* says that Pandit Radha Kishen has been removed from his post of Governor of Jummoo. Our contemporary gives no reasons for the step. Is he the same as the former Governor of Ladak, who was ordered down to render an account of his stewardship, and who, while under this cloud, employed his comparative leisure to such purpose, in conjunction with his brother-in-law become a member of the Maharaja's cabinet, that his disgrace was turned to a triumph, and he obtained the prize government of Jummoo, by turning out the popular and highly respected incumbent? The latter was the head of one of the oldest families in the hills and a man of seventy years of age and of sensitive honour. Hearing that they had got up a balance against him of 30 years back, he discerned the aspect of the times, and for personal safety decamped with his family to Lahore, his two eldest sons throwing up high and lucrative posts. It seems another turn of the wheel has come and with it crushing the once lucky Radha Kishen.

It appears that the late Governor of Jummoo is charged with numerous instances of corruption.

THE Cashmere State Council have appointed a Commission to enquire into the judicial administration of the Poonch Principality, which part of the country yet remains in a backward condition.

NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THIS has been a sad week—of dire want, disease, and death. Men are dying on all sides, here under the slow tortures of starvation, there from sickness—here the masses are being swept away, there the ranks of the upper ten and of the magnates are being thinned. While Famine is decimating Russia, deadly sickness has invaded other countries.

INFLUENZA is raging in a virulent epidemic form in England. Over two hundred employes in the Enfield Arms Factory are down with it. The London barracks may be said to be so many hospitals. Lord Knutsford, Secretary of State for the Colonies, has been seized, and, most lamentable of all, the Duke of Clarence and Avondale has fallen a victim to the disease.

The Queen is deeply affected by the death of her grandson. The Princess of Wales is crushed by the blow, and the Princess May of Teck is inconsolable and restless, refusing to partake of food.

The bereavement of the English Royal Family has evoked the greatest sympathy from all quarters. All the European Powers telegraphed messages of condolence. The President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies in a touching phrase expressed the Southern sentiment, saying *England's sorrow Italy's own*. The American President conveyed the grief of the United States. All the British Colonies, as in loyalty bound, were equal to the occasion. Lord Lansdowne wired to the Queen the consternation with which the news was received in India, Her Majesty replying "Many Thanks: I am sure of the sympathy of my loyal Indian people."

In Calcutta, the demonstration of sorrow bids fair to be complete. The Governor-General's Council held a meeting of mourning on Friday. All public business was suspended. While Lord Lansdowne spoke for the Empire, Sir Charles Elliott, in a handsome way, represented the loyal feeling of the Province. Nor does he rest there. On Monday, a public meeting will be held at the Town Hall, the Lieutenant-Governor presiding, "to give expression to the sorrow which fills all classes of the community at the untimely death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence and Avondale."

The Mahomedan Literary Society have postponed their *Conversazione* fixed for the 27th to a future day to be notified hereafter. Theatres and Schools have been equally alive to the sadness of the hour, and joined the general mourning.

IN Russia, the famine is unabated. The peasantry is reduced to burning the roofs of their dwellings for fuel. The Russian Treasury has assigned a further sum of sixty-five million roubles for relief. A Committee has been formed in London to raise funds in aid of the distressed subjects of the Czar.

THE complications arising out of the death of Mahomed Tewfik Pasha have been tidied over. The Sultan of Turkey has accepted Prince Abbas as the Khedive of Egypt, and the son has been proclaimed in place of the father.

THERE is great indignation in European circles against Tewfik's *Hagueems*. The Native Doctors are said to have bungled in their diagnosis of the late Khedive's disease. So did the European Doctors who tortured the poor ex-Emperor of the French to death. But "natives" are game for European tables, and certainly there is no more mercy for Native Doctors in British Egypt than for Native Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons and medical graduates in British India. A medical enquiry into the Khedive's death has been ordered.

THE German Reichstag has wisely accepted the proposition to pay the members.

To descend to the Calcutta Corporation, Sir Henry Harrison had such a scheme for our municipality, but the unselfish representatives on the Board rejected it—hoping for higher rewards than what it would allow.

THE Army Signalling School at Aldershot has been totally destroyed by fire, as also the Abbey of Fecamp, where the Benedictine Liquor is manufactured. We hope we shall no more hear of the saints' proficiency in the unsaintly, not to say sinful, art.

HIS Eminence Henry Edward Manning, Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, has been gathered to his fathers.

IN India, the notable loss is that of Pandit Ajodhya Nath, of Allahabad. He was a fine Persian and Arabic scholar, a learned Hindu and Mahomedan lawyer, an able advocate, thoroughly almost rudely independent, a public-spirited citizen, and withal an honest man. He had latterly identified himself with the National Congress and his death is almost a deathblow to the prospects of the annual palaver in Upper India. The Calcutta Congressists, overpowered by the loss, committed the mistake of closing their schools in memory of the deceased.

IN the early days of the East India Company when it was only a trading corporation, the skill of its medical officers in the healing art secured for it many important privileges, which its agents had in vain sought to acquire by diplomacy and costly presents. The history of the success achieved by Boughton and Hamilton is too valuable to be lost sight of, and it cannot be a matter of surprise that the Government of India invariably deputed efficient medical officers to open hospitals in the tracts it is desired to bring under its influence. The exploring party deputed lately to the Pamir under Captain Young-husband had in their staff a native doctor. He opened camp hospitals at Yarkhand and Kashgar, and was so highly appreciated that he was formally thanked by the local magnates for the services rendered by him to the people. A smart medical subordinate is permanently stationed at Chitral in the frontiers of Cashmere, while recent events have made Gilgit not only one of the most important cantonment towns in the frontier, but also the headquarters of a little army of surgeons and hospital assistants. However much they may impress saint, savage, or sage, they will not, we are afraid, charm the Bear.

TO realize the outstanding rate bills before the close of the municipal or official year, it is proposed to cut the water connections of those premises, the owners and occupiers of which have been defaulters for the three previous quarters, if they fail to pay up, after due presentation of the bills, within the current quarter. Indeed, the law allows the Commissioners to "cause the water to be turned off or cut off from the house or land in respect of which such water rate is payable," "if any person supplied with water shall neglect to pay the water-rate at

any of the times of payment thereof." But there is no separate water rate bill, all the four rates—the general rate, the water rate, the lighting rate and the sewage rate—being included in and recovered as one bill. The penalty of deprivation of water can not consistently be levied for realization of other than the water rate. The law does not give the Commissioners the option of turning off water from a house when any or all of the other three rates remain unpaid.

This is another instance of the haste and carelessness with which Bills are passed through the Legislative Councils in this country.

THE so called General Booth, Field Marshal commanding the grotesque Christian body called the Salvation Army, has been in Calcutta and gone, after some paltry demonstrations got up by his handful of garrison here and the usual palaver.

On Tuesday evening, he left for Upper India. His followers issued out of their miserable barracks in Bow Bazar Street and formed a procession, partly of the military and partly of the native wedding kind, in his honor. Foremost were placed the Native converts and others more or less salvationised, in all scarcely two scores in number, followed by the dancing and psalm-singing girls with tambourines, and backed finally by the band and officers. The poverty of the demonstration was made still more palpable by the rows of talcose lights which make native processions of gods and men so ludicrous. Of course, a great crowd was attracted by the noise to see what it was all about, whether the Commander-in-Chief was going to marry in Indo-European pomp some Indo-Lusitanian heiress, the owner of a dozen kintals, or what. The General left the poor people waiting for him for more than a quarter hour beyond his appointed time. At last, there arose a shout He's come! He's come!—the Conquering Hero! He came in a barouche and pair which took its appointed place in the procession between the Salvation lasses and the Salvation Band. Thus the whole body marched to the Howrah Station, where the General rewarded his followers, for all their toil and trouble, with a short speech. The spectacular effect was necessarily pitiful, but there was something almost scandalous in a great religious and philanthropic prophet risen to rebuke the luxury and corruptions of the historic Faiths and of a degenerate Age, lording it over his followers, while in the very act of marching in procession in his honour and for the glory of the cause, from his state coach, and disdaining to come down for the nonce to walk the firm earth with them for fifteen or twenty minutes.

THE Christian Vernacular Education Society, which was established in the year 1858 as a memorial of the Mutiny, has recently changed its name, with a view, it seems, to extend the scope of its operation. Its appellation is henceforth to be—The Christian Literature Society of India. We are told that the number of books and tracts issued by the old Society exceeds fifteen millions and a half. Even at four annas per volume, the cost of these publications must have been about 40 lacs of rupees.

Surely, the amount could have been better spent than in printing books in the vernacular, which, on account of their diction and style, serve only to excite ridicule, and damage the cause of Christianity in India quite as much as the martial music, the monstrous placards, and the odd uniforms of the Salvation Army.

O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us
To see ourselfs as others see us!

It wad frae monie a blunder free us,
An' foolish notion.

ON Wednesday, the Municipal Commissioners, on the motion of Baboo Kally Nath Mitter, decided to grant their Chairman a house allowance of Rs. 250 a month, commencing from the 1st January 1892, the sum the Lieutenant-Governor was prepared to sanction. There were two amendments—one moved by Baboo Surendra Nath Banerjee and the other by Mr. N. N. Ghose. Baboo Banerjee was in no hurry and would refer the whole question to the Budget Committee for consideration. Mr. Ghose preferred granting the allowance from the next municipal year in April. Baboo Norender Nath Sen charged Baboo Kally Nath with inconsistency in bringing forward the present motion. He had, while moving at a previous meeting his resolution for giving Rs. 500, informed his colleagues that Mr. Lee would either have the Rs. 500 or leave the municipality, and that nothing short of the full

amount would induce him to forego the furlough he was entitled to. Could, Babu Norender Nath argued, inconsistency go farther? Would the mover, he asked, be equally ready with a proposition for Rs. 100 if Sir Charles Elliott had come down to that sum? Baboo Kallynath claimed that he was not inconsistent and was true to his municipal conscience. And then he gave his audience the nature of this elastic moral property. He said that he had moved for Rs. 500 because Mr. Lee wanted that sum, as it had been allowed to other Chairmen. Now that Mr. Lee was agreeable to Rs. 250, he felt no hesitation in moving for it. If Mr. Lee were willing to accept a rupee, he, the magnanimous Baboo, would be equally prepared to grant him that increase, and not a two-penny dam more. Whatever the logical strength or personal propriety—not to say decency—of the argument, Baboo Kallynath was in *Saturnia regna*, and he had the ball at his feet. A fig for charges of inconsistency! As a lawyer, he had done nothing without warrant. With the change of front in higher quarter, he too had changed his. The event having been settled by secret treaty, he appeared on the field of Plassey in mufti, in a smoking cap instead of the usual turban, and was so confident of success of his motion that he simply moved it, jauntily referring the meeting to what he had said on the subject on previous occasions. Both the amendments were lost. To the surprise of all, however, there was a tie on the substantive motion which was carried by the casting vote of the Vice-Chairman who presided on the occasion. A poll being demanded, the result showed that 18 were for the immediate increase against 16. The native Commissioners were equally divided and, in consequence, the European votes decided the question. It was remarked that a European first voted against, and then for, Baboo Kally Nath's motion.

QUITE accidentally, a literary treasure of great value has been recently brought to light from a quarter where it was least expected. No one ever suspected that the immortal "Sage of Chelsea" had left to the world any wealth beyond the rich heritage of which it is in possession already. Far less did it occur to any that a part of his "estate and effects" would be discovered for the first time in India. For the preservation of the property which has lately been unearthed, the republic of letters is indebted to the late Mr. Chisholm Anstey of the Bombay bar. About the year 1838, Carlyle undertook to deliver a course of lectures on the history of literature. Though based upon written notes, they were virtually delivered *extempore* and would have been lost to the world, but for the presence of Mr. Anstey who took them down, and transcribed them in a book which, upon his death, came into the possession of the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society. For nearly eighteen years, no notice was taken of them. But at last they have been published by Messrs. Curmen, Kim and Co. with an Introduction and notes by Mr. R. P. Karkoria. For this precious windfall, the grateful acknowledgments of every scholar are due to the memory of the preserver of the relic, and also to the editor and the publishers, who have brought it within the reach of the public.

THE London correspondent of the *Indian Spectator* writes:—

"Why should India be left out of this 'World's Fair'? As matters stand at present, that is the position. Probably I have already referred to a serious omission: but if so, there will be no harm in my again sounding the note of warning, though the blundering of the authorities concerned is so astounding that it may have been overruled by wiser heads: if not, it must be. The matter stood in this wise: the Commissioners for the United Kingdom, who have had £25,000 placed at their disposal by the British Government, proposed to the Secretary of State for India that £3,000 would be a suitable sum to be applied for from the Indian revenue to assist in the collection of Indian products and assistance to exhibitors. What Lord Cross said to his Council or they to him, or how they fumbled over this simple matter, you will never know until next century; but the feeble course was taken of asking the Indian Government what it thought; and this, I believe, was done in a telegram which was cyphered or economised into obscurity. In any case, seeing that the Indian Government has set its face hard against spending a rupee on industrial reform or social improvement of any kind, so that it may squander over the border every lakh that can be squeezed out of the Indian people, such a request—put as if to be refused—was useless. Thus India is to be excluded from Chicago!"

And she will be all the better for it. There is no occasion for grief. If the Government of India deliberately set their face against the proposition to exhibit India at the Chicago Fair, their courage as well as their wisdom is to be congratulated. Of course, their courage will be truly tested when the call to exhibit India comes from the promoters of a European, particularly a British, Show. But, whatever

the attitude of Government, it would be sufficient if the people clearly understood their own interests and resolutely kept clear of these gigantic fairs.

THE *Punjab Patriot* of the 11th January current contains its notice of the last year. The reason for this deferred treatment is given. The conductors thought it proper to celebrate the anniversary of the paper with the review of the past twelvemonth.

"On the 5th of January last year we published our first issue, and to-day we publish the fifty-third." &c.

As at the outset, so in this retrospect, our contemporary justifies its birth. In doing so, it necessarily implies, if it does not in so many words pronounce, a condemnation on the existing organs in the press.

"The *Punjab Patriot* was badly needed. Before it appeared upon the scene, no two loyal citizens could meet and talk upon the prospects of the Province and its Press without lamenting that even the capital of the Punjab did not boast of a well-conducted Native paper of reliable and useful news for the people, printed in the language of our rulers. The time had, indeed, arrived when, after long tolerance of mischievous and racial writing, the Punjabis yearned for some newspaper of their own which would give them, in handy weekly form, the news of the week, with plain and sensible comments thereon in good English and good taste, and which would not have the appearance of existing solely for the purpose of creating ill-feeling between the Europeans and the natives of the Province. The Warburton libel case may be said to have been the spark which set fire the smouldering heap of desire that the Punjab should have its own loyal and patriotic press; and our first issue of January last year was brought out with an accompaniment of general congratulations from all sorts and conditions of men in the Province. This cheered us greatly at the start; and now that we are strong enough to run alone, it is our first duty to acknowledge with fullest gratitude the cordial encouragement which we received from officials and non-officials, from Christians, Sikhs, Hindus and Muhammadans, from rich and poor, from Liberals and Conservatives. For a long time scarcely a day passed without our receiving in the daily dak some cheery letter of welcome and approval from some unknown friend in the Province, and our conviction grew daily stronger that, with so many good friends in the Province, our venture in the good cause could not fail.

And it has not failed. To-day we occupy a sounder stronger position than we had ever hoped could have been ours within one year. We have taken a good place at the start, and we shall stay to the finish."

Amen! we say. The position and prospects of the native press in India at large, are in general so cheerless, that it is an agreeable surprise to hear a journal recount thus its Caesarian triumph. The *Punjab Patriot* is young and prosperous and sanguine. It not only deserves success, but seems prepared to command it. It talks amiably of its future.

"It is the first two years of a newspaper's life that tries its strength, and the second year is, as a rule, more trying than the first. But the *Punjab Patriot* has, like a strong sapling, struck its roots so deep in the first year of its growth, that it could, if need were, remain stationary throughout the second year and yet be proud of its two years' progress. But we do not mean to be stationary."

There is a silvery ring, as of buoyant healthy childhood, in that utterance which is most pleasing and which disarms criticism. Yet, the wisdom of the nursery ought not to be taken too seriously. All danger is not over with infancy, and may our contemporary never know the decrepitude of age from which some journals, one at least of the same ilk though of another Province, suffer! Looking back upon the year that is gone, the *Punjab Patriot* sees

"from beginning to end the triumph of the principles which the *Punjab Patriot* came into existence to contend for. The Warburton libels, which quickened desire into action, have ended in a complete apology on the part of the offending newspaper and the payment of a large sum of money by its proprietor. The Bengali Congress, which had threatened to introduce political strife into this Province, is decently conducting its own funeral at Nagpur; while a general feeling remains that a properly and modestly conducted Conference of educated Indians would be respectfully listened to by our rulers. The Age of Consent Bill has been passed without awakening any excitement at all in this province, but it has indirectly resulted in the formation of a Press Association at Lahore, from whose working much good may be confidently anticipated."

It is satisfactory to see that the *Punjab Patriot*, which from its birth was wont to be so miserable on the subject, is now satisfied with the Government of India's treatment of Cashmere, and expresses

"heartily approval of the K. C. S. I. bestowed upon Raja Amar Singh for his Civil, and of a Colonelcy in the British army upon Raja Ram Singh for his military services, as well as the title of Rai Bahadur given to Sirdar Rup Singh, the Governor of Cashmere."

We are glad to hear such good news of our contemporary. It is an able well-conducted journal of sound principles. Such a journal would be a boon to any part of the empire, to counteract the wild radicalism of thought and recklessness of expression to which so many

of our publicists are prone, but it was peculiarly appropriate to a frontier Province of prime importance.

HITHERTO, the Peterboat, capable of going either way with equal facility without turning, has been the highest point reached by us in versatile vehicling. The latest novelty of scientific mechanics is an amphibious car which can be made to run on both land and water with equal facility. It is neither a boat nor an omnibus but partakes of the character of both. The credit of this wonderful invention belongs to a country whose science and invention are out of all proportion to her political status. We take the following account from a contemporary:—

"A steamer which can be propelled on land by means of its own engine has just been constructed at the Ljunggren Engineering Works at Kristiansstad, in Sweden. It is intended for the traffic on two lakes close to Boras, which, however, are separated by a strip of land. Rails have been laid between the two lakes. The steamer which has been christened very appropriately *Swan* (the *Sworn*) can run itself across from one lake to the other. At a trial trip, if one may call it so, at the works, the vessel fulfilled the tests very well. The engine is ten horse-power, and the *Swan* can accommodate some sixty passengers."

The "Swan" may be an appropriate proper name. The linguistic difficulty of inventing a common for the conveyance remains.

It was brought into prominence during the dissension over the last Burdwan adoption, that the two Members of the Board of Revenue exercised separate powers while empowered only to act collectively. The illegalities thus committed by them were condoned and authority was given by the Governor General in Council to continue the old practice. The old law has now been done away with, and the Lieutenant-Governor feels himself competent to authorize the Members of the Board to act separately in their respective departments. A notification in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 13th January 1892, under orders of the gov., assigns the duties in the department of Land Revenue—including Revenue, Survey and settlement, Land registration, Land improvements, the Sale or lease of waste land and Government estates, the Management of Wards and Attached Estates, the collection of cesses, the realization of arrears of revenue, and the recovery of public demands, rent suits, embankments, pensions, the examination, enrolment, &c., of Revenue Agents, opium sales, and the supply of provisions for troops—to Sir H. L. Harrison, the Senior Member, from the 30th October 1891. The Departments of Miscellaneous Revenue—including Excise, Income-tax, Salt, Opium, Customs, Stamps and Stationery, Munes, the partition of estates and the acquisition of land for public purposes—are placed from the 16th December 1891—the date on which he took charge from the retired Mr. A. Smith—are placed under independent supervision of Mr. C. C. Stevens, the Junior Member. The notification also announces that Mr. A. Smith exercised the said powers from the 30th October to the 15th December 1891. But it does not, in so many words, confirm what Mr. Smith, independently of the other Member, did during his Junior Membership of the Board. A general authority without any retrospective force cannot, we are afraid, legalize an unauthorized act or an omission. Its legalizing ought to be specifically mentioned, if such power exists.

THE Dacca bribery case commenced in the High Court on Monday and continues. For the first four days, it was virtually a trial of the chief witness Guru Churn Bhattacharjee, the foreman of the Jury in the Belati murder case, said to have been offered a bribe of Rs. 4,000 for a favorable verdict. Under the cross-examination of Mr. Woodroffe, counsel for the chief accused Anand Chunder Ray, he seemed to lose his senses, and on Wednesday before the proceedings commenced he addressed the Judge saying—

"Some of my statements made yesterday, were incorrect from loss of memory, inadvertence and temptation to protect myself. I ask to be spared further cross-examination. I may tell one or two lies and it will be a great sin to tell lies. I have committed a great many sins in my life and I have been suffering for that. After my visit to the *Bramachari*, I have tried my best to lead a moral life. In course of the Belati case when Ananda Babu interfered, then only I had a temptation. Since that temptation I thought of taking the money at one time and resolved not to take it at another time. Then I became

weak, and through the persuasion of several people, surrendered my judgment to their advice and I had the inclination to take the money."

Mr. Woodroffe, availing himself of this opportunity, enquired if the prosecution were still prepared to proceed with the case. Mr. Pugh, the Standing Counsel, left the matter entirely to the Judge who saw no immediate necessity of stoppage of proceedings. So poor Guru Churn had no escape. He then took a bold step which brought him to grief. He began to be unmannerly, declining to answer the questions of Mr. Woodroffe. The Judge warned him of the gross contempt of Court he was committing, and he, still persisting in his conduct, was sent to jail for a night to regain his ordinary frame of mind. Next day, on better consideration shewn and provided with a seat by the Clerk of the Crown, he allowed himself to be cross-examined for a couple of hours, when he began to feel unwell, and was allowed by the Judge to go home for medical treatment, for the operation of the next day by the counsel of the second accused. That day—Friday—Guru Churn commenced with the statement—"I am guilty, the others are not guilty." That trial was, however, a short time, which also tried the temper of the Judge. Guru Churn then had permission of the Judge to leave the court. It was a relief to both the witness and the Judge.

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Errata. In page 28, col. 2. line 45, for Curmen, Kum and Co. read Curwen, Kane and Co. In line 46, for Koikoria. read Karkaria.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, January 16, 1892.

THE DEATH OF THE DUKE OF CLARENCE AND AVONDALE.

SINCE, in response to the prayers of a multiracial people dispersed throughout the globe, the Prince of Wales was saved from death's very door, the empire on which the sun never sets hardly ever experienced from any casualty a greater shock than that which it has received this week by the death of Prince Albert Victor. The announcement came like a thunderbolt in a perfectly serene and cloudless sky. It seems as if but yesterday Calcutta was *en fête* for giving a fitting reception to the Prince. But a few weeks ago, every loyal subject of Britain's Queen-Empress rejoiced at the tidings that Her Majesty's grandson and heir to her throne's heir-apparent was betrothed to a cousin of his and that the marriage ceremony was to take place before long. Congratulations poured in upon the happy pair from all quarters. In India, the good luck of Her Majesty became the topic of conversation in every household. For once the whole subject population were at one. On the natives of this country, domestic as they are to a fault, the charm of such a home life as that of Her Majesty exercises its highest fascination. Accordingly, both Hindus and Mussulmans, Jains and Parsees, Jews and Gentiles, welcomed the news of the approaching union with demonstrations of delight. The good Queen's happiness was on every lip. And, truly, it does not fall to the lot of every individual to witness the marriage ceremony of a grandchild. How very fortunate—it was universally felt—the Queen-Empress of India must be to be endowed without stint with the choicest of earthly blessings!

But lo! the panorama changes all at once. On Sunday last, Reuter announced that the Duke of Clarence and Avondale was suffering from influenza. A few bulletins followed which were of a dubious character. Then on Thursday came the sad announcement that has plunged half the world in mourning. It is not in the power of human condolence to assuage

the sorrow of the bereaved parents for the "loss of a finished man" in their heir, or to console the grand old grandmother for the sudden arrest of all her splendid self-satisfaction as a female sovereign reigning undisturbed over the greatest empire of the globe, who has been privileged to see an adult grandson worthy of his race, and the dissipation of the dreams of all the further happiness she had reckoned upon from the marriage, all but celebrated in due form, of her beloved grandson with a loved and loving cousin. That must be the work of Time—

Time, the beautifier of the dead,
Adorner of the ruin, comforter
And only healer when the heart hath bled.

But even the Old Physician General of the Universe will, we are afraid, long fail to bring any balm to the bleeding heart of the young bride mourning the loss of her royal bridegroom. To her the Fates have been cruel Furies. Her grief is inconsolable. She has been crushed down. For our part, all we can do is to pray to God to give the several members of the stricken family the required strength for bearing the weight of grief with which it has been His will to load them.

A *Gazette of India* Extraordinary thus announced the death:—

"Calcutta, the 14th January, 1892.

Intelligence having been received of the death of His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor Christian Edward, eldest son of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales—Duke of Clarence and Avondale, Earl of Athlone, K.G., K.P., LL.D. (Cantab. and Dublin), the Governor-General in Council hereby directs that the Officers of Her Majesty's Civil, Military, and Marine Services do put themselves into mourning until further orders.

The Governor-General in Council requests that a similar mark of respect may, on this melancholy occasion, be observed by all other classes of British subjects in India.

The Flag at Fort William will be hoisted half mast high from sunrise to-morrow until further orders.

By order of the Governor-General in Council,
C. J. LYALL,
Secy. to the Govt. of India."

THE RUSSIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs of a Great Power is obviously an important person. He is, as such, one of the chief moving forces on our globe. It behoves us to watch his movements and to know all that is worth knowing about him. The present head of the Russian Foreign Office is one of the leading statesmen of the day of the civilized world. His recent visit abroad has more than ever brought him to special prominence. Yet he is not so well known out of his country that an account of him will not, we take it, be welcome. Our fortunes as Indians and British subjects, and the whole prospects of our race, depend so much upon the expansion of the great Northern Empire, that it is highly necessary for us to study the nature of Russian Policy and the personalities that mould it. Accordingly, we gather, for the benefit of our readers, the following account.

Russia has always maintained a bold front before the Powers. She has the good fortune of having preserved a strong and disciplined diplomacy, impregnated with traditions which assure the continuity of her foreign policy. She has been well served. The present chief of the Foreign Affairs is M. de Giers. This important post has always been worthily filled, his two predecessors having been the illustrious Count Nesselrode and Prince Alexander Gortschakoff.

Nicholas Carlovich Giers was born in 1820, at Radziroilovo, on the Austrian frontiers, where his father served as Director of Post Offices. The family

is of Swedish origin and had been established in Gottenburg. One of his ancestors was Quarter Master-General of the Swedish army, and having been made prisoner by Peter the Great, had settled in Russia. The son was Consul-General of Sweden at St. Petersburg towards 1740. His sons entered the Russian service and soon allied themselves with the best Russian families by marriage. The mother of the present Foreign Minister was a sister of the illustrious Admiral (afterwards Count) Lütke, who was the President of the Academy of Science.

At the age of eight, Nicholas Carlovich was sent to St. Petersburg, where he entered the "School of Nobles," which has the privilege of sending every year five best students to the Lyceum of Alexander. He was one of the five who were sent to that institution, of which Pouschkine and Gortschakoff were students. At eighteen, he left it and soon entered the Asiatic Department of the Foreign Office. This Department comprehends not only China, Japan, Persia, Central Asia, but also Greece, Roumania, the Slav States and Turkey. The Chief of this Department directs, by correspondence with those countries, not only the political and consular affairs, but also debatable and financial matters. M. de Giers bore the heavy burden of this Department for seven years, during which he was admirably prepared: the first part of his career was passed in the East, and his qualities of grasp, coolness, patience and conciliation were eminently developed and matured.

In 1841, he was sent to Moldavia, which was then regarded as a place of considerable importance in Russian politics.

In 1849, when Count Luders invaded Transylvania, M. de Giers joined him as his diplomatic agent. He filled afterwards the post of the First Secretary to the Embassy at Constantinople, of Consul at Yassy, and, during the Crimean War, he was chief of the office of the Chancellor Count Strogonoff at Odessa.

He was successively Consul-General at Alexandria, at Teheran, at Berne, and at Stockholm. In 1873, he was called from the Swedish capital to the post of Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs. He succeeded the distinguished diplomatist M. de Westmann.

The spirited attitude and skilful diplomacy of the British Conservative Ministry, did not allow Russia to reap all the advantages she expected from the Russo-Turkish War. Her patriots lament that she was represented at the Berlin Congress by Prince Gortschakoff, who, instead of being useful in defending the results of the war against the demands of England and Austria, proved rather an obstacle and hinderance. It was lucky for M. de Giers that he was not responsible for what was done in the Berlin Congress; yet it fell to his lot to carry on the hard and ungrateful task of settling the laborious negotiations of detail which followed. On his return, the Prince again went abroad, and M. de Giers became the real minister from that time.

From 1878 to 1880, M. de Giers accompanied the Emperor Alexander II in the Crimea and gained the confidence of not the Emperor only but of the whole court. It was thus that, after the criminal assassination of the liberal Czar, he was retained in his post by the new Emperor.

M. de Giers has seen the accomplishment of the two important events under his ministry, *vis.*, the delimitation of the Afghan frontier and the restitution of Kouldja to China.

The incidents connected with the settlement of the

Afghan boundaries, threatened at one time a rupture between England and Russia, and the danger was averted, as it is believed in the continent of Europe, by the firmness of Russia in maintaining on the diplomatic ground the position she occupied from the opening of the negotiations. In 1874, the Russians occupied Kouldja, then abandoned to discord and anarchy, and returned it to the Chinese when they were able to establish a regular Government there.

M. de Giers is an indefatigable worker, and appreciates that quality in his assistants. He is simple and modest in his manner of living, in his tastes and even in his intrigues. In all the towns where he was accredited, he left the best memories. Under a reserved appearance, he conceals a kind and warm heart. He is an honest man and is passionately devoted to his country.

THE WIFE-MURDER IN TALTOLA.

AFTER four days' enquiry, the trial in the sessions of Jonah Hall Farland, for murder of his wife, Elen Maud, closed on Thursday, last week. In opening the case on behalf of the Crown, on Monday, the Standing Counsel said that the case was a simple one and that any difficulty the Jury might have would be such as would arise from the defence which might be taken, and that much would be made by the defence of the jealousy of the husband with regard to the relations between the wife who lived separate and a fellow lodger of hers, one Hippolite. But that jealousy, even if well founded, could in no way justify the murder.

Mr. Morrison defended the prisoner. His plea was temporary insanity and grave provocation. He specially laid stress on the adultery of the wife in justification of his client's crime. In his address he asked the Jury

"to consider very carefully what they thought was the state of mind of the prisoner at the time he committed this offence. Supposing there was no medical evidence, supposing he had been unable to show them that he had been suffering from any mental disease, or from any injury to the head, or sunstroke, they would then have to consider whether the man had any provocation, and that such provocation was both grave and sudden. The law had always admitted that adultery was grave and sudden provocation—adultery in *flagrante delicto*, of course. A blow would very often excuse a murder and bring it within culpable homicide. There was nothing in the Penal Code which said that a husband finding his wife in *flagrante delicto* should be justified in killing her; but if the act was caused by a blow or a slap, with aggravating words, this would excuse murder. It depended upon the amount of aggravation. It was entirely for the jury to consider whether circumstantial proof of adultery would aggravate a man as much as a slap in the face or anything of the kind. The prisoner was a man of advanced years; and all the witnesses had spoken of him as a kind and quiet man, and that he was fond of his wife. He himself in his confession says that he liked his wife, and the whole tenor of that confession was affection towards her. He said: 'While I did do the act I tried to shoot myself, but I did not know what I was about, as I was perfectly mad.' The jury would have to say whether the man had provocation sufficient to deprive him of the power of self-control. Apart from any question of medical illness, was that provocation sufficient to deprive him of the power of self-control?"

In his reply, Mr. Pugh thus disposed of the adultery contention:—

"That it would be impossible to accept the doctrine that where a man came to know that his wife was living in adultery with another man, it would not be murder if he was to go up at any subsequent time and kill the man. The section showed the impossibility of accepting any such doctrine. It would render society impossible in Calcutta, and a great many lives would be lost if that was the law. The circumstances were different if the parties were caught *flagrante delicto*. The matter did not end there, as it was said there was grave and sudden provocation, and the crime was reduced from murder to the lesser offence. It did not appear the prisoner saw anything but Hippolite's furniture."

We give below the Judge's charge to the Jury. It will show how Mr. Justice Wilson viewed the whole case and how he expounded the several sections of the Penal Code bearing on it.

"He said the prisoner was charged with the murder of his wife by shooting her on the 1st of October. He need not go into any elaborate definition of murder, as it was always murder if a man took the life of another by an act done with the intention of taking life. That the prisoner killed this woman by shooting her twice with a revolver could hardly be disputed. Presumably if a man shot his wife with the intention of killing her it was murder. About that there could be no dispute. But the real test in the case was whether the case fell within one or the other of the exceptions which the law introduced. The first was when a person was so completely incapacitated by mental defect from

knowing that what he had done was wrong. In this case he was excused on the ground of his mental defect from the penal consequences of what otherwise would be his crime. The second exception which had been relied upon in this case, provided that if a man acting under grave and sudden provocation which deprived him of self-control, took life, that would be no excuse for his crime, but it would reduce its character from murder to the less grave offence of culpable homicide. His Lordship then proceeded to read and deal with the evidence. He dealt first with the witnesses who saw the deed; second, with the group of witnesses who spoke to previous events as bearing upon motive and intention; third, with the arrest of the prisoner and what transpired immediately; fourth, with the witnesses for the defence; and lastly, with the very important statement made by the prisoner, and the medical evidence in detail. His Lordship then charged the Jury, and told them that if the story told by the witnesses for the prosecution and by the prisoner in his own statement was true, they could have little hesitation in coming to the conclusion that he must have shot his wife with the intention of taking her life. He then dealt with the elements which made up the charge and with the two exceptions. One thing was clear—the law laid upon the prosecution the burden of establishing the elements of the offence. When the prosecution had done that, and if the prisoner was to escape punishment or secure a mitigation by reason of the case falling within the exceptions, the burden then lay upon the other side, and it was for the prisoner to prove that he came within them. If they were asked to acquit him upon the ground of insanity, it lay upon him to prove that he was insane, not by guess, but proof. If the circumstances of the case were such as to reduce the nature and gravity of the crime from murder to culpable homicide by grave and sudden provocation, it lay on the accused to prove grave and sudden provocation. Again this must be no mere surmise or speculation, but it must be proved. There was no evidence of unsoundness of mind, and no one had been called to prove insanity. The second point was whether there was grave and sudden provocation. If this was established, it would only reduce the crime to culpable homicide, and it lay on the prisoner to establish this exception. The elements in this event were these: that the offender was deprived of his self-control; that he really and completely lost self-control by provocation which was both grave and sudden. No continued provocation would do. The provocation must be sudden as well as grave, and it must have come from the person whose life was taken. This could not be in the present case, unless the prisoner could show that he had lost self-control by grave and sudden provocation coming from the deceased woman. Then as to the question of provocation. The prisoner knew the woman was living in adultery for a long time previously, but the mere knowledge that a man knew his wife was living in adultery was not such as would reduce an act of this kind from murder to culpable homicide. This had never been held in any court. It was for the Jury to come to conclusions on all these points on the evidence which was before them."

The Jury, a special set composed of seven Christians and two Hindus, after a deliberation of ten minutes, returned a verdict of "guilty, with a strong recommendation to mercy."

The Judge then sentenced the prisoner thus:—

"Jonah Hall Farlam: You have been convicted of murder by the unanimous verdict of the Jury, and I do not think they could have come to any other conclusion than that to which they have arrived. They have at the same time strongly recommended you to mercy, and I am very thankful to think that there are circumstances in the case which are palliating, and which justify me in giving effect to that recommendation. A judge is always bound to give effect to any recommendation which may fall from a Jury if he can possibly do so, and I feel justified, therefore, in not passing upon you the extreme sentence of the law, but passing the lesser sentence, though a heavy one, of penal servitude for life."

MONGHYR.

Jamulpoore, 7th January, 1892.

We are now in the enjoyment of the happy New Year.

Merry Christmas as usual was celebrated with some enthusiasm. There were sports in the maidan on the 28th and 30th ultimo, such as foot race, hurdle race, &c. Prizes in money were awarded to successful players (both European and native lads) on the spot. The District Magistrate, the Commissioner of the Bhagulpore Division, and the *elite* of this station, I mean amongst the *Sahab logues*, were present. Our Railway magnates, such as the Loco. Superintendent, the District Loco. Superintendent, the Assistant Loco. Superintendent, the Assistant Auditor, the Inspector and Adjutant of the local Volunteer Corps, were of course on the spot, indeed Stewards. The Station Band was in attendance and a Fancy Dress Ball in connection therewith was given in the Mechanics' Institute on the 31st December.

A suspicious death of a Bengalee woman of ill fame occurred in the Jamalpoore Market, towards the end of December. I understand that a *post mortem* was held in the Monghyr Hospital by the Civil Surgeon and the contents of the stomach of the deceased sent to the Medical College, Calcutta, for chemical analysis.

Another fatal occurrence took place a few days back in this station a few yards from the Railway station platform. As a Down Passenger train was coming to the station, an unfortunate Beharee was run over and killed. It has not yet transpired whether the man was run over accidentally, or whether he committed suicide by throwing himself in the way of the train.

Pundit Sashadhar Turkochooramony, of Lower Bengal, was here among us a few days ago and delivered an address in Bengalee before the native public in the local Hari Sava Hall on Aryan Religion. He defined Hindooism and Brahmoism as Idol worship and monotheism or monism respectively. He endeavoured to show, reciting texts from the Sastras to that effect, the intimate connection between the two, how the Veda pays adoration to the elements and specially enjoins the worship of the Fire-god. It was an interesting and instructive address. In particular, the Pandit's chanting of the Vedic *mantras* had a most impressive effect.

An upcountry *Bairnab*, carrying a *Saligram*—the Hindu deity in stone—with religious paraphernalia and grand equipage, accompanied by a number of followers, is here. His mission, I am told, is great. He purposes to hold a grand religious festival or *Yagnya* somewhere in Upper India, not with hundreds or thousands but with hundreds of thousands of Hindoos, by subscription among Hindu Princes and nobles and landlords and merchants and other well-to-do members of the Hindoo community at large. This divine stone-bearer is of course highly regarded by the orthodox Hindoos, mostly upcountry and Behari, who credit him with the possession of some extraordinary power. He is reckoned *Yoga Sidha*. Of the practice of *Yoga*, he is supposed to be proficient in nine kinds, while withal he owns a pair of long arms falling down to his knees.

The prices of food grains have considerably risen and shew a tendency to farther rise. Rice, the staple food, (best quality) can be had 9½ to 9¾ seers for the Rupee and ordinary, 10 seers for the Rupee. With this state of things, people cannot but surmise that famine is at hand.

AGRICULTURAL INDEBTEDNESS IN THE PUNJAB.

NOTE BY THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

[Concluded from page 22.]

11. I think Section 21 goes too far, but that a section should take its place in our Act declaring that the Court, except for special reasons to be recorded, shall hold the agricultural judgment-debtor's unwillingness to sell or otherwise transfer or encumber ancestral agricultural land or land which he cultivates himself sufficient cause for inability to pay within the meaning of Section 337 A. of Civil Procedure Code.

The powers of the Rules of 1858-59 which are still in force under Section 327 of the Civil Procedure Code in virtue of our notification, Judicial, No. 1297 S. of 10th September 1885, prohibiting sale of land in execution of decree for money without the sanction of the highest Judicial, afterwards changed to highest Revenue, authority, never contemplated that the Civil Courts, though unable without such authority to sell the land, would be able to imprison a man for not agreeing to sell by private contract. It is only lately that a few Civil Courts have held themselves empowered without applying for Commissioner or Financial Commissioner's leave to sell land to imprison a man on the ground that he could if he liked satisfy a decree by himself selling or mortgaging it; and if this view of the law, which is technically correct, becomes generally known and acted upon, creditors will commonly apply for imprisonment as a means of compulsion, knowing the difficulty of getting sanction to sale of ancestral land under Punjab rules.

12. I think Section 22, first clause, should be embodied in our Act, and take the place of our notification of September 1885, which with preceding rules on which it was based has had equivalent effect. But the last three lines of the section will have to be altered (if we leave out the Insolvency Chapter as I propose) by adding the necessary provisions of Sections 29 and 31 to the section, or as a separate section to be referred to. I think also that the words "not mortgaged or hypothecated as security for any other debt" should be added after the words "to the possession of which he is entitled."

But I think our section might be confined to ancestral land and houses and other buildings belonging to and occupied by the agriculturist debtor which would exclude acquired land and buildings and standing crops.

It may be strongly urged as to this section that it will be no new law in the Punjab as it was in Bombay or would be elsewhere; that in 1858-59 the Punjab Government saw applications to sell up lands of debtors in execution of decree were commencing and that money-lenders were beginning to recognize the value of land and to lend money to agriculturists with the express object of involving them and then getting hold of the land through our Courts; that seeing the unfairness of this to ignorant and improvident peasant proprietors and the political danger as shown in the Mutiny in the North-Western Provinces, they framed the Rules of 1858-59. The Punjab Government explained that it did not propose to abolish sale altogether because the knowledge that as a last resort it may be put in force will make land-holders careful. The Governor-General in sanctioning the rules suggested that where decrees could not be executed by other means, and sale of land is therefore proposed, it might be leased instead of sold and proceeds applied to

gradual liquidation of debt. This suggestion was not, however, acted on, and practically land was neither leased nor sold, and even standing crops were very rarely attached and sold. These rules have ever since made applications to sell land few, and all authorities, judicial and Revenue, have discouraged such applications, which have been hardly ever granted as regards ancestral land and often refused as to acquired. The consequence was that till very lately the execution of decrees against agriculturists was practically confined (in the absence of mortgages with conditions of foreclosure or sale) to execution against moveable property or the person of the debtor. An active and persevering decree-holder could often bring pressure in these ways on an agriculturist debtor so as to drive him into selling or mortgaging part of his land by private contract; but as the Courts of execution were not disposed to press agriculturist debtors too hard, this did not generally succeed. Recent amendments of the Civil Procedure Code, exempting moveable necessities, have made this method of compulsion more difficult to decree-holders; but, on the other hand, by attaching land and without getting sanction to its sale moving the Collector to either get sanction to its sale or to take action under Section 326, the Civil Courts have lately begun to increase the temporary transfer of land in execution of decrees, and many of these transfers are equivalent to permanent transfers. We have been afraid in the Punjab to notify under Section 320, seeing that it would inevitably lead to far greater transfers of land in execution of decree than have hitherto been allowed. Sections 320 to 326 of the Civil Procedure Code which were introduced to moderate the free power of selling land by Civil Courts in other Provinces of India have had, or would have, quite the opposite effect in the Punjab so far as applied, which is a curious but not uncommon instance of the effect of enacting elaborate Acts for all India.

13. *Chapter IV—Insolvency.*—This Chapter has I believe proved inoperative in the Dekkhan, and in the Punjab where sale of agriculturists' ancestral property in execution of decree has hitherto been practically prohibited, and where the Insolvency provisions of the Punjab Laws Acts and of the Civil Procedure Code (except quite lately in the case of the latter Act and then in a very few cases) have not hitherto been applied to agriculturists, I think such a Chapter would do more harm than good.

In place of this Chapter I would have a Chapter with sections declaring that no agriculturist judgment-debtor shall be declared insolvent under Chapter XX of the Civil Procedure Code except on his own application to be declared insolvent under that Chapter; and that if the Chapter is applied at his request the Court in determining under Section 352 of the said Code, the amount of any claim of the nature referred to in Section 12 of this Act (the Punjab Agriculturist Relief Act) due by an insolvent agriculturist shall proceed in the manner prescribed by Sections 12 to 15 of this Act, both inclusive. Other sections should refer to the Insolvency provisions of the Punjab Laws Act, and should declare (1) that proceedings under them against agriculturist debtors shall be held in the Courts of Revenue Officers only; (2) that such Courts in inquiring into the amount of any claim against an agriculturist debtor of the nature referred to in Section 12 of this (Punjab Agriculturist Relief Act) Act shall proceed in the manner prescribed by Sections 12 to 15 of this Act, both inclusive; (3) that the Court may refuse to sell any or all of the agriculturist insolvent's ancestral land or buildings, and may instead thereof after excluding land and buildings required in his opinion for the support of the agriculturist and the members of his family dependent on him manage the rest for the benefit of the creditors by letting them on lease or making them over to the creditors on usufructuary mortgage for terms not exceeding 20 years; on the expiry of such terms of lease or mortgage the liability of the said lands or buildings or their rents or produce for the balance of the debt if any to be extinguished; (4) as in Section 31, Dekkhan Agriculturist Relief Act.

The history of the Insolvency law in the Punjab is curious, and requires to be borne in mind with reference to the above proposals. Till the Punjab Laws Act of 1872 was passed it was an open question whether the old Punjab Civil Code of 1854 had not full legal force, and as a matter of fact the local Courts treated it as having such force. That Code contained Bankruptcy provisions, but I believe they were intended to apply to commercial insolvents only: at any rate I know that they were generally so understood, and I believe they were in no single case applied to indebted agriculturists.

The Insolvency provisions of the Punjab Laws Act of 1872 were adapted with little alteration from the Bankruptcy provisions of the old Punjab Civil Code. Under this Act the only Courts invested with Insolvency jurisdiction in 1872 were the Small Cause Courts at the large towns of Lahore, Delhi and Amritsar, and this was only for the purpose of dealing with commercial insolvents, as these Courts did not hear suits for debt against agriculturists. It had been held by the Punjab Government that the Small Cause Court procedure was not fitted to do justice in such suits, and after a short trial most of the Small Cause Courts first established had been abolished. No Courts have subsequently been invested with Insolvency jurisdiction under the Punjab Laws Act, but in 1877 an

Insolvency Chapter appeared in the Civil Procedure Code of that year, and under it the Courts of all Deputy Commissioners (which by the Punjab Courts Act of that time were the District Courts) acquired a certain Insolvency jurisdiction, but this Chapter only allowed judgment-debtors to be made insolvent on their own application, and it may be safely assumed that if any judgment-debtors ever did apply in the Deputy Commissioner's Court under this Chapter they were not agriculturists. No Punjab agriculturists, protected as they were and are by special rule against sale of land in execution of decree, would have so applied.

The provisions of the present Insolvency Chapter of the Civil Procedure Code, which allow the holder of a decree for money to apply to have his judgment-debtor declared insolvent with or without the consent of the latter, first appeared in the Act of 1882, and this most important change seems never to have been submitted to Local Governments for opinion. Again, two years later, in connection with the Punjab Reorganization Scheme, the Punjab Courts Act, XVIII of 1884, was passed, and by this the Court of the District Judge became the District Court, having Insolvency Jurisdiction under the Civil Procedure Code. By this a great change was inadvertently made, for in most Punjab districts the officer holding the appointment of District Judge is a Native or European gentleman of the Extra Assistant Commissioner class. In a few cases he is either the Deputy Commissioner or a Junior Civilian. In other Provinces the District Court is the Court of the District and Sessions Judge, who is a Civilian of high rank and standing.

But in spite of this change down to the last two or three years the Insolvency provisions of the Act of 1882 seem to have been as inoperative against agriculturists as those of the Act of 1877. It was no doubt generally thought that as the Civil Courts could not sell land in execution of decree without sanction of the Commissioner or Financial Commissioner, they could not be meant to have the power in Insolvency proceedings without the consent of the judgment-debtor. In the last two or three years, however, some lawyers have perceived in the Insolvency provisions of the Civil Procedure Code a way to get round the special rules prohibiting sale of ancestral land in execution of decree, and some District Judges have sold such land under those provisions, as will be seen from the remarks of Rai Bita Mal, Extra Judicial Assistant, printed in the Appendices to the Civil Justice Report of 1889, a copy of which is given below. These cases have, however, it is believed, been very few as yet.

"Under the existing law, no property in land paying revenue to Government or applied to agricultural or pastoral purposes can be sold in execution of decrees, except with the sanction of the Commissioner, and, if it is hereditary or joint acquired property, of the Financial Commissioner. Such sanction is accorded only in clear and exceptional cases, and if the letting value of the land is not sufficient and the Collector does not think fit to intervene, the decree, in the absence of other property which is generally difficult to find or indicate, remains unsatisfied. In the perplexity of checks provided by law, one way of compelling the sale of landed property, independently of execution proceedings, has been discovered. Thwarted by refusal of sanction by proper authority, the judgment-creditor applies, under Section 344 of the Civil Procedure Code, for the judgment-debtor to be declared an insolvent. The latter is so declared as if he had himself wished it, and all his property, moveable and immoveable, is vested in the receiver appointed under Section 351. The proviso of Section 356 requires that in any local area in which a declaration has been made under Section 320 and is in force, no sale of immoveable property paying revenue to Government, or held or let for agricultural purposes, shall be made by the receiver. But as no such declaration has been published in the Punjab, that officer, unfettered by any restriction, proceeds to sell land as well as other property, and the object of the law in placing restrictions on the sale of landed property in execution of decrees is frustrated. I mention this to draw attention to the anomalous state of the existing law under which a decree-holder baffled in execution may succeed in insolvency proceedings."

14. *Chapter V.*—Though the Village Munsiff system under this Act is said not to have been generally effective in the Dekkhan of Bombay, a similar system has worked well in Madras, and might, I believe, work well in many parts of the Punjab. I think a Chapter founded on this Chapter and on the Madras Act should be embodied in our Act, leaving much to be settled by rules made by the Local Government. The experiment could be then tried. I have consulted many meetings of agriculturists in my tours in the last three years, and they are in favour of it, and so are many of the best Native officials. Many of the best opinions now collected are also strongly in favour of it. It may be added that on general grounds of policy it is very important to try to help the people to govern themselves instead of carrying on the whole administration through stipendiary officials. If the experiment succeeds as regards petty civil justice it will soon be extended to petty criminal justice and other matters.

15. *Chapter VI.—Conciliators.*—The same remarks apply to this Chapter. I think the power may very usefully be taken and the experiment tried in selected tracts.

Chapter VII.—Supervision and Revision.—A Chapter of this kind would be required, and I do not think the work would be heavy, not at any rate if the Insolvency Chapter is left out, and until Village Munsiffs and Conciliators are generally appointed. But the District Judge in Bombay is, I understand, equivalent to our Divisional Judge. I think our Divisional Judges would have to do the work. They would not have time by present arrangements, but if my scheme for amalgamating the Divisional Judge and District Judge sanctioned appointments, thereby increasing the number of Divisional Judges and creating a certain number of Assistant Divisional Judges appointments, were to be carried out, the necessary machinery would, I think, be obtained without extra cost, and without injury to the judicial administration. A short description of that scheme is appended to this note.

Chapter VIII.—Village Registrars.—This supposes that the Village Registrar will write the deeds or have them written under his skilled superintendence. I don't think we could supply the machinery, or that it is necessary to compel the registration of all instruments executed by agriculturists of which registration is now optional.

The modification I propose above of Section 13 will give a great impulse to optional registration, and that section by allowing Courts to go behind unregistered bonds and deeds and take account will make the necessity of registration to prevent injustice to ignorant men less in their case.

I think this Chapter may be left out in our Act. We are doing our best under the Registration Act to increase the number of non-official Registrars.

Chapter VIII A.—I think this Chapter will be a useful protection to our agriculturists, and should be repeated in our Act, sections being added giving the procedure detailed in Sections 57 and 59 of the preceding Chapter which it is proposed to omit.

Chapter IX.—This would do no harm even if it proved mainly inoperative, and so I would add a similar Chapter to our Act.

16. *Chapter X.—Legal Practitioners.*—Section 68 should be repeated in our Act. In place of Section 69 I would have a section prohibiting the appearance of Pleaders, Vakils, or Mukhtars in any suit or proceeding under the Act to which an agriculturist is a party below Rs. 100 in value before a Subordinate Judge or Munsiff, and prohibiting their fees being made costs in suit in any such suits or proceedings of larger value under the Act in Munsiffs' Courts. At present some money-lenders regularly employ certain Pleaders in certain Munsiffs' Courts to act as their debt-collectors; and if the money-lenders appear by Pleaders the agriculturist usually feels bound to do the same, and if he does not he is at a great disadvantage in most Munsiffs' Courts. It seems fair therefore that the appearance of Pleaders in Munsiffs' Courts should be discouraged by making those who employ them pay for them. This is in accordance with the opinions of the great majority of the best officers consulted. The provisions of the old Punjab Civil Code did not allow Pleaders or Vakils to practise in the Courts. There was no Pleaders or Vakils Act till 1866.

17. *Chapter XI.—Miscellaneous.*—Section 70. I am not sure that this section is required in the Punjab, though I believe that in late years verbal contracts with possession recognized by mutation of names in the Land Revenue Records tend to increase. Our Courts are not so likely to do injustice in such cases as in suits on written contracts. Whether the section should appear in our Bill requires more consideration.

Section 72.—Limitation.—The majority of officers consulted and of the men to whose opinion I attach most weight are in favour of adopting this section, but there are also good men against it. Some of the arguments relied on by these officers are, however, met by the proposals to fix a maximum amount of interest recoverable through the Courts, to go behind bonds and balances struck and take account of principal and interest, and to refuse to carry out strictly the conditions as to sale or foreclosure of deeds of mortgage. The history of this matter in the Punjab is as follows: In 1856 the Chief Commissioner proposed to reduce the period in actions for debt on bonds or accounts, not being partnership accounts, from the then term of 12 years to 6 years. This was sanctioned by the Government of India. Two years later the Chief Commissioner proposed to leave 6 years as the period on registered bonds, partnership accounts, &c., and to make 3 years the period for other cases relating to debt on accounts, disputes between master and servant, maintenance, claims to hereditary fees, &c., &c. This was sanctioned in 1859. At that time I was an Assistant Commissioner in the Punjab and much of my time was spent in hearing suits between sahukars or bankers and peasant proprietors. I remember that both classes complained strongly that the three years' period was too short for their dealings and dislocated their old business relations, and many officers at that time thought the objection a sound one. The classes concerned are still strongly of the same opinion and the agriculturists in particular attribute much of their indebtedness to the short period of limitation, asserting not only that the frequent writing of bonds for the balances turns interest into principal more rapidly than before, and involves their getting less "chor" or remission of interest than they used to

do, but also that the expenses of getting these bonds written, witnessed, stamped, and sometimes registered, are very heavy, and that finally they are run into Court unnecessarily often and quickly either as a means of registering and securing the debt or of forcing them to sell or mortgage their land. I am convinced that this complaint is true, and I attach little weight to the arguments of those officers who argue that the law ought not to have these effects, that by acknowledgments in writing or part payment of principal or interest new periods of limitation can be obtained, and that the interest which capitalists demand and take depends simply on market rates and the security. These arguments belong to an atmosphere higher and dryer than that in which these village bankers or money-lenders and these illiterate peasant proprietors carry on their dealings, without legal assistance or with legal assistance which is unreliable. The practice of demanding and agreeing to pay much more interest than you expect to get or intend to pay is ingrained among them, but when the lender has got his stamped bond or has launched his suit in Court he is disposed to hold to the letter in the matter. So again the ordinary money-lender's ignorance of all but the broadest points of the law, and knowledge of the suspicion of fraud, perjury and forgery which pervades the Courts, induce him to be with good reason very shy of any but the simplest methods of securing himself against his claims being barred by limitation. Hence frequent bonds and frequent suits in Court with the result that the amount our Government takes out of the peasant proprietors' pocket in the shape of stamp duties of kinds is very formidable, and to a large extent depreciates the lightness of our land revenue assessments. It must be remembered that almost everywhere in the world where peasant proprietorship prevails, dealings with some kind of banker are a general necessity of the peasant's business.

For these reasons I am strongly of opinion that Section 72 should appear in our Bill, and that the period of limitation in all suits of the description mentioned in Section 3, clause (w), should be six years, but whether the distinction made in clause (a) of Section 72 of the Dekkhan Agriculturists Relief Act should be repeated is I think open to much doubt. If it is intended to encourage registration, that is I think sufficiently secured by the proviso I propose to add to Section 12. In any case I think that 12 years is a dangerously long period of limitation for suits on registered bonds, looking to the fact that fraudulent personation before Registrars is always not improbable in India, and that ignorant debtors will continue to pay without receipts or will lose receipts if they take them. If, therefore, a special term is allowed for registered instruments, which I do not myself advocate, I would reduce it to 9 years.

18. Section 73 should, I think, be repeated in our Bill, and also 73A., with the necessary verbal alterations in references to sections. Sections 74, 75 and 76 seem also necessary and suitable.

I think we should also have in this Chapter a section declaring that from a certain date properly kept Day Books and Ledgers shall be deemed necessary to make books of account "regularly kept in course of business" within the meaning of the Evidence Act in dealings between bankers or professional money-lenders and agriculturists. This was proposed by the Chief Commissioner of the Punjab as a rule of law in 1858 and sanctioned by the Governor-General in 1859, but as it was not preserved by the Punjab Laws Act of 1872, it is obsolete. Some of the reasons given above in my note to Section 15 apply to this question, and the proposal is put forward by many officers in their opinions. I also think that, as suggested in Mr. Clifford's opinion, there should be a section declaring that balances struck in a banker or money-lender's account book and signed by the debtor and witnesses do not require to be stamped as bonds or promissory notes. This is the old and natural way of keeping accounts between agriculturists and their bankers, and it should not be hampered by the demand for stamps; and as by the proposed law the Courts will be able to go behind such balances and take account of interest and principal there will be no danger.

19. I would also have a section repealing as against agriculturists the words in Section 256, Civil Procedure Code, which allow immediate execution by warrant against the person of the judgment debtor. The power is not necessary, as agricultural judgment debtors do not abscond, and the power is only used to harass them.

I would also have a section giving the Local Government power to order the exemption of agriculturists from attendance in the Civil Courts subordinate to that of the Divisional Judge for one month during the rabi harvest. Such exemption not to interfere with proceedings for attachment of property in execution.

I would also have a section empowering the Local Government to remit (1) in any district or part of a district for which Conciliators have not been appointed half the institution fees in all cases under the Act in which the parties come to an agreement at the first hearing; (2) to remit in any or all districts institution fees on suits for redemption of lands mortgaged brought by agriculturists.

J. B. LYALL,

Lieutenant-Governor, Punjab.

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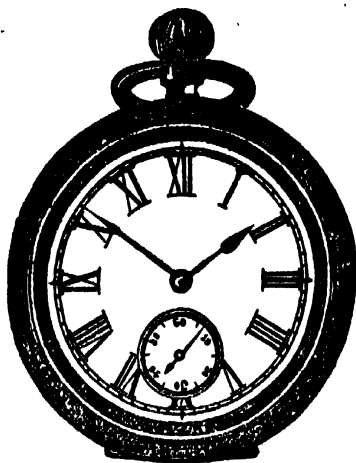
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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1892.

} No. 508

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

ELETA GRAY.

BY J. G. HOLLAND.

How oft amid life's phantom chase,
Some angel memory takes the hand,
And softened by her calm embrace,
In passive thoughtfulness we stand.
How fades before her startling tone
The dream of pride, the lust of fame;
How every thought and passion own
Her power in one low spoken name.

Dear Fleta Gray! the magic sound
Hath banished years of toil and pain,
And in love's youthful rapture bound,
I gaze upon your charms again.

The deep blue eye, the sunny smile,

The open brow, the girlish grace—

I see them all as when erewhile

• Their praise illumed your gentle face.

The same fair earth is bright below,
The same pure heaven bends above,
The same sweet streams in music flow,
Bathed in the light of early love.

I stand within a world of bliss,
By sinless passion made divine,

And all its golden beauty is

Your own, dear Fleta Gray, and mine.

Intrusive feet ne'er enter here,
Its loveliness no eye may see,

Alike secure from foe, or fear,

It opes to none but you and me.

Then, seated on this bank of flowers,

Your head upon my shoulder laid,

• We'll gaze upon this world of ours,

By Love's young hand so sweetly made.

'T is not the river, nor the hill,

'T is not the meadow, broad and green,

Nor mountain wild, nor leaping rill,

That fills for us the radiant scene.

These are the features of our love—

The mould in which our souls were cast

When, like the sunlight from above,

They filled, as on the scene they passed.

• A world within a world is this :—

Though fashioned to the forms of earth,

And blent with earthly things, it is

Of love, the spiritual birth.

That river was our silent dream,

Yon mountain our aspiring thought,

Our wilder moods the flashing stream,
Our milder, this secluded spot.

Of Love's young dream the picture these,

And though we wander far apart,

The hand of some unconscious breeze

Will raise the curtains of my heart ;

And I can sit and gaze as now,

On all its loveliness and bliss,

And tremble while upon your brow

I print Affection's holy kiss.

• A few eventful years were passed,

And by unbroken absence changed,

Our love grew fainter, till at last

Our fading hearts became estranged.

In burning hopes and wilder schemes

I lost my heart's unsullied truth,

• The simple purity of youth.

We vowed fidelity till death ;

But when those fatal years were gone,

You questioned not my broken faith,

Nor did I claim what I had won.

Yet did we feel our plighted word

Redeemed, for truly both had died :

The girl, in woman's heart interred,

The boy, in manhood's colder pride.

And though these changes are unwept,

And we as strangers now should meet,

In changeless truth our dream has slept,

Secure in Memory's retreat.

And when disgusted with the strife

Of worldly lust and selfish art,

We can return to fresher life

In this blest garden of the heart.

What though in troth we both are bound

To other hearts and other hands,

We'll gather from this hallowed ground

Bright flowers to deck the sacred bands.

And on your bosom you shall wear

Their beauty, though another's bride,

And I will braid them in the hair

Of her, whose path is at my side.

• What though the train of noontide hours

Are circling round us bright and calm,

We'll wreath their brows with morning flowers

Still fragrant in their early balm.

And when retiring day departs,

And shuts the portals of the west,

We'll bind them to our weary hearts,

And in their perfume sink to rest.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, and other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

WITH the concurrence of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the Secretary of State for India has fixed the rate of exchange for the adjustment of financial transactions between the British and Indian Governments for the year 1892-93 at one shilling and four pence three farthings (1s. 4¼d.) the rupee.

THE Bengal Famine Code revised up to date, is published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 20th January as the revised edition of January 1892.

The full ration prescribed as sufficient to maintain able-bodied labourers in health and strength, is for a man,—flour of the common grain used in the country or cleaned rice 1lb. 8 oz.; pulse 4 oz.; salt ½ oz.; ghee or oil 1 oz.; condiments and vegetables 1 oz. For a woman, it is the same excepting 4 oz. less of flour or rice. For children, ¾, ½ and ¼ rations according to age and requirements.

A RECENT telegram in the *Times* from St. Petersburg gives a formidable list of the Russian Navy. The statement claims for the Czar 36 vessels of the first, 48 of the second, 88 of the third, and 20 of the fourth class—a surprising number. Such an armament of one of the greatest land Powers is enough to send a chill into the souls of the other Powers. Luckily, the list is too wild for credence and is devoid of specificity or other marks of authenticity. Mere numerical classification is nothing, unless you know what absolute quality is implied by each number. The discredit is accentuated by the *Army & Navy Gazette*, (from which we gather the news,) pointing out that

"Brassey gives Russia 48 armoured vessels, many of them dating back nearly 30 years, and 62 unarmoured vessels of and above 300 tons displacement. This gives a total of 110 ships, while the telegram makes a total of 212; the discrepancy, therefore, is not easy of explanation."

That totalling is an arithmetical error. The figure should be 192 instead of 212. Still the discrepancy is great.

THE *Army and Navy Gazette*, conducted by the veteran publicist Dr. W. H. Russell, has been evidently alarmed at the tone of insolence indulged in by so many British journals towards the Emperor of Germany. It thus gravely expostulates with the wits and politicians of the press:—

"The 'funny' gentlemen who delight in tickling Emperor William's ribs with their steel pens no doubt amuse themselves and some of their readers, and do not hurt their butt, who may, indeed, be ignorant of their attentions. But is it in very good taste? Our is it politic to indulge in the sport? This Kaiser is an earnest—a terribly earnest—young man! He is full of energy, life, and purpose. He is at the head of the greatest Military Empire in the world, and he rules almost absolutely the great German nation, which sees in him the incarnation of its Imperial Power. England and Germany meet in friendly rivalry in many parts of the world; and great as is our Fleet, our wealth, and our commerce, a change might be produced in the feelings of Germany towards this country by insults offered to, and by ridicule of, their Kaiser, much to be deprecated."

The editor of the *Army and Navy Gazette* has exceptional sources of information, having intimate friends in every European Court. He would not deliberately raise the voice of warning without occasion.

THE same paper writes on the 26th December last:—

"There is a spirit of unrest abroad in the Colonies. Somehow the action of the Colonial Office does not seem to please people in St. Vincent, Gibraltar, Newfoundland, Natal, &c. The relations of the Dominion and Newfoundland are very much strained, and in the Dominion itself there is an angry controversy between Ottawa and Quebec with which Downing Street has no active part. We believe it will be found that, among those best conversant with the questions he has had to settle, there is a general adhesion to Lord Knutsford's course of action. Nevertheless, this year now drawing to a close leaves an unusual number of troublesome questions to be disposed of, in addition to the Imperial difficulties with which not even Federation could deal, if that *beau rêve* were to be realised in 1892."

THE British are an eminently promising, docile people. The latest triumph of British intelligence is the discovery that no good is served by destroying smuggled tobacco. Just now in England contraband tobacco seized by preventive officers is burned and destroyed. This not in rage by any short-tempered god of the Customs department long tried by smuggling ingenuity and agility, but as a matter of course in the ordinary way of business, at every port in the kingdom, on every occasion, without distinction of officers or other parties. Not an atom is

even allowed to be smoked in triumph by the successful captor. Not a pound, it may be taken for granted, is presented to the neighbouring *Padre* that he may smoke and bless the Government and be above an eye to smugglers' tithes. Such is the *Dustoor*. Such is the Law too. British wisdom knew no better disposal for smuggled tobacco fallen into the hands of the State than useless consumption into ashes. Happily, the British are not piggishly stubborn in their conceit. They are not fixedly wedded to their ways without the possibility of divorce. Their elders and wise men have found out that it is no good to waste good "backee," so the word has been passed, and now every body will quickly recognise what a fool the nation has been making of itself. Henceforth, only bad or injurious tobacco will be destroyed at the place of seizure as soon as practicable, but all sound confiscated leaf shall be sent to Her Majesty's warehouse-keeper in London. That officer is authorized to distribute it among the public establishments supported, wholly or in part, by the Crown. Such is the tenour of recent instructions.

Primus in Indis assuredly is Bombay—in open-handed charity and munificence, for one thing. There is no race of man on earth who habitually cultivate the noble art of giving like the Parsees, whose fragrant minority leavens into wholesome harmony and grace the sum total of life at the Western capital. The other sections of the community cannot fail to be influenced by the glorious example. The followers of Vishnu and the followers of Mahammad try to show that they are no unworthy neighbours of their Zoroastrian fellow-subjects. Scarcely a month passes when we have not a substantial act of liberality on the Bombay side to record. To-day, we have to report an act of princely charity by a Hindu merchant. Varjivandas Madhowdas, the gentleman in question, has not only shown his readiness to expend on good works, but has also distinguished himself by the breadth of his views. He has chalked out a new line of charity. Education and religion between them exhaust the possibilities of Indian charity. But this gentleman has neither started a school nor built a dispensary, nor founded a scholarship, nor given a clock to the University, nor opened a temple or a *dharma-sala*. Baboo (as we should say in Bengal) Baboo Brojijivan Madhavadas has done something wholly different—he has erected a Sanatorium—the first Hindu sanatorium in Bombay. The want of such an institution has been long and cruelly felt. From far and near Hindus flock to the capital in search of health, from the sea breeze and the medical aid available, but there is no home to receive them. The same thing is true of Calcutta, though from difference of economic conditions in a less degree. Blessings on the man who has supplied the deficiency in the Western city! Varjivandas Madhowdas has dedicated this charity to the memory of his lost son, calling it the "Rancnoddas Varjivandas Ayuya Bhuwana."

BICARBONATE OF POTASH is said to be an infallible cure for influenza. This recipe occurs in the address of the President of the Border Counties Branch of the British Medical Association. Mr. Crerar gave 30 grains of the bicarbonate in a teacupful of milk every two or three hours, and had not had a case in which the medicine did not kill the disease at the second dose. He had found the action of the heart sometimes weakened, but a simple remedy had sufficed to avert any danger in this quarter. Yet we do not understand how it is that, although the address was delivered in July last, influenza has ever since been counting not a few victims in England. Are the people so stubborn that they prefer to perish under their time-honored treatment to being saved by a new-fangled method?

MR. A. C. Dutt, the Bengali Assistant Collector now in charge of the Madras District of Tinnevely, has already made himself felt. He is not to be imposed upon by any indigenous plausibility or clerical pretensions. He has shaken the whole collectorate into life and propriety. He was of course met by passive resistance, but his judicious firmness has prevailed.

THE Lieutenant-Governor has very properly reappointed our good townsman Mr. J. E. D. Ezra—the Hebrew millionaire who has so much stake in the city—a Municipal Commissioner of Calcutta. Messrs. O. T. Barrow and W. K. Eddis replace on the same board Mr. A. Smith, C.S., and Surgeon-Major R. Cobb, resigned.

But why have the claims of our Hindu millionaire Baboo Jadulal Mullick, a veteran in municipal work, been overlooked?

We learn that in his annual report, just made public, Commodore George Dewey, Chief of the United States Bureau of Equipment, calls attention to the total solar eclipse to occur April 15, 1893, and recommends that expeditions be sent to Senar, Brazil, and Bathurst, Senegambia, for the purpose of observation.

MR. F. J. Marsden again goes on leave for nine months from the 25th February next. Mr. A. P. Handley, who has established his claim to the post, will, during the period or until further orders, be the acting Chief Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta.

THERE is in the Gazette a declaration under the Land Acquisition Act for 5 plots of land, measuring about 6 bigahs, for the Midnapore Central Jail Cholera Camp. Can the land so acquired be utilized for any other purpose?

NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

IT will be remembered that in April last a Court of Inquiry was ordered at Manipur into all the circumstances of the evacuation of the Residency and the British retreat. Colonel Evans, Major Trevers, and Captain Birch formed the Court, which sat long and collected a mass of evidence, all the surviving officers of the escorting Goorkhas contributing their valuable quota.

Obvious considerations suggested this limitation of the investigation. For Colonel Skene, the Commandant of the escort, was detained in the Palace and perished there with the Chief Commissioner and the Political Agent. It were useless to criticise his military conduct or disposition of his men. In Colonel Skene's absence, the command devolved on Captain Boileau who was senior to Captain Butcher. It was these two officers who were on their trial. The proceedings of the Court have not been published, but the evidence recorded was forwarded to the Commander-in-Chief and the Government of India. Upon that evidence, the Viceroy in Council came to a very unfavourable view of these two officers' conduct and recommended their removal from the service. And so their names have been erased from the Army List. The blow has been tempered with mercy, however. These officers are not sent adrift on the world at a late period of life. Captain Boileau, who had served 20 years, has been granted an allowance of £200 per annum, and Captain Butcher, an officer of ten years' service, has received £90 a year.

Strange conviction and sentences! To curse and bless in the same breath! To punish with one hand and to reward with the other! For the grants to these officers are not mere compassionate pitiunces intended more for the support of blameless wives and children than for the culprits, they are substantial annuities.

THE *Indian Spectator's* London correspondent notices the prize-distribution to the students of the Crystal Palace Engineering School. Sir Robert Rawlinson, who presided, reminded the large number of aspirants to the profession that they could not possibly all find room for its exercise within the narrow bounds of the British Isles. Many of them must naturally have to travel for employment out of Europe and of Christendom. He gave them a bit of wholesome advice as to their bearing in distant and alien regions:—

"With regard to their conduct as men he commented upon the impropriety of Englishmen calling dark-skinned people 'niggers,' and expressed the hope that none of the students would ever, in India or elsewhere, treat natives of the countries to which they went, so as to cause them to lose their self-respect and to have feelings of envy and hatred towards Englishmen. (Cheers.)"

Others besides young engineers from Great Britain and Ireland would do well to act up to the advice of the "veteran mason and delver." Still we are bound to say that there has been a change for the better in India. "Niggering" the people, we believe, is now reckoned a piece of ill breeding, not to say brutality, of which respectable men are ashamed. The spirit, however, has not so decidedly changed as manners have improved. Many, we are afraid, give vent to their coarseness and vulgarity still under the plausible disguise of the words "native" and "Baboo." We have no objection to the words by themselves; it is the use made of them that makes

them good or bad. We have no sympathy with those of our countrymen who are ashamed of calling themselves, or being called, natives or Baboos. But we certainly object to the conversion of the harmless words into terms of abuse. Some Europeans, we regret to observe, seem from their manner of accentuating them to make *native* and *Baboo* synonyms of *nigger*. If they have the moderation to spare the people that last term of reproach, they are not ashamed to speak with undisguised scorn of "those natives," or "pack of Baboos." This is low and contemptible.

DR. W. W. Sheppard, Russian Imperial Staff, writes to the *Indian Daily News* that "the country of the Sheah Push and Lall Kafirs is declared under Russian protection, in fact Russian territory. British Officers will not be allowed to cross the frontier with an armed corporal's guard." Where is it declared? What is the authority for the doctor's peremptory *ukase*? And who is this Doctor of the Russian Imperial Staff? He hails from somewhere in Calcutta and has been here these many years. What can be his possible business in Bengal so long? We never heard of this doctor of the Czar's Staff during the visit of the Czarewitch. Is he on the same mission as that of the Yaksha of Kalidasa's "Cloud Messenger" in the Hazaribagh hills? Anyhow, he must be an interesting character, and has, besides, for a representative of Russian interests, the advantage of a pronounceable name. His political instructions seem to be imperfect, though. There is no such thing as "Sheah Push," any more than "Soonnee Bush."

IT is said that between Great Britain and America, 4,000,000 copies of *Robert Elsmere* have been sold. After such almost unprecedented success, no author in these days could expect to remain in peace and leisurely enjoy his or her triumph. Neither the great publishers nor the editors of the magazines would permit the lucky writer to rest on the laurels won. Pestered with solicitations more or less importunate, besieged with temptations from all sides, the now unfortunate child of fortune is, *volens volens*, put to harness to work again and try another chance. Thus, Mrs. Humphry Ward has already another novel ready, "The History of David Grieve," which will be issued simultaneously in London by Messrs. Smith Elder, & Co. and in America by Messrs. Macmillan.

IN an article headed "Prodigal Chiefs," the *Civil and Military Gazette* says:—

"We think that in the interests of more than one youthful ruler and more than one Native State in the Punjab, it is time for the question to be publicly asked:—How long is it allowable for the supreme power to close its eyes to the process of rapid deterioration in the conduct of the Chief and rapid depletion of the treasures of the State owing to extravagance, idle pleasures and bad advisers? * * We do not mean to imply that immediate disaster is impending in any State. Although money may have been pouring out of the State treasuries, more than half of the hoard remains, and Government paper besides. There is the off chance, too, that when the young Chiefs have sown their wild oats, they may settle down. But, bearing in mind the troubles that have befallen other States from time to time, this is not a contingency to be predicted with any certainty. Nor, even if it were, would there be any excuse for acquiescence in the present state of things. It is not only the welfare of the States and Chiefs themselves which is concerned; but the progress of civilization and the reputation of English education among the higher classes in India generally."

These observations apply with equal force to many of our Bengal Zemindars. They are no doubt private citizens who eventually pay for their folly by having their estates heavily encumbered, or by being sold out altogether. But during the time that the process of destruction goes on, and for a considerable period after the completion of their ruin, not only their dependants, but very often their rayyets also are rendered extremely miserable. A Zemindar in a solvent condition can afford so to regulate the pressure of his demand as not to entail any hardship on his rayyets. But one whose estate is already subject to a mortgage is obliged to put the screw on before the due date for payment of Government revenue, without any regard to the state of the rayyets at the time. Sometimes the rayyets are called upon to subscribe to a fund for payment of their Zemindar's debts. In one well known case in which the Zemindar, by leading a life of dissipation in Calcutta, was sold out of his estate within a few years of his attaining majority, the rayyets were led to combine together for restoring him to possession, and for keeping out the purchaser by lawless acts. In their zeal for the effete victim of

debauchery who was their landlord, the poor rustics set fire to the *cutchery* of the purchaser, subjected his men to every kind of maltreatment, and for a time successfully organised a little *imperium in imperio*. What followed may easily be imagined. The criminal law was set in motion, and order was restored only when the leading men of the estate, including many innocent persons, were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. Such demonstrations of loyalty toward ancient Zemindars are getting rare. But an instance of this kind suffices to show what power for good and evil the Zemindars possess. In the earlier Mahomedan times, and possibly in the times of the Hindu Kings also, the son of a Zemindar was never allowed to succeed to his estate unless he proved himself qualified for the responsibilities of the position. The Permanent Settlement of Zemindaris in Bengal has deprived Government of the power of questioning the right of a lawful heir to a Zemindar to inherit his estate. But, as observed by the Lahore paper, the ruin of the ancient families, though caused by their own fault, brings discredit on the British Raj. The intervention of the paramount Power is certainly not desirable where it is not absolutely necessary. But the policy of non-interference may be productive of quite as much mischief as over interference. In the case of the Zemindars, many of them would be too glad if the Court of Wards be vested with jurisdiction to take them under its protection in extreme cases.

THERE may be more things in poor Bengal than what we, who are natives of the soil, are aware of. In "A Letter from Rome," the correspondent of the *Queen* says:—

"I have lately become acquainted with a new and interesting figure in our Roman society, Princess Tagore, daughter of the ex Maharaja of that province, who, I believe, abdicated in favour of his brother on embracing Christianity. The principality of Tagore (which, by the way, is half as big as England) is in the province of Bengal, and the cousin of the young lady above named was one of the very few native princes presented by Lord Lansdowne to the Duke of Clarence on his rather hurried visit to Calcutta. The Princess is travelling very quietly, and chooses, while in Europe, to be called simply Miss Tagore. She is *petite* in figure, but graceful, and of very pleasing appearance, her face being lit up with intelligence. Her English is perfect, and she speaks with the accent of one accustomed to converse with refined and cultivated persons. She is enthusiastically loyal, and her face quite lit up when she spoke of the most gracious reception accorded to her by the Empress of India in the Jubilee year. She told me an interesting fact in connection with her reception at the British Embassy here by Lord and Lady Dufferin. A powerful Maharaja, the grand-uncle of 'Miss Tagore' was one of the first native Princes to come to England and study the customs and language, in the days before India had her Empress, of course. During his stay he knew and greatly admired and esteemed the Hon. Mrs. Norton, and had her portrait painted for himself. On her telling Lord Dufferin this, his Excellency was greatly interested in this incident referring to his gifted aunt, and desired to know by whom the portrait was painted."

The identity of the lady who is the heroine of that story and who presumably supplied all its wonderful materials, is unmistakable. She is, to be sure, a chip of the old block, though she has over-stepped the limits of prudence a little too much. A genealogy however apocryphal, may be made to pass as genuine. But it is not quite so safe to talk of a "Tagore principality" unknown to geography. This ambitious Tagorani (Th'akurani), however, would not be content with the honors of nominal royalty, but must claim a substantial dominion "half as big as England." A newspaper correspondent may be amiable enough not to deem it necessary to test the veracity of a fair informant by referring to any map, gazetteer or history. But there are such things, and "Princess Tagore" will do well not to ignore their existence. She is quite welcome to speak of "the powerful Maharaja who was her grand uncle." The latter lived as a "prince" in England, and, no doubt, among many of the good people there, passed as one. In Europe, he may safely be spoken of as a "mighty Maharaja." In truth, he lived and died an untitled Bengali gentleman, entitled to no other title than the then truly honourable one of Baboo. He was better than almost any Raja or Maharaja.

SCIENCE has given to man many things that were never dreamt of by any before they were invented. But the yearnings actually felt by mankind from remote ages are yet very far from being completely satisfied. The craving for being able to fly in the air like birds, was presumably felt by man from the beginning of his existence. Long before the date of *Rasselas*, we have the Greek legend of Icarus which seems to point to an unsuccessful effort to float in the air by means of mechanical

wings. Our own ancient poets describe aerial voyages in cars of indefinite carrying capacity. They dealt in fictions, but the strain in which they sang clearly shews that the ideal was very prominently in their mind. Many and varied are the attempts which have been made in modern times to achieve the feat. They have all ended in failure. We are now told that Mr. Maxim, the inventor of the Maxim gun, has made very considerable progress in constructing a machine for aerial navigation. It is further said, that Mr. E. F. Frost, J. P., of West Wrattling Park, Cambridgeshire, has already finished the construction of a flying machine on which he had been engaged for several years. We do not think it safe to take a hopeful view with regard to either, until they are actually tried. Sir James Douglas gives a good certificate to Mr. Maxim. But in such matters the proof of the pudding is in the eating.

SINCE the conviction of the sentry Aroor Singh, the Sikh Bodyguard are under a ban in the Government House. Their number is not large. Of the 120 composing the Governor-General's personal force, only 10 are Sikhs, and these are no longer put in charge of most trusted duty.

THE nodding of Homer has passed into a proverb. The *Saturday Review* invented the phrase "Silly Season" to indicate the easy journalism of the recess when the *Times* ceases to be an example of care and accuracy. The inventor itself is not above tripping, however. In a leading article in its issue of December 12, we read:—"Now, as Lord Palmerston once said, there is nothing so delusive as facts, except figures." Our reading of the saying is, "there is nothing" or "nothing is so fallacious as facts, except figures." And was it Lord Palmerston that made that sentence? We have an idea that it was Lord Melbourne's. Lord Palmerston was a most happy speaker, whose speech on the Don Pacifico case was pronounced to be the most effective piece of Parliamentary eloquence in the age of the Cannings and Broughams and Lyndhursts and Greys and Peels. But it was Lord Melbourne who was the man of good things, the maker of epigrams.

THE *Daily Graphic* contradicts the announcement made in an American paper that the Inman steamers were about to use liquid fuel. The Company may any time introduce that combustion though, with, of course, the necessary modification of the engines. The *Indian Daily News* reminds the public that the express trains, which run up to 65 miles an hour, on the Great Eastern Railway, burn liquid fuel, and so do the Russian steamers in the Caspian.

THE prospects of literature are not cheering. The poets, whether in prose or metre, are being pushed to a corner. The scope for fancy or imagination is being circumscribed. One by one all our tropes are being vulgarised—the highest flights are turned to matters of hard reality. The most brilliant comparisons are losing their meaning.

Even so it is time enough to mourn with the spirit of Robert Hall over his image of "liquid fire." "Distilled damnation" may still do for sometime till some mahatma of the Church patents bottles of *odium theologicum*. But *liquid fire* is already a matter of fact.

THE Local Government has at last sanctioned the application of the Bengal Provincial Railway Company, "limited," for the construction of a Tramway between Tarkeswar and Mugra, in the district of Hooghly. This is Baboo Amirta Lal Roy of *Hope's* railway. The railway—a light one—or a steam tramway of 2 feet 6 inches gauge is intended to start from the existing Tarkeswar station of the Tarkeswar Railway and to run along its own alignment to the Mugra Gunj, near the Mugra station of the East Indian Railway, a distance of 30½ miles. It will take in Tarkeswar, Gopinagar, Dasghara, Bampur, Dhanikali, Basua, Majinan, Bhastara (Gopalpur), Melkee, Dwarbasini, Mahanad, Kapastikree (Sultangacha) and Mugra. The total area of land required will not exceed 768 bigahs. The promoters are Messrs. Pearymohun Mookerjee, of Uttarpara, Nundo Lal Gossami, of Serampore, Chandi Lal Sinha, of Calcutta, Ahmed Bux, of Dhanikali, Annada Prosad Roy and Sirram Chandra Bose, of thana Dhanikali, and Amirta Lal Roy, of Calcutta. They have bound themselves to commence the construction of the Tramway within 3 months from the date of sanction and to complete it ready for opening and work-

ing for traffic with all necessary plant, buildings, stores, live-stock and rolling-stock within two years, that is 19th January 1894. The terms concluded between the District Board of Hooghly and the Promoters are :—

1. That for the purpose of making the proposed line, the Promoters shall not ask the Board for free grant of land.

2. That no portion of the proposed line shall be laid along any road under the control of the Board.

3. That the Promoters shall see that the construction of the Tramway is finished within a period of two years from the date of publication in the Government Gazette of the order authorising them to proceed with the works.

4. That the Promoters shall take care, in the event of their constructing the Tramway, to place the necessary level-crossings wherever the line crosses any of the roads belonging to the Board.

5. That in the event of the Board wishing to purchase the Tramway of its proprietors at the end of 21 years, under the provisions of section 41 of the Bengal Tramways Act, 1883, the Promoters bind themselves to make it over at a price two-fifths in excess of the original outlay of capital.

6. That the Promoters shall pay no rent to the Board for the crossings, and they shall not ask the Board to give them any guarantee of interest or other pecuniary aid."

THE suppression of the *Tubbarah* in Moorshedabad was followed by a vengeful criminal prosecution. The Shiaks suspected in Moonshee Abdoor Rahim an active promoter of the Sunni movement against their revolting practice. They found it to their glory to see him brought to grief. Soon enough he was suspected of embezzlement and criminally prosecuted, convicted and sentenced to four years' rigorous imprisonment. The High Court, however, set him free. We give elsewhere the judgment which will shew how the law was distorted or set at naught to punish the Moonshee who had incurred the ire of the Shiah community of Moorshedabad. Both the Deputy Magistrate, Baboo Mohesh Chunder Sen, who tried the case, and the Deputy Collector, Baboo Bungshidhur Roy, under whose orders the Moonshee served, behaved in a way to call for particular notice of Government. The former was not ashamed to blast a man on a trumpery charge unsupported by evidence. And what shall we say of the latter giving his own servant up to those who sought his blood!

THE Duke of Clarence died at Sandringham on the 14th. His remains remained in the private church there till the 20th, the day fixed for the funeral, when it was removed to Windsor for deposit in the vaults of the Albert Chapel. The Prince of Wales walked to the station behind the coffin, the Princess and her daughters, Prince George of Wales and Princess May driving. The service was held at St. George's Chapel by the Bishop of Rochester. Foreign representatives and state officials were present.

The day was observed as a general mourning throughout Great Britain and the British Colonies. Memorial services were also held in every capital on the Continent.

The Government of India issued the following notifications :—

"Home Department, Calcutta, the 18th January, 1892.

In continuation of the Notification issued on the receipt of the intelligence of the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, the Governor-General in Council now directs as follows :—

The Flag at Fort William will continue to be hoisted half mast high until the evening of the 20th instant, which is the date fixed for the funeral. On that day 28 minute guns will be fired from the Fort : the last gun to be fired and the flag to be dropped as the sun sets.

The Governor-General in Council directs that all Officers under the Government of India at the Presidency shall be closed on the 20th instant. Local Governments and Administrations are requested to issue similar orders in regard to Public Offices within their respective jurisdictions."

"Home Department, Calcutta, the 20th January 1892.

In continuation of Home Department Notification published in the Gazette Extraordinary of the 18th instant, the Governor-General in Council now directs as follows :—

It is expected that all persons will remain in mourning for three weeks from the date of the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, or until February 5th, that being the duration of the general mourning which has been proclaimed for Great Britain and Ireland.

Officers of Her Majesty's Civil, Military and Marine Services will remain in mourning for six weeks, or until February 26th, that being the duration of the official mourning which has been proclaimed for Great Britain and Ireland."

The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal declared the 20th as a public holiday :

"Financial Department, Calcutta, the 8th January 1892.

Intelligence having been received that the funeral of His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor Christian Edward, eldest son of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Duke of Clarence and Avondale, Earl of Athlone, K.G., K.P., L.L.D. (Cantab. and Dublin), will take place on Wednesday, the 20th January, the Lieutenant-Governor hereby

declares that day to be a public holiday under section 25 of Act XXVI of 1881, entitled 'The Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.'

The Military Secretary to the Viceroy issued the following notification :—

"Military Secretary's Office, Calcutta, the 18th January, 1892.

It is hereby notified that a Funeral Service will be held at 10-30 A.M., at St. Paul's Cathedral, on Wednesday, the 20th instant—the date fixed for the funeral of His late Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence and Avondale.

All Civil and Military Officers and others are invited to attend.

Full dress will be worn by Officers entitled to wear uniform.

Gentlemen not entitled to wear uniform will appear in morning dress."

The public meeting to vote addresses of condolence to the Queen-Empress and the Prince and Princess of Wales came off on the 18th, under the presidency of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. It was a great success, being attended by representatives of all races and sections of the population, among whom perfect unanimity of sentiment prevailed. We give a report of the proceedings elsewhere. The Funeral Service at St. Paul's Cathedral was attended by the Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne. The whole house of prayer was literally crammed with mourners.

Meetings have been held in all parts not of Bengal only but of this vast Indian Empire, in cities and towns, in villages and hamlets, in camps and at wharfs, at all manner of places, and there has been a flood, not yet subsided, of resolutions and addresses and other tokens of sympathy and sorrow.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, January 23, 1892.

A SANSKRIT INSTITUTE FOR BENGAL.

THE great influence, not to say power, which the Pundits or the Brahman Sanskritists of the country possess over its Hindu population is admitted. That they should use their authority for good is the wish of every well regulated heart. One of our morning contemporaries has of late been reading them little homilies for leading them to light. They are told that if they want to maintain their power intact, they must set their house in order, and that they are sure to be deserted by their followers, if they perversely refuse to march with the times. The preaching is excellent, as it is, no doubt, inspired by very laudable motives. But, with such knowledge of the world as our old friend of British Indian Street possesses, can he expect it to be effective? We fear that it may be worse than useless. The Pandits, who have been acting as leaders of men for thousands of years, may be pardoned if they presume that they understand their business better than their amateur advisers. They must be either more or less than ordinary men, if, instead of resenting, they submit like children to the corrections administered to them.

The end which is sought to be attained is desirable. But we feel grave doubts as to the wisdom of the means suggested or adopted to encompass it. Generally speaking, the Pundits keep themselves aloof from politics; but, after all that has come to pass in recent times, there can be no doubt that they may at times be duped, by the misrepresentations of the Vernacular Press and of demagogues, to lend the weight of their influence against the innocent policy or necessary proceedings of Government. To keep the political agitators under adequate check may not be practically feasible. But the Pundits may certainly be placed in a position to appreciate the intentions of Government better than some of them did last year.

At the present time, the learning of the Pundits or the educational work done by them is not utilized or recognised by Government in any shape. A special title has been created for them; but they never wanted it, and the status of those who have got it has not been improved by it in the least. The title

has not been conferred on Puudit Kristna Nath Nyapanchanan, yet he is regarded by his countrymen as a far abler scholar than any of those who have been favoured with it. What the Puñdits want is not titles, but substantial encouragement. There was a time when the great Sanskritists of Nuddea refused to accept service under Government, and very inferior men had to be appointed as Court Puñdits whose function then was to expound the Hindu Law. When Sir William Jones first tried to learn Sanskrit, he could not get a Brahman Sanskritist either for love or for money, and he had to be content with such light as he could get from a grammarian of the medical caste. With the march of times, the pride of the Brahmanical scholars has been so far rationalised that the Puñdits of Nuddea are now having their sons educated in English, and one of them has actually accepted service as a Professor in the Government Sanskrit College of Calcutta.

The report of the Education Commission appointed by the Government of Lord Ripon, recommended the grant of small subsidies to the indigenous educational institutions, and it is understood that, with a view to give effect to the wishes of Government in that respect, Sir Alfred Croft deputed Mahamahapadhya Mahesh Chander Nyaratna last year to inspect the *toles* of Bengal, and to draw up a scheme for their encouragement. But, if we are not greatly mistaken, they will never, except under dire necessity, submit to be governed by the present head of the Government Sanskrit College or by any one who is not a leading Puñdit of Nuddea, the chief seat of Sanskrit learning in Bengal. There are *toles* in Bhatpara near Hooghly, in Bikrampur near Dacca and in other places within the province; but they teach only local pupils, while the fame of Nuddea attracts scholars from the most distant parts of India—from Cashmere in the extreme North-West, from Mysore and Travancore in the South, and from Assam, Sylhet and Chittagong in the East.

Instead of attempting to place the Nuddea Puñdits under the Sanskrit College, the more rational course would be to place the Sanskrit College under the Nuddea Puñdits. At the present time, the Calcutta Sanskrit College costs Government at least Rs. 2,000 per month; but, considering the amount of work done by it, it cannot be said that it secures any corresponding advantage to Government or to the country. It is at present practically one of the numerous schools in the town for preparing candidates for the University Examinations. It has been in existence for nearly a century, but it can not claim among its *alumni* one single great name like that of Bhubun Mohan Bidyaratna or Krishna Nath Nyapanchanan. The students who receive instruction in it, are chiefly boys who desire only to have the ordinary routine education, and the true votaries of Sanskrit literature, such as are to be found in the Nuddea *toles*, never deem it worth while to resort to it, in order to gratify their thirst for knowledge.

Some of our contemporaries are for abolishing the Sanskrit College altogether. We are not for such a sweeping measure. Our idea is that its status may with advantage be changed to that of a Sanskrit Institute for teaching advanced pupils, for prosecuting antiquarian researches, and for editing Sanskrit works. It has already a few good Puñdits on its subordinate staff, and if it be placed under a competent head, then it may one day prove to be a really useful institution, and also the means of keeping the Puñdits in healthy touch with Government.

MISERIES OF MEN—NATURAL AND SELF-CREATED.

THERE are in this world miseries enough which are more or less unavoidable. The hand of death spares none. The mightiest monarch has to submit to it like the poorest of his subjects. The momentary sunshine in the life of any individual may at any time be converted by it into a gloom that nothing can dispel. That man is mortal, is not, however, his only grievance. There are other sources of misery which sometimes prove even worse than death. Despite the progress made in the healing art, most of the diseases, which flesh is heir to, are still practically incurable. The majority of men are to this day ill-housed, ill-clad, and ill-fed. Famines, inundations, cyclones, earthquakes and pestilences remind us very forcibly, every now and then, how powerless we are. These evils appear inseparable from the conditions which environ our life in this world. But as if not satisfied with the stock of inevitable woes, we create others by our own acts, and quite gratuitously aggravate our sufferings by self-inflicted tortures. We read in history of an English prelate who, though standing almost on a footing of equality with his sovereign in point of wealth and power, used to wear sackcloth, drink water rendered unpalatable by the mixture of unsavoury herbs, and have his back torn by flagellation voluntarily undergone. We read also of another divine who in order to obtain the honours of sainthood passed thirty years of his life on the top of a pillar in

Rain, wind, frost, heat, hail, damp, and sleet and snow.

The cases of Thomas a Becket and St. Simeon, however, are not singular. In every age and in every country, there have been ecclesiastics of the same stamp who made both themselves and their followers miserable. When a man foregoes the comforts within his command from motives of policy, we need feel no more concerned about him than for the reckless speculator who risks all his fortune on a game of chance. The prizes of the priestly profession are not inconsiderable, and those who compete for them must be prepared for some sacrifices in the beginning.

The cases which are most pitiable are those of persons who are incapable of thinking for themselves, and are led by their advisers to increase their own wretchedness. Ambition without ability is dangerous. The man who does not possess any capacity for doing real good, and yet is eager for power, is sure to be mischievous. The high official who does not know how to exercise a healthy control over his department, generally insists upon the observance of useless formalities, and the compilation of meaningless returns. The case with the religious teachers is the same. They practically pretend to omnipotence. They offer to make a poor man rich; to cure any disease; to bring rain from the heavens in times of drought; to give children to barren women; to kill your enemies by incantations; to soften the obdurate heart of your lady love by charms, to propitiate the stars by *poojas*. All these by means of rites and observances, by themselves and by their clients. To keep up a show of active exertion for fulfilling these promises, they have to multiply cumbrous ceremonies. Where the event supports their claims, they make the utmost capital out of it. But sometimes they must fail, and in order to be provided with a loophole for retreat, they prescribe impracticable austerities for their followers. These are very often actual

ly practised by them, and ultimately they become a part of their daily life. Thus arise the practices which, like hook-swinging, suttee, long fastings and ablutions in cold winter mornings, serve only to increase the misery of men instead of alleviating it. We once came across a Sanyasi who subjected himself to the fearful torture of never allowing himself any rest by being seated or by lying down. In his strange infatuation, he passed his days and nights in a standing posture, resting his hands on a pair of poles. The sores and swellings in his legs bore witness to the fact that there was no hypocrisy in him, and that he actually practised the terrible vow which he professed to have taken. Sanyasis of this order are happily rare. But there is no limit to the number of those who might, by honest industry, live in comfort and yet depend for their subsistence entirely on begging, for which they go about the streets barefooted and barelegged in the midday sun.

Accustomed as we are to the existing order of things, it is hardly possible for us to form an adequate idea of the mischief that has been, and is still being, done to the world by the abuse of priestly power. The time may yet be far in the distance when artificial rain-making will be a *fait accompli*; when meteorological science will be sufficiently advanced to predict early enough the occurrence of cyclones; and when an effectual cure for every form of disease will be discovered by the doctors. But surely there is no reason why men should patiently suffer from miseries which are due only to the moral tyranny of their priests. We are not now thinking of the masses who know no better; we can only pity them. But surely we have a right to expect something better from those who have been taught better. If our vaunted education fails to secure even this amount of good, the sooner our schools and colleges are abolished, the better. The intellectual culture which can not save a man from groveling in the mire of debauchery in the name of so-called religious rites, is worse than useless. The Pandits themselves never encouraged the beastly sensuality of the Kowls, but ascribed the *shasters* which sanction Bacchanalianism to a trick on the part of the gods to bring about the destruction of tyrants. Nevertheless, the orthodoxy which has been making itself prominent in recent times, is for the whole hog, and would hold up to admiration the most debasing rites. The cloak of religion is in many cases adopted only to hide the shame which would otherwise be inevitable. But, supposing that there is sincerity in any case, there cannot be a more pitiable spectacle than that of an educated man ruining himself by drinking and debauchery in the exercise of so-called religious belief.

A PAMPHLET ON CODIFICATION.

LATELY, we happened to come across a little pamphlet which deserves to be better known than it seems to be at present. The author is the well known attorney of the Bengal High Court, Mr. H. H. Remfry, and the subject is "The Codification and Improvement of Law in British India." The writer has not dealt merely in platitudes, but has taken a bird's eye view of the entire field of Indian Law. His grasp of the subject and his method of handling will appear from the following extracts:—

"To turn now to the effect of marriage on the property of husband and wife, the Indian Succession Act provides that 'no person is by marriage to acquire any interest in the property of the person whom he or she marries, or become incapable of doing any act in respect to his or her own property which he or she could have done if unmarried' (s. 4, Act X of 1865). This drastic law, which came into force on the 1st January 1866 naturally made important changes in the common law, rights, liabilities and disabilities arising

out of the relations of husband and wife in the cases of persons to whom English law had theretofore been applied. As regards property it abolished by implication the doctrine of unity of persons between husband and wife. Another apparent variance from English law is that any thing a child may have received from an intestate in his lifetime by way of advancement is not deducted from its share or brought into hotchpotch. Our Succession Act also wisely excludes the home rule, which enables an executor to pay any creditor, even himself, preferentially to another, by enacting that after the liquidation of funeral and administration charges, and three months' wages due to domestic servants, labourers, or artisans, all debts, however secured, shall be paid rateably (Ibid. s. 282). By another Act no executor or administrator, save an Administrator-General, is justified in charging any commission for administering any East India estate. Even where a legacy is bequeathed to a person named as an executor, he cannot obtain it unless he proves the will or otherwise manifests an intention to act as executor."

"By a clause in the before-cited Succession Act no one having a nephew or niece, or nearer relative, has power to bequeath any property to religious or charitable uses, unless the will has not only been executed a year before the testator's death, but within six months from its execution deposited in an office indicated for that purpose."

"All estates, both moveable and immoveable (European and native), devolve in the same channel, and on one description of representative, namely, the executor or administrator, and thus we get rid of the useless distinction between the transfer or devolution of realty and personality which renders English and American systems of law so intricate. Executors, as persons supposed to have been selected by the testator himself, have full and uncontrolled power to dispose of not only the personal but also the real estates of their testators. So have the administrators of Europeans; the administrators of natives' estates are in no way hampered as regards disposal of moveables, such as Government securities and shares or outstandings, but it has not been deemed desirable to invest them with disposing power over immoveable property save with the leave of the Court. Here in India no derivative executorship is recognised in connection with wills or codicils executed or grants obtained since the beginning of 1866."

The summary that is given of the Law of Limitation is equally valuable. The author says with reference to the "rogue's law":—

"One year is allowed for actions of tort; three years for actions on contracts, simple or otherwise (unregistered), including suits for rent. A customer need, therefore, only preserve receipted bills for three years instead as in England, for double that time. On registered documents, as also on foreign judgments, a six years' limitation is given. All suits for the recovery of immoveable property, or to recover money charged thereon, are in time if instituted within twelve years, and to redeem a mortgage of immoveable property sixty years is allowed. It is noteworthy that the periods prescribed by this Act suffice to extinguish all remedy by *suit* save, (a) in cases of trusts or fraud; (b) where an acknowledgment has been obtained in writing recognising the claim as of right, before expiration of prescribed period; or (c) where the defendant has been for any part of the time absent from India. Lastly, decrees of the High Courts can be executed any time within twelve years; but decrees of other Courts not after three years, unless kept alive by execution or notice through the Court. Incidentally it may be remarked that a hard-and-fast rule prevails by which all Courts in India are bound to take cognisance of limitation questions whether raised by defendant or not."

The brochure under notice embodies only the substance of a lecture delivered by the author, and is necessarily rather too brief. But even its brevity has a value. It enables the reader to form a nucleus of ideas which may be expanded afterwards by studying the original codes.

Law.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT FORT WILLIAM IN BENGAL.

The 9th December 1891.

Criminal Jurisdiction.

PRESENT.

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Norris, and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Beverly, two of the Judges of the Court.

In the matter of Abdoor Rahim ... Petitioner.

versus.

The Empress ... Opposite party.

For the Petitioner, Messrs. Woodroffe, Jackson, and P. Mitter, Counsel, and with them Moulvi Mahomed Yousuff and Moulvi Syud Shamsul Hoda and Moulvi Serajul Islam, Pleaders.

For the Crown, Baboo Ram Charun Mitter.

We are of opinion that this Rule should be made absolute. I think this is a case of sufficient importance to warrant my going somewhat into detail with regard to the facts.

The prisoner, it appears, has been in the employ of the Collector at Moorsheadabad for a considerable number of years, and has been trusted in that employment, as appears from the fact that from time to time fresh and more responsible duties have been cast upon him—duties requiring the possession of ability and honesty; and he was called upon not long since to furnish security to the

extent of a thousand rupees for a fresh duty imposed upon him, namely, the distribution of money.

It appears that there was passing through his hand, among other sums, a sum of 60 rupees a month, which it was his duty to distribute to certain pensioners. In August last he appears to have come down to Calcutta. The circumstances under which he came here, it is not necessary to enter into. In his absence the boxes containing his books of account, were taken away from his office, but when he returned to his office, he himself went to the Collector with the keys, opened the boxes and handed over all his accounts to the Collector, including a private memorandum book in which is shown the balance remaining in his hands of unexpended money. While he was here in Calcutta, he received intimation that he was required at Moorshedabad for the purpose of explaining something in his accounts. Immediately on the receipt of that communication he left Calcutta to return to Moorshedabad, and at Azimgunge, on the way, he was arrested by a police Superintendent under a warrant and taken into custody. Thereupon, according to the prisoner's own statement, and it is not contradicted, and I take it to be true, in the course of conversation, on the prisoner expressing surprise at being arrested when he was going back in obedience to the letter received by him, to render an explanation of his accounts, the Police Superintendent told him that probably he would be made Queen's evidence.

I pause here to observe, that if that statement is true, and I see no reason to think it untrue, it was a most improper observation for the Police to make. When a Police officer of whatever position, be he the Commissioner of this metropolis or any other officer, is armed with a warrant to arrest, his duty after arresting is to convey the criminal to the jail or to take him before a magistrate, without asking the prisoner any question, or discussing with him the nature of the offence with which he is charged.

The prisoner was taken into custody and before any enquiry had been held or any trial, he was subjected to a long cross-examination by the Deputy Magistrate. Under what provision of the Code the Deputy Magistrate did that I am at a loss to understand. Section 342 of the Code provides—"For the purpose of enabling the accused to explain any circumstances appearing in the evidence against him, the Court may, at any stage of any enquiry or trial, without previously warning the accused, put such questions to him as the Court considers necessary." At this time, as I have already pointed out, there was no enquiry and no trial. There existed no circumstance for which there was any necessity for calling upon the accused person to explain.

This examination seems to me to be absolutely irregular and illegal and unauthorised; and if under any provision of the law it could have been done it could only have been done for the purpose of enabling the accused person to explain circumstances given in evidence against him. It was never intended by the Legislature to put into the hands of a Deputy Magistrate an engine of oppression such as this to wring from a man who was not then upon his trial and who had simply been arrested—statements which might subsequently be used against him.

This examination, my learned colleague points out to me, purports to be made under Section 164 of the Code. That section says: "Any Magistrate not being a Police officer may record any statement or confession made to him in the course of an investigation under this chapter, or at any time afterwards before the commencement of the enquiry or trial."

As far as I can see there was nothing which was being investigated. The statements were not made "in the course of an investigation." The section goes on: "Such statements shall be recorded in such of the manners hereinafter prescribed for recording evidence as is in his opinion best fitted for the circumstances of the case. Such confessions shall be recorded and signed in the manner provided in section 364, and shall then be forwarded to the Magistrate by whom the case is to be enquired into or tried. No Magistrate shall record any such confession unless, upon questioning the person making it, he has reason to believe that it was made voluntarily; and when he records any confession he shall make a memorandum at the foot of such record to the following effect, &c." It does not appear that any such question was put to the accused person asking him, if his statement was voluntarily made. It seems to me, as I have said before, obviously, on the face of it, to have been extorted from him. The whole proceeding is irregular, tyrannical and overbearing to the last possible degree.

Holloway's Ointment and Pills.—Shortness of Breath, Coughs, and Colds.—Thousands of testimonials can be produced to prove the power possessed by these corrective remedies in cases of asthma, incipient consumption and all disorders of the chest and lungs. The Ointment, well rubbed upon the chest and back, penetrating the skin, is absorbed and carried directly to the lungs, where, in immediate contact with the whole mass of circulating blood, it neutralises or expels those impurities, which are the foundation of consumption, asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia, and similar complaints. On the appearance of the first consumptive symptoms the back and chest of the patient should be fomented with warm brine, dried with a coarse cloth, and Holloway's Ointment then well rubbed in. Its absorption will subdue advancing symptoms, and baffle this formidable foe.

In the course of that cross-examination the accused made certain statement as to the alleged deficiency in his accounts. His attention was particularly called to three sums of Rs. 3-8 in the months of April, May, and June of this year, and he substantially said, "These accounts are in my hand-writing. It is quite true that the totals do not tally with the items, that the totals are three 3 rupees 8 annas in excess of what they should be." He was then asked, having regard to the items written down in the account, how do you explain that? He said, "I explain it in this way. I was directed by Baboo Bungshi Dhur Roy, Deputy Collector, under whose directions I acted and whose instructions I had to follow in regard to the payments I made of this sum of 60 Rs. per month, to make the payment of 3 rupees 8 annas to a man named Kurban Ali to be paid over to the wife of Mirza Ali Hossain." To a further question by the Deputy Magistrate "Why was not the name entered," he says "That there is a standing rule which has been in existence a very long time, that no payment out of this charitable fund was to be made of more than two Rupees. It was therefore a breach of the rule to make the payment of Rs. 3-8, and so that it might not appear that the rule was broken, this payment was not put in, but the total was, as it were, falsified in this way."

Subsequently, he is brought up for trial before the Deputy Magistrate, and Bungshi Dhur Baboo, the Deputy Collector, is in fact the only witness against him excepting his own statement and his own books. The only oral testimony given against him substantially is that of Bungshi Dhur Baboo; and, Bungshi Dhur's statement substantially amounts only to this:—"The statements made by the prisoner, when you examined and cross-examined him, are untrue. It is not true that I ever directed him to make these payments. This statement is false."

Upon this, the Deputy Magistrate has believed the Deputy Collector and disbelieved the prisoner, and convicted and sentenced him to four years' rigorous imprisonment, and the conviction and sentence has been upheld on appeal by the Sessions Judge. We think that the circumstances under which this statement was elicited from the prisoner were utterly irregular, and that the statement ought not to have been used as evidence against him. We are further of opinion that the prosecution ought—when the accused vouched both the man, who took this money Rs. 3-8, and the woman, to whom it is said to have been paid, month by month, in obedience to the order of the Deputy Collector—to have called those persons, the woman to prove or disprove the statement that she had received the Rs. 3-8, and the man who acted as a conduit-pipe for the conveyance of the money to prove or disprove that he received that amount from the prisoner for payment to the woman.

It is impossible to believe that the prisoner has not been seriously prejudiced by the admission of his statement, and there has been an error in law in placing the onus on the prisoner to produce the two witnesses to whom I have just referred. Therefore upon that ground we think that we cannot uphold the conviction.

As regards the sentence passed, assuming that the conviction is correct, the sentence is altogether disproportionate to the magnitude of the offence, and in thus characterizing it I use very moderate and mild language.

The rule must be made absolute and the conviction and sentence set aside.

(Sd.) JOHN F. NORRIS,
(Sd.) H. BEVERLY.

The 9th December 1891.

THE DEATH OF THE DUKE OF CLARENCE.

PUBLIC MEETING IN CALCUTTA.

At 4 P. M. yesterday (Monday, January 18) a very largely attended and representative meeting of the citizens of Calcutta was held at the Town Hall for the purpose of voting addresses of condolence to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress of India and their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales in their recent bereavement. Among those present were the following:—Sir Charles Elliott, Sir Comer Petheram, the Hon. Justices Pigot, Prinsep and Macpherson, Sir H. L. Harrison, the Hon. G. H. P. Evans, the Hon. Sir John Ware Edgar, the Hon. Mr. Woodburn, the Hon. Lieutenant-General Pemberton, the Hon. Mr. Bliss, the Hon. Sir Charles Paul, His Highness the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore, the Maharaja of Durbhunga, the Maharaja of Bettiah, Maharaja Durga Churn Law, the Hon. Nawab Bahadur Khwajah Ahsunullah, Prince Jehan Kadir, Nawab Mir Mohamed Ali, the Hon. Mr. H. J. S. Cotton, Mr. J. Lambert, the Hon. Sir A. Croft, Dr. Simpson, Captain E. W. Petley, Mr. H. Lee, the Rev. Father Lafont, Mr. J. G. Womack, Mr. J. Kimber, Mr. C. J. Johnston, Mr. C. H. Tawney, Colonel Pritchard, Mr. R. Steel, Mr. G. L. Garth, Mr. A. H. Wallis, the Hon. Dr. Mahendralal Sircar, Babus Joy Gobind Law, Sewbux Bogla, O. C. Dutt, and S. N. Bannerji.

The Sheriff, the Hon. Mr. J. L. Mackay, said.—Your Honor, Your Highnesses and Gentlemen,—The untimely death of His Royal

Highness the Duke of Clarence, under circumstances probably unequalled for pathetic sadness, is the reason for calling together the citizens of Calcutta to-day. I beg to declare the meeting opened.

Maharaja Sir Narendra Krishna, K. C. I. E., in proposing His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to take the chair, said:—Mr. Sheriff, Your Honor and Gentlemen,—With feelings of boundless and unutterable grief we have met here this afternoon to pay our tribute of respect to the memory of His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, the eldest grandson of our revered Queen-Empress, who died in London on the 14th instant from influenza. After receiving an education befitting his exalted position, he was enrolled as a cadet in the English Navy, and travelled over the greater portion of the world by ships of war in order to gain that experience which would be of use in ruling wisely over the Empire at a future date. His amiable disposition allowed him to cultivate the acquaintance of the people during his visit to India a couple of years ago, and the good opinion which he then formed of his future Indian subjects was communicated by him to his august grandmother, and they would have much profited by his favourable impression of them had not cruel death snatched him away in the prime of life from the world. His untimely end is deeply and universally mourned by the people, and must have plunged his Royal parents and the pious Queen of England in an intense grief which no worldly sympathy can allay. And on this most melancholy and painful event we can only offer them our humble, respectful and heartfelt condolence. May Almighty God in His hidden way give solace to their burning hearts. I now beg to propose that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor take the chair.

Nawab Abdool Lutef Bahadur, C. I. E., in seconding the motion of Maharaja Narendra Krishna, said:—I have great pleasure in seconding the proposal of my noble friend the Maharaja Bahadur, and in doing so, I do not wish to speak more than one word. The heart-rending calamity which has overtaken the Royal Family of England is at this moment the topic of mournful conversation throughout the whole civilized world. If there is anything which can to any extent soften the keenness of the sorrow of Her Imperial Majesty and of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, and last, not least, of the Princess May of Teck, it is the genuine and sincere sympathy in their distress which this sad event has evoked in the hearts of all who have heard of it. The people of India yield to no British subjects in their loyalty to the throne, and speaking for the great community whom I have the honour to represent, I can say that the Mahomedans of this country have been deeply moved by the cruel blow received by the Royal Family, and they heartily pray to God that He may grant Her Majesty as well as her son and daughter-in-law consolation and sufficient strength to bear this heavy affliction.

Sir Charles Elliott, on taking the chair, said:—The presence of so large and influential a company as I see assembled here this afternoon is a sufficient proof that you, Mr. Sheriff, were justified in summoning this meeting, and that there can be no dispute that one common feeling of grief and sympathy animates all classes in Calcutta, all ranks in society, all religions and all races who are represented here. And not only is Calcutta represented, but we know that all classes and all races in this province of which Calcutta is the focus and capital are sharing in the same thought and the same feelings. I have received numerous letters, telegraphic messages from important personages and representative bodies in different parts of Bengal, desirous of expressing their adherence and associating themselves with us on this occasion. I will not detain you by reading any of these communications. The views of these are couched in very graceful and tender phrases and I will only mention the names of the senders. They are from the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Calcutta Naval Volunteers (by letter), the Behar Light Horse, the Northern Bengal Mounted Rifles, the Assam Valley Mounted Rifles, the Central Bengal Light Horse, the Behar Planters' Association, the Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association, the Patna Municipality, the Patna District Board, Khodabux Khan of Patna, Members of the Anjuman Patna, and Khawajah Abdul Alif, of Dacca, the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad, the Maharaja of Hutwah and several zemindars of Azimganj. The Sheriff also informs me that he has received about fifty similar messages.

I have no doubt that had time allowed and had the news of our meeting been more widely spread, the number of these messages would have been greatly multiplied. Indeed, there was little need of such messages as these to assure us of the existence of these feelings; for it is difficult to conceive any event short of the loss of our beloved Queen herself which would be more certain to cause widespread sorrow or to excite the most general sympathy. The death of a young Prince who if he had lived would in all human probability have been our Sovereign, whose character was blameless and attractive, and who was standing on the threshold of a life which bade fair to be honourable and useful, is an event which is sufficiently pathetic in itself, but it is doubly so when it occurs at a time when his engagement to a charming English Princess had just been announced, and all hearts were touched with pleasure at the thought of his contracting a happy marriage. The fact that he so lately paid a visit to us in India, that it is only two years ago that

we were busy in a preparation to welcome him and do him honour, and that while here he endeared himself so much to all who met him by his simple and courteous demeanour gives a personal poignancy to the keenness of our grief at hearing that he has been so suddenly cut off. A fortnight ago and we were all ready to say of him in the words of Virgil

And now in a few brief days the hope and the joy of the nation has been dashed to the ground, and we are left to muse upon the vanity of earthly wishes and to wonder at the inscrutable ways of Providence, which orders all for the best in a manner no man can understand. We know that in the case of private bereavements it is very rarely that any spoken words can bring comfort, but that some consolation is given to the sufferers by feeling that they are not alone in their sorrow. This is all that we can hope to effect by offering our heartfelt condolence to-day. We are met here in unison with countless mourners in all parts of the British Empire, not with English speaking mourners only, but with those who use the 130 languages of India, and the innumerable tongues of our fellow-subjects in all quarters of the globe to express our grief at the disaster which has befallen the nation, and our deep and respectful sympathy with those near relatives whom so terrible a bereavement has overtaken. The only other thing we can do for them is to pray that the Almighty Father may in His tender love towards mankind shed comfort and balm into the stricken hearts of the sorrowing parents, and of the young Princess who was almost his wife. And now, gentlemen, with these brief prefatory words I will ask Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore to move the first Resolution.

Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore said:—Your Honor, Maharajas, Rajas, and Gentlemen,—On a melancholy occasion like the present, silence is perhaps the best expression of an overpowered heart. I will not therefore attempt even to say how deeply grieved we all feel for the sad bereavement with which our beloved Sovereign the Queen-Empress and the Royal Family have been afflicted. To us, Hindus, a calamity in the family of our Sovereign is almost a personal calamity, and in the present case the late visit of Prince Albert Victor to our country has doubly emphasised this feeling in us; but what makes our grief still more bitter is the sad thought that death has laid his unrelenting hand on him in the prime of life, when he was about to lead to the altar the bride of his own heart. For my humble self, personally, I will cherish to the last of my days a vivid and grateful memory of the kind and condescending treatment which His Royal Highness was graciously pleased to accord to me when I had the honour of serving on the Reception Committee during his late visit.

There is, I believe, scarcely anything on this earth which can bring consolation to a stricken heart on such a mournful occasion, but it is said that sorrow shared is sorrow soothed, and it behoves us therefore that we should at such a time approach the Throne in all humility and respectfully offer our sincere and loyal condolence and sympathy, and shew that millions of Her Majesty's Indian subjects fully share in Her grief and deeply mourn the loss of His Royal Highness the Prince with a heavy heart.

With these words I beg to move the following resolution:—

That the citizens of Calcutta and the inhabitants of the Province of Bengal have heard with profound sorrow of the early and lamented death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, Heir Presumptive to the Throne, and desire to humbly approach Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress of India, and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales with an expression of the most heartfelt sympathy and loyal condolence, for the grief which this melancholy event has caused the Royal Family.

Sir Comer Petheram, in seconding the resolution, said:—Your Honor, Your Highnesses and Gentlemen,—The resolution, which has just been read to you by Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore, is one which recommends itself to all of us, and I am sure it requires very few words of mine. I don't think that this is an occasion upon which many words ought to be used by anyone. It is clear, I think, from this large meeting and from the various telegrams and letters which have been received by His Honor and by the Sheriff that the people of this country do feel very widely the sympathy for our beloved Queen and other members of the Royal Family on whom this blow has fallen. With these very few words I will content myself with seconding this resolution.

Maharaja Durga Churn Law, in supporting the resolution, said:—We have all assembled here to-day to publicly deplore the sad loss we have sustained by the untimely death of the heir presumptive to the throne. It was only, it seems to me, the other day that His Royal Highness was among us, and we did all we could to honour and please him, not knowing that his end was to occur so soon. Gentlemen, such is life, and it is impossible to calculate upon the future. So much has been said expressing our deep sorrow at the distressing event that I can find nothing more to add. I have therefore no wish to take up your time by recapitulating what you have already heard. I will conclude by saying that I consider it is our duty to approach the Royal Family with an expression of our grief and loyalty and profound sympathy in their severe affliction.

His Honour the President said,---We can respond in no other way than by general silence as approving and accepting the resolution.

The Maharaja of Darbhunga moved the second resolution, which runs as follows :---

That this meeting accepts and adopts the humble address to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress, which has just been read, as an expression of the feelings which pervade all ranks and all classes at the sorrow which has fallen upon our beloved Sovereign.

The Hon. Mr. Mackay in seconding it said, that it was unnecessary to add anything. His Excellency the Viceroy would be asked to be pleased to lay the letter before the Throne as sympathetic and respectful expressions of loyal condolence on their part.

His Honor the President said,---I will assume that the second resolution has been accepted by this meeting.

The Maharaja of Bettiah proposed the next resolution which ran as follows :---

That this meeting having heard read the address to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, accepts and adopts the same as expressing the respectful and affectionate sympathy felt by all ranks and classes with His Royal Highness and the Princess of Wales at the bereavement they have so suddenly sustained.

He said,---Your Honor, Maharajas and Gentlemen,---In proposing the above resolution for your acceptance I may be permitted to bring to your recollection the visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence to Calcutta about a couple of years ago. Many of you may recollect the amiable and agreeable manners which the late Prince possessed and the favourable impression made in the minds of the people of the country. It is very much to be regretted that the life of the Prince who was destined to be some day the reigning monarch of the vast territories possessed by British Crown should be so suddenly cut short, and all our hopes doomed to disappointment. In moving this resolution I only ask you to give your approval to it.

The Nawab Bahadur Khwajah Ahsunulla seconded the resolution with a few well chosen words.

His Honor the President said,---I make no doubt you will all agree in passing this resolution.

Mr. H. Lee moved the next resolution as follows :---That this meeting authorises a Committee, to consist of the following noblemen and gentlemen, to sign the addresses which have now been accepted and adopted on behalf of the inhabitants of the province and of this city, and to submit them in due course and through the usual channels :---The Chairman of this meeting, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, His Highness the Nawab Bahadur of Moorshedabad, Ameer-ul-Umra, G. C. I. E., His Highness the Maharaja of Kuch Behar, G. C. I. E., His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur of Bettiah, K. C. I. E., His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhunga, K. C. I. E., Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotindro Mohan Tagore, K. C. S. I., the Hon. the Raja of Bhinga, Prince Furrokh Shah, Nawab Bahadur Sir Khwajah Abdul Ghani, K. C. S. I., Nawab Bahadur Khwajah Ahsunullah, C. I. E., the Hon. the Chief Justice, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta, the Bishop of Calcutta, Metropolitan of India, His Grace the Archbishop of Calcutta, the Rev. A. Ferrier, Senior Chaplain of the Kirk of Scotland, the General Commanding the Presidency Division, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Municipal Corporation of Calcutta, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commissioners for making Improvements in the port of Calcutta, the President and Vice-President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the President and Vice-Presidents of the British Indian Association, the Director of Public Instruction, the President and Vice-Presidents of the National Mahomedan Association, the President and Vice-Presidents of the European and Anglo-Indian Defence Association, the Hon. the Advocate-General, Mr. A. St. John Carruthers, President of the Attorneys' Association, Babu Hem Chunder Banerjee, President of the Vakils' Association, the President and Vice-Presidents of the Mahomedan Literary Society, the Master and Vice-Chairman of the Calcutta Trades Association, the President and Vice-Presidents of the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Association, the President and Vice-Presidents of the Indian Association, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesh Chandra Nyayaratna, C. I. E., Principal of the Sanskrit College, the Deputy Surgeon-General of Bengal, the Commissioner of Police, the Commandant of the Presidency Battalion of Volunteers, the Hon. H. J. S. Cotton, the Hon. G. H. P. Evans, Mr. R. Steel, Mr. S. E. J. Clarke, Rai Bahadur Rajcoomar Sarvabikari, Nawab Bahadur Abdool Luteef; the following Representatives of the press:---Mr. J. O' B. Saunders, Mr. A. Macdonald, Mr. James Wilson, Mr. Paul Knight, Babu Narendro Nath Sen, Babu Motilal Ghose. Consuls-General and Consuls :---Mr. John A. Ralli, Mr. E. E. Petrocochino. Representatives of the Armenian community :---Mr. A. A. Apar, Mr. A. G. Apar. Representatives of the Jewish community :---Mr. J. E. D. Ezra, Mr. E. S. Gubboy. Representatives of the Parsi Community :---Mr. P. E. Guzdar, Mr. H. M. Rustomjee. Representatives of the Jain and Marwari community :---Babu Shew Buksh Bagla, Rai Budri Dass Bahadur. Representatives of

the Brahmo community :---Maharshi Debendra Nath Tagore, Bhai Protap Chunder Mozumdar. The Sheriff of Calcutta.

He said : It was anticipated that this meeting which we, the citizens of Calcutta, have caused to be convened to enable us to give expression to our sentiments of loyal and heartfelt condolence with Her Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress of India and the Members of her Royal Family, would be as numerous as attended as the event has verified. It was therefore decided by the Committee which drafted the memorials that you have adopted that I should ask the various sections of our community to sign, as it were, by proxy.

Mr. Womack seconded this resolution.

His Honor the President said : I trust that this resolution will meet with your acceptance.

Prince Jehan Kadir Mirza Bahadur said,---I rise to propose a cordial vote of thanks to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for presiding as Chairman on this occasion, and it will require no words from me to recommend it to your favour. I sympathize sincerely with the objects of the meeting,---a sympathy in which the Mahomedans of Bengal join.

Nawab Meer Mahomed Ally seconded the resolution.

His Honor the President said,---I have to thank you for the courtesy which has been done me, and I have only to ask you to return thanks to the Sheriff for the trouble he has taken in arranging for this meeting, which has enabled us to have an opportunity of expressing the sentiments which are so widely spread as those to which utterance has been given to-day.

The Hon. Mr. Mackay said,---I thank you very much.---The meeting then dissolved.

THE LETTERS OF CONDOLENCE.

The following were the letters of condolence that were adopted :---

"To her Most Gracious Majesty, Victoria by the Grace of God, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India.

The humble and loyal address of the inhabitants of Calcutta in meeting assembled.

"May it please your Majesty :---We crave leave to approach you at this time in the hope that under Providence a manifestation of the loyalty and affection of your subjects may in some degree tend to mitigate the grief in which you have, within the past few days, been plunged by the loss of your beloved grandson, His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence and Avondale.

"His Royal Highness' recent visit to India gave us an opportunity of observing the qualities which endeared him to those with whom he came in contact, and inspired us with the brightest hopes in regard to his future.

"Speaking not only for ourselves, the inhabitants of the metropolis of India, but for the people of the great Province of Bengal, our sorrow at the untimely death of the Prince is greater when we remember that he was cut down just as he was about to form ties which, while they would have secured his own happiness, would have further endeared him to your Majesty's subjects.

"We feel, your Majesty, how words must fail to heal a wound such as that which your loving subjects now deplore, but we hope that the fresh proofs of the affectionate and loyal sympathy for your royal person and your throne, which will be evoked by the sorrow that has now arisen, may strengthen and help you to bear the overwhelming affliction.

"With prayers that He with whom alone is true consolation may comfort and sustain you,---We are, with respectful sympathy, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects."

To His Royal Highness Albert Edward, Prince of Wales.

The humble address of the inhabitants of Calcutta in meeting assembled.

"May it please your Royal Highness :---It is with the deepest sorrow that we have heard of the sudden and crushing blow which has fallen upon your Royal Highness and your beloved Consort, and we desire to give expression to the respectful and earnest sympathy which pervades the people of this city and this Province.

"Sixteen years ago we had the honour of receiving your Royal Highness in Calcutta, and the recollection of your gracious presence is still fresh in the memory of many, and but two short years have passed since we had the privilege of welcoming your beloved son, who is now no more.

"A few weeks ago we rejoiced to learn that His Royal Highness was about to form ties, which, while ensuring personal happiness for himself, would have given unbounded satisfaction to all Her Majesty's subjects, and now we mourn his loss and the destruction of all those bright hopes for the future.

"We trust that the knowledge of the manner in which your grief is shared by millions of hearts throughout the Empire may, in some measure, help to console you in the affliction which has fallen upon your Royal House, and we pray that consolation from above may come to you and to Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales in this dark hour of your trial.

"We are, with respectful sympathy, Your Royal Highness, your most humble and obedient servants."

WONDERFUL MEDICINE. BEECHAM'S PILLS



ARE universally admitted to be worth A GUINEA A BOX. For Bilious and Nervous Disorders, such as Wind and Pain in the Stomach, Sick Headache, Giddiness, Fulness and Swelling after Meals, Dizziness and Drowsiness, Cold Chills, Flushings of Heat, Loss of Appetite, Shortness of Breath,

Costiveness, Scurvy and Blotches on the Skin, Disturbed Sleep, Frightful Dreams, and all Nervous and Trembling Sensations, &c.

BEECHAM'S PILLS The first dose will give relief in twenty minutes. This is no fiction, for they have done it in countless cases.

BEECHAM'S PILLS Every sufferer is earnestly requested to try one Box of these Pills, and they will be acknowledged to be WORTH A GUINEA A BOX.

BEECHAM'S PILLS For females of all ages these Pills are invaluable. No female should be without them. There is not a medicine to be found to equal them for removing any obstruction or irregularity of the system. If taken according to the directions given with each box they will soon restore females of all ages to sound and robust health. This has been proved by thousands who have tried them, and found the benefits which are ensured by their use.

BEECHAM'S PILLS For a Weak Stomach, Impaired Digestion, and all Disorders of the Liver, they act like magic, and a few doses will be found to work wonders on the most important organs in the human Machine. They strengthen the whole muscular system, restore the long lost complexion, bring back the keen edge of appetite, and arouse into action with the rosebud of health the whole physical energy of the human frame. These are facts testified to continually by members of all classes of society, and one of the best guarantees to the Nervous and Debilitated is, BEECHAM'S PILLS have the Largest Sale of any Patent Medicine in the World.

SOLE AGENTS FOR INDIA:
NAYLOR, SON, GRIMES & CO.
Wholesale Depot, 35, Clive Street,
CALCUTTA:

NOTICE.—MESSRS. NAYLOR SON GRIMES & Co. will forward, on receipt of letter, sample boxes of the Pills at the following rates:—9½d. size 8 annas per box. 1s 1½d. size 12 annas per box. 2s 9d. size 2 Rupees per box. These rates do not include the cost of postage, which will be added to the amount. Chemists and Storekeepers can obtain wholesale rates on application.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

Applications under Section 21 of Act II. B.C. of 1888 for addition to the list of names of persons qualified as voters under clauses (a) and (e) of Section 8 of the Act and for addition to or substitution of names in the preliminary List of Voters under clauses (b) (c) and (d) of Section 8 issued under Section 20 of the Act as well as for allotment of more votes than are allotted in the List or for transfer of votes, will be received in this office up to the 29th instant.

Applications made under clauses (a) (b) (c) and (e) should be accompanied by duly paid rate bills for the 3rd quarter 1891-92.

H. LEE,
Chairman of the Corporation.
Municipal Office,
Calcutta, the 15th January 1892.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

The public are hereby informed that any person who considers that any name in the List of Voters prepared under section 20 of Act. II B.C. of 1888, ought to be omitted or that the votes allotted to any person ought to be reduced, should under the 6th clause of section 21 of the Act apply to this office to have such name omitted or the number of votes reduced as the case may be.

All such applications will be received up to the 29th instant.

JOHN COWIE,
Secretary to the Corporation.
Municipal Office,
Calcutta, the 18th January 1892.

ARMY CLOTHING DEPARTMENT.

Alipore, the 20th January 1892.

Sealed tenders are invited for the supply of miscellaneous stores and materials including buttons, haversacks, canvas, sewing cotton, flannel, gaiters, pith-hats, puttees, thread, cloth blue local, khaki drill, webbing drab, &c., &c., &c., more or less as may be required, for the year 1892-93.

2. Tenders will only be received on the printed forms which are obtainable at this office. Blanks in the printed form must be filled up correctly.

3. Each tender must be accompanied by a Bank of Bengal or Government Treasury deposit receipt in the name of the Superintendent for Rupees one hundred as earnest-money. Cash or notes will not be accepted in lieu.

4. The lowest tender will not necessarily be accepted, any tender may be accepted in whole or in part.

5. Any person whose tender may be accepted, will be required to furnish security in cash, Government Loan paper, Savings Bank deposits, or approved Bank deposit receipts, for the due fulfilment of his contract within one week from the date of acceptance of his tender, in default of which his earnest-money will be forfeited. The security will be calculated at 10 per cent. on the contract.

6. Any further information required may be obtained, and sealed patterns inspected at the Clothing Agency.

7. Tenders will be opened by undersigned at noon on Monday the 15th February 1892 in the presence of such persons as may desire to attend.

W. H. MACKESY, Colonel,
Superintendent, Army Clothing.

Congress Sketches: A Review

OF THE
SPEECHES AND THE SPEAKERS
AT THE

Fourth Indian National Congress
Held at Allahabad.

Reprinted with additions and alterations from
Reis & Rayyet

With a portrait of Mr. George Yule, President.

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at the office of the Advocate, at Lucknow, and
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CAPITAL.—Rs. 3,00,000, divided into 3,00,000 shares of Re. 1 each.

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BANKERS.—The New Oriental Bank Corporation, Ltd.

Full details in the Prospectus, which contains letters of sympathy and support from the most eminent personages in the land. The following, among others, are our principal

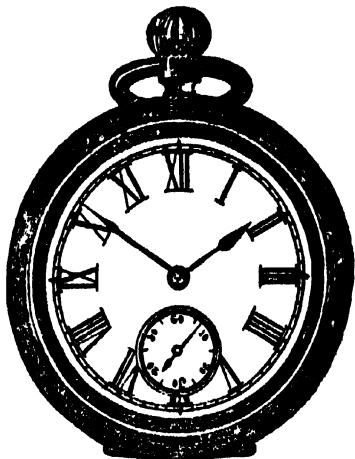
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Wanted active and pushing Agents everywhere for the above Company. Cash security required Rs. 250, (each).

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Keeping Watch in the World.**
All our Watches Guaranteed for 2 years
PRICE RS. 6-8.



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Runs 30 Hours with one winding, short wind, Regulated to a minute a month. Bold hands and figures, enameled dial, sunk second hand, set from outside. It has a jewelled visible compact escapement. Can be repaired by any watch-maker for a trifle. Is a thoroughly reliable Machine-made Watch, in velvet lined spring case.

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THE PILLS

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LIVER, STOMACH, KIDNEYS AND BOWELS,
They invigorate and restore to health Debilitated Constitutions, and
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Is an infallible remedy for Bad Legs, Bad Breasts, Old Wounds,
Sores and Ulcers. It is famous for Gout and Rheumatism. For
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For Sore Throats, Bronchitis, Coughs, Colds,

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*Has been accorded Government Sanction
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THE TARKESWAR-MUGRA FEEDER RAILWAY IN THE DISTRICT OF HOOGHLY.

By Public Works Department Notification
published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of
the 20th January,

The scheme having been fully approved by
both the Governments of Bengal and India.

Some shares of the Company, valued at
Rs. 10 (ten) each, being yet for disposal to
the public the share-list will be kept open,
until its final closing is announced, for the
registration of share-holders on payment of
One Rupee per share at the

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Tarkeswar-Mugra Railway scheme are to be
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The Greatest Pain Cure Extant.

It has driven out from the system
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after years of semi-helplessness and suffering;
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Its magic effect in affording instantaneous
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Neuralgia in the Head, Face and Limbs

Is almost too remarkable for CREDENCE.

Are you subject to HEADACHES and the
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In Sore-throat its power has been so rapid
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Try this wonderful Medicine and let the
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The Oriental Balm is used by the best Phy-
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paration has ever before attained.

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Agents in Calcutta: Smith Stanistreet & Co.,
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Guaranteed two Years.

Pretty, small, accurate, strong, open-faced,
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ed watch, with hand setting mechanism,
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figures for Rs. 6 per V. P. P. with an extra
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Easily repairable. Warranted to stand rough-
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Have no appearance of cheapness. Mr. S.
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says:—"Many were deceived thinking that its
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pair), Scarf Pins, Scarf Rings, Necklets,
Brooches, Hair Sprays, Spectacle Frames,
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Smith, Salt Inspector, Sanikutta, says:—"A
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ruby at Rs. 30." Nickel Silver Timepieces for
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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 1892.

No. 509

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

BEETHOVEN'S SPIRIT WALTZ.

STRANGE, wild, rich music!—how it thrills and thrills
My inner heart—a piercing melody!
And then such strains of sadness that it fills
My brooding thought with many a phantasy
From the dark, trembling depths of memory;
Of all that was so beautiful in life—
Voices that wake the heart to ecstasy,
Treasures with which my early morn was rife—
But perished all, amid earth's changes, toil, and strife.

There is that soft and tender air—the voice
Of her that was so meek, with eyes of light,
Which touched the heart, yet bade it still rejoice—
A gentle spirit clothed with holy might;
It speaks to me again—e'en with affright.
Thy well-known tones, my sister, now I hear,
And the eye strains as it would burst the sight
Through the dark folds of sense, and see thee near:
In vain—poor, anxious orb—it melts into a tear.

And now a choir of voices float along,
From the far distance, softly stealing o'er me,
As music o'er the waters, or the song
Which visits us in dreams so tenderly,
We think good angels make the harmony—
Are ye with sweet accord all singing now,
Once loved on earth, but now in heaven that be?
From streams of light, from banks where amaranths blow,
Do ye come down to weep with those who weep below?

And now methinks I'm carried far away,
As on the bosom of the summer air—
And strange, soft, spiritual lights around me play,
And visions open of the bright and fair,
That now the wearied, wounded heart repair—
Oh, happy world! where love and peace abide—
Oh, blessed ones! I see, I see you there!
Joy floweth free in an unmingled tide,
Nor love itself desires or hopes for aught beside.

The music changes—heaven's harps are ringing
Such holy measures, that e'er the thought is still
Cherubic voices now their anthems singing,
That Music's soul itself these voices fill,
And every feeling moveth at their will:
Ah! there's that strain again—and now in tears
The vision fades—I own 't was human skill,
The sweetest sound the touch of sorrow wears,
And Music still on earth, in Pilgrim's weeds appears.

THE HORSE.

"We all have our hobbies."

Nay, ladies, forgive, though the truth be confessed,
A horse is the treasure we English love best.
You may sigh if you will, though 't were better to laugh,
For we'd rather be hunting than wooing by half!

See, see where he stands in his beauty and pride!
Man scarce seems the noblest when placed by his side.
What strength in his limbs as he spurns the dull ground,
How bold his full eye as he glances around!

Stand, stand till I'm mounted!—now off where you will;
Over fence, ditch, or gate—I can stick to you still—
Deep and wide flows the brook—stay! 't were madness to do it!
One plunge and one snort—we are over—or through it!

Nay, frown not, fair dames, nature cannot be changed;
It is useless to mutter—"mad fool, or deranged!"
You must needs yield the palm, poor disconsolate Mentors;
The horse is our better-half—English are centaurs!

THE DEATH OF INFANTS.

How peacefully they rest,
Cross-folded there
Upon his little breast,
Those tiny hands, that ne'er were still before,
But ever sported with his mother's hair,
Or the plain cross that on her breast she wore!
Her heart no more will beat,
To feel the touch of that soft palm;
That ever seemed a new surprise,
Sending glad thoughts up to her eyes,
To bless him with her holy calm;
Sweet thoughts, that left her eyes as sweet.
How quiet are the hands
That wove those pleasant bands!
But that they do not rise and sink
With his calm breathing, I should think
That he were dropped asleep;
Alas! too deep, too deep
Is this his slumber!
Time scarce can number
The years ere he will wake again.

* * *
He did but float a little way
Adown the stream of time,
With dreary eyes, watching the ripples play,
Listening their fairy chime;
His slender sail
Ne'er felt the gale;
He did but float a little way,
And putting to the shore,
While yet 't was early day,
Went calmly on his way,

Subscribers to the *Review* are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, and to send the order to the Department. No other receipt will be given, and orders being unsent, are liable to cause confusion.

To dwell with us no more ;
 No jarring did he feel,
 No grating on his vessel's keel ;
 A strip of silver sand
 Mingled the waters with the land
 Where he was seen no more :
 O, stern word, never more !

Full short his journey was ; no dust
 Of earth unto his sandals gave ;
 The weary weight that old men must,
 He bore not to the grave :
 He seemed a cherub who had lost his way,
 And wandered hither ; so his stay
 With us was short, and 't was most meet
 That he should be no deliver in earth's clod,
 Nor need to pause and cleanse his feet,
 To stand before his God.

NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

HERE is an addition to the Honor's List for the year :—

Khan Bahadur.

Munshi Zain-ul-Abdin, Deputy Collector, and Manager of Court of Wards' Estates in the Allahabad District.

Saiyid Ali Hasan, Deputy Collector, and Member of the Council of Regency, Rampur State.

Assistant Surgeon Muhammad Abdul Rahim, King's Hospital, Lucknow.

Rai Bahadur.

Sri Ram, Supervisor, Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, North-Western Provinces.

Assistant Surgeon Mahendra Nath Ohdehar, Colvin Dispensary, Allahabad.

Lala Munna Lal, Honorary Magistrate, Meerut.

St. John's College, Jaffna, has been affiliated to the Calcutta University in Arts up to the F. A. Standard.

MR. Justice Wilson goes on furlough for six months from February next. Mr. Charles H. Hill, Barrister-at-law, Public Prosecutor to the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, who has so many times officiated as a Judge in the Calcutta High Court, will do so again while Mr. Justice Wilson is away.

THE *Hindoo Patriot* announces a vacancy in the High Court bench and fills it, and then pronounces, "the Bengal High Court may well be congratulated on this appointment." The *Indian Daily News* shrewdly remarks :—

"Probably ; but we notice that this is about the only source whence congratulations come."

Just so. And such is pettifoggery journalism.

IN August 1892, it was announced that Stock Notes tendered in even hundreds of rupees would be received, at a premium of eight annas per cent., for conversion into Government Promissory Notes of the Four per cent. Loan of 1842-43, up to the 31st January 1892. The Governor-General in Council has been pleased to extend the time, for six months, to the 31st July next. After that extended period, and for six months subsequently, notes in even hundreds of rupees will be converted only at a premium of two rupees per cent.

THE Treaty of 1880 for a Customs Union between British India and Portuguese India, by which the latter came to be treated for Customs purposes as British India, expired on the 14th January last. The Treaty not being renewed, the Portuguese possessions must, from the 15th January, be considered as foreign territory and the Indian Tariff Act, 1882, has been amended to allow the levy of duties of Customs on goods passing by land out of or into foreign European Settlements bordering on any part of the territories administered by the Governor of Bombay in Council.

SRI Runga Chary, who successfully prosecuted the ex-Mohunt of Tirupati, has filed three suits in the North Arcot District Court for the dismissal of both the old and the new Mohunt of the Tirupati Temple. He has besides, with the permission of the Advocate-General, sued for settling a new scheme of management of the said Temple and its property.

THE Nagpore paper has been earnestly advocating the formation of a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals at Nagpore. Our contemporary shows ample work for such a humane institution. Such an institution indeed is required in every civilized centre, to check the ill usage to which the lower animals are liable from the selfishness and brutality of irresistible man. But a S. P. C. A. can do little unless the law protect the lower animal world. We trust there is legislative provision in the Central Provinces in this behalf. We hope the enlightened members of the community, of all races and creeds, will attend to the subject and do their duty by their dumb brethren.

MISS Cornelia Sorabjee, a young Parsee lady, has contributed a short paper to the *Nineteenth Century* headed, modestly enough, "Stray Thoughts of an Indian Girl." She confines herself to two subjects, and these are, of course, Infant Marriage and Widow Marriage. However, she is no fire-eating blue-stocking, but writes not only with the modesty which befits a young lady, not to say girl, but also with the sense of responsibility of one who knows Indian society and specially Parsee homes. Thus she says—"The liberty of English girls is constantly being quoted in comparison with the infant marriages of Indian children, but you might as well start a mission to clothe the children of tropical regions in furs, because English children suffer from the severity of a northern winter." Infant marriages, she asserts, turn out happily as a rule, and she pleads for caution and patience. She is evidently against interfering with a system closely mixed up with the people's religion. Seeing that she gives from 13 to 18 as the age at which betrothed girls are married, we conclude that she is unacquainted with the practice in Bengal. Miss Sorabji thinks that the law can do little to promote the marriage of widows. She relies more on the efforts of the National Congress.

OUR readers may be aware that a mosque has been opened at Liverpool a few months ago. On December 4, the first marriage was held in it. An Indian barrister, Sheikh Meeran Buksh, graduate of the Lahore University, Punjab, India, and of Gray's Inn, London, was united to Miss Amelia Davies, of Lansdowne Terrace, Russell Square, London, a convert to Islam. They were first taken to the reading room of the mosque, where the preliminary details as to dower, &c., were arranged. Then the bridal party entered the mosque, where they were made man and wife by the English moollah.

THE congregation of the mosque in question have not a happy time of it. The Christians of Liverpool are showing their love of liberty and fairplay by sending their roughs to bombard the new place of worship and attack the worshippers with brickbats and rotten eggs.

UNDER its present management, the Victoria Institute is doing very well, and bids fair to take the shine out of the older institutions of the kind. The December meeting, held under the lead of the distinguished president, Sir George Stokes, Bart., M.P., V.P.R.S., was a great success. The principal business was the reading by Dr. Tisdall of a paper on "Islam ; its Origin, Strength and Weakness." After showing the extent of territory covered by Islam, the Doctor reviewed the different estimates formed by European writers respecting its true nature. He then inquired into the origin and true character of the religion founded by Mahomed. According to him, Islam is a corrupt form of latter-day Judaism, with which ideas and practices derived from Arabian and Persian heathenism, and in one or two instances from Christian heretics, have been mingled. Relying chiefly upon Ibn Ishag, Ibn Hisham, and Ash Shahrastani, he indicated the degree to which Mahomed submitted to each of these influences. He compared the Quran with the Talmud and the Zend Avesta. He next went into the question of the strength and the weakness of Islam. In his view, the system is a strange medley of truth and falsehood. Lastly, he dwelt upon the conflict between religion and morality in the religion of the "Prophet," and briefly referred to the evil influence which Islam has ever exercised and still exercises over the

lands where it holds sway. That of course is the Nazarene's view. It ignores the great blessings conferred on the world by the creed of Mahomed. In Asia and Africa, Islam has been a great civiliser. Even Europe owes something to the Moors of Spain and the Saracens whom the Crusaders fought. A long and animated discussion followed, in which many well-known Orientalists took part. Notice was given that, at the January meeting, Dr. Hall, the master of Downing College, Cambridge, would read a paper.

THE Lieutenant-Governor had been to Burdwan. He leaves Calcutta on the 9th February for the Cuttack tour. He will be accompanied throughout the tour by the Senior Member of the Board of Revenue, the officiating Chief Secretary, the Revenue Secretary and the Private Secretary. The party leave Sealdah by rail at 8-30 A.M., take steamer at Diamond Harbour, and reach Nulcool on the 10th. Thence by canal to Balasore. Next by road to Soroh on the 13th and Bhadrack on the 14th. Again by canal to Jajpore on the 15th and Cuttack on the 17th. By road to Koordah on the 20th and Piply on the 22nd and Pooree on the 23rd. Thence by S. S. *Guide* to Calcutta, reaching it on the 26th at 12 noon.

AS was anticipated, the prosecution of Babon Anundo Chunder Roy, the well-known Dacca Pleader, and his servant, Madhubdas, fell through. The jury returned a unanimous verdict of not guilty. The Pleader was never doubtful of his success if tried by the High Court. It has, however, been a ruinous trial to him. He had not only to expend freely, but himself fell ill before the trial concluded.

AN Upper Indian contemporary writes:—

"Not much attention is paid by the home press so far to the operations in Kanjut. Dr. Leitner informs the British public that he himself could easily have effected a settlement with the tribesmen. The *Daily News* explains that the Kanjuts are only fighting now as some wild men in Oudh fought when our pioneers first entered that State. They have learned from the fate of Oudh and the Punjab that pick and shovel only mean annexation. It adds: 'It is plain enough that one of the last neutral zones between Russia and Afghanistan is quite lost, and that between Russia and British India is about to disappear. The nation should be taken fully into the Government's confidence.'"

What are the Kanojias and Pooroobeahs, the Hindu and Mussulmans of Lutknow and Fyzabad a set of savages? Or else, who were the "wild men" in Oudh and when and where did they fight? And who are the British pioneers?

That extract is a fair sample of the Indian knowledge of the best organs in the British press.

A CORRESPONDENT writes from Rampore Beaulah, Rajshyhe:—

On last Sunday afternoon almost all the influential Mahomedan residents of this place assembled together under the presidentship of Moulvie Syud Mahomed, Khan Bahadur, Deputy Magistrate, at the residence of Moulvie Tafazzul Hossain, Vice-Chairman of the local municipality, to consider what steps should be taken for expressing their loyal and sincere sympathy, and offering their heartfelt condolence to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, and their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, on the disastrous domestic calamity that has overtaken the Royal Family of England. After a short but most touching speech from the chair on the most unexpected event and the deeply melancholy circumstances under which the young Duke of Clarence and Avondale has been snatched away by the cruel hand of death, the following resolution was passed:—

That a telegraphic message be sent to His Excellency the Viceroy to the effect that the Mahomedans of this place have come to know with the deepest regret and the profoundest sorrow, of the sad, sudden, and most lamented death of H. R. H. the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, and they, in meeting assembled, most respectfully offer their most loyal sympathy and their most heartfelt condolence to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family, on this sad and melancholy occasion.

The following day a telegram containing the purport of the above resolution was sent to the Private Secretary to the Viceroy.

ERRATA.—Page 38, column 2, line 33 from top, for his read has [P. 40, col. 1, l. 2 from bottom, for Icarus read Icarus [P. 40, col. 2, l. 16 from top, for in the read at (.)]

NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

A SPECIAL London *Gazette* just issued contains letters from the Queen to Mr. Mathews, the Home Secretary, in which Her Majesty says:—

"I must re-affirm my deep sense of the loyalty and affectionate sympathy of my subjects in every part of the Empire, shown on an occasion more sad and tragical than any but one which has befallen me and mine or the nation. The sudden cutting off of my beloved grandson, so full of promise and of amiable and gentle disposition, renders it hard to his sorely-stricken parents, his dear young bride, and his grandmother, who bow to the inscrutable decrees of Providence. The sympathy of millions so touchingly expressed is deeply gratifying, and I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to all. These evidences of sympathy with us and the appreciation of my grandson, whose devotion to me was equal to that of my sons, are a help and solace to me and mine. My bereavements during the last thirty years have been, indeed, heavy, but although my labours, anxieties, and responsibilities have been great, my earnest prayer is that God may continue to give me help and strength to work for the good and happiness of my dear country while life lasts."

ANOTHER of the people's representatives is in a bad way. Mr. Hastings, M.P., charged with embezzlement of trust funds, has been committed for trial, but let out on bail of £20,000. In India, the courts, specially the lower ones, are not always so considerate. At the best they play into the hands of the lawyers. The practice seems to be for Magistrates to refuse bail simply because the offence is non-bailable, leaving it to the High Court to exercise the discretion given by law to order bail.

INFLUENZA is making a great havoc in London. For the three weeks before the last mail left England, the deaths were progressively, 8, 17 and 19. Next week, the number went up to 37. For the last week, the number is as high as 506, or twice as much as in the previous fortnight. The death-rate in Dublin has increased to 54, and in Brighton to 61 per thousand of the population. A Royal Commission may issue to enquire into the origin and causes of influenza.

There have been several cases in and around Calcutta, and the disease is spreading.

Dr. Richard Pfeiffer, a son-in-law of Professor Robert Koch and Director of the scientific section of the Imperial Institute for Infectious Diseases in Berlin, claims to have discovered the influenza bacillus, having successfully transplanted it in six cases. While he found a peculiar microbe in the sputum, a young doctor of the Moabit Hospital in Berlin traced the same in the blood of influenza patients. Supposing the cause is accepted, what is the remedy?

THE retired Brigade Surgeon G. Yates Hunter, Bombay Army, now of 48, Philbeach-gardens, S. W., thus speaks of a cure or rather a preventive:—

"Last spring, when influenza raged in a virulent form at Sheffield and elsewhere, I advocated the use of 'Halviva' as a cure, or, better still, as a preventive. The remedy was largely tried, and with most satisfactory results, as abundant testimony proves.

I had considerable experience in India of the virtue of the plant, from which 'Halviva' is prepared; in malarial fever and nervous exhaustion, it acts like quinine, but more safely. Hence I believe its value in influenza, which, judging from the nature of the accompanying fever, the back-ache and other symptoms, would seem to be of malarial origin. I brought this medicine before the profession through the medical press in the first instance, and numerous medical men have shown their high estimate of it by prescribing it, and others by dispensing it.

Prevention is better than cure; so I advise all, especially those who are employers of labour and those interested in the well-being of the poor, who furnish so many victims, to give it a trial. It builds up the powers of resistance, and a little goes a long way."

"C. J. H. W.," of Calcutta, explains in the *Englishman* that

"Halviva is the *Andropogon paniculata*, Wall. According to the authors of the *Pharmacographia*, it is more or less known in Indian bazaars by the name of *chiretta*, a designation under which other species of *ophelia* than the true *chiretta* and *Exacum* are also vended."

"Sherbrook" testifies to the efficacy of the drug thus:—

"I can well substantiate Brigade Surgeon Yates Hunter's remedy 'Halviva' as a cure for malarial fever and ague. In fact, I believe it to be far better than quinine, as the medicine is administered while the fever is on, and appears to have no after effects. During the last rains I made a tincture from the plant, and gave it out gratis to some hundreds of poor cases, which, I am glad to say, proved a cure in almost every case. Should Mr. Thurston desire to obtain a small bottle of the tincture, he can have it by sending to me through your agency. The plant being valuable, I must decline to give it up."

ALL the newspapers in the Empire have gone into mourning for the death of the Duke of Clarence and Avondale. The native papers in India, English and in Vernacular, have vied with one another in their loyalty to the throne. Bombay as usual has most distinguished herself in her press as well as her public bodies and representative men. The *Rast Gofar* has come out with a portrait of the deceased Prince. The latter-press of all the journals is, of course, pitched in a superlative key of passion. One respectable diglot in its English columns, taking a wider survey of the havoc caused by death, has sunk into a climax of grief in the following terms:—

"The death of Prince Albert is a loss to the Empire, the death of Cardinal Manning to the Church, and that of Pandit Ajodhyanath to India and the Congress movement."

THE accomplished scholar who contributes to the *Times of India* under the signature "Pen," appears to have gone to England. He hence writes at Christmas time:—

"That one should look half regretfully towards India as Christmas time approaches is, I suppose, a little inconsistent, but the fact is that all the hard things that are said about India are said *in* India. One never meets any Anglo-Indian at home who does not speak with kindness and even with affection of the country where his best days have been passed, where all his warmest friendships have been formed, where he has spent so many happy years. A man may be very happy at home but he cannot forget the fascination of the East,—'the splendour and havoc of the East,' as Kinglake calls it in *Eothen*. Those who have retired for good would fain have another spell of the work and bustle of the old Indian days, and envy those who are returning to duty there. And at this time of the year one recalls former Christmas days spent with friends now far distant, and with all one's heart one wishes them good luck and prosperity in the coming year."

That is the honest truth. The Anglo-Indians have usually little to fall back upon in the old country. Their tie with it is merely sentimental. On the other hand, the East is the scene of their happiness as well as the theatre of their glory. Notwithstanding, from a viciousness common to the kind and most developed in the British, while here they delight to fret at the country and cavil at all its belongings, and altogether lash themselves into something very like real misery. They love to dwell on the great prospects they would fain believe they sacrificed in electing an Indian career, and on the imaginary bliss they promise themselves on their return. Thus lightly, they or the sillier of them, embark on board on their retirement. The reflections on the homeward voyage sober them somewhat. Once on *terra firma*, an hour of actual English experience completes the disillusion. Before long, the patriotic returned exile longs for the dirty, nasty, sun-tortured East, the home of malaria, the cholera, "those oleaginous natives," the unspeakable Baboo, and the depreciated Rupee.

THE late Duke of Devonshire whose place in the British Peerage has fallen to his son, hitherto Lord Hartington, will in all human probability be followed to the grave by a whilom Dowager of the house whose misfortune gave him the chance of stepping into the Dukedom. For, after a protracted illness, she is now at the point of death at her retreat at Madeira. We refer to the Princess of the Imperial House of Russia, who fell in love with the handsome Ambassador of Britannic Majesty at the court of St. Petersburg. The Duke of Devonshire, who was the Ambassador, and the Princess Romanoff were quietly married in a Roman Catholic Church without the privity of the Emperor. They knew the offence involved in this sort of union under the rose. But they could not hope for the Emperor allowing a lady of his house to marry beneath her. Nor could they expect an ecclesiastic of the established Greek Church to unite them without such permission. On the other hand, they were too far gone mad in love—holy love—to leave their hearts and hearth and all happiness at the mercy of despots. Hence the step they took. When the Czar was apprized of the marriage, he flew into a rage, just as Napoleon did when news came from beyond the main of a Bonaparte's wedding an American girl. The mighty upstart at the head of France, who cherished the vision of introducing his despised Corsicans into the royal caste, by forcing them upon the great reigning Houses of Europe, nullified the latter marriage, and forbade Miss Paterson, the bride, entering France. The sovereign Romanoff declared the Princess Romanoff's union with the Englishman *ipso facto* void. But marriage or no marriage, they would not part, and when the English lord returned to his native country, the Russian Princess followed him. There they lived as man and wife, whatever the dictum of the Czar or the effect of the Conflict of Laws respecting their conjugal status. To clear the legal difficulty,

they were advised to perform their marriage anew in England, in a Protestant church. The gentleman was willing, but the lady would not hear of it. Already duly united in holy wedlock in a Christian church, the Princess naturally revolted from a step which were tantamount to an acknowledgment on her part that she had been sinning with her husband! How, again, could she have the heart to proscribe her own innocent offspring, branding them with bastardy? Poor woman! her situation was desperate. There was no escape from a dire alternative. At last she submitted to the lesser evil, electing to condemn her past so as to save the future, and abandoning the children born to her to secure the rights and happiness of those that might thereafter be born. Thus they were married over again, under happier auspices, before the whole world. In due course, the reunion was blessed with a son and heir to the father's domains. Unfortunately that son lost his life by a fall from his horse. That accident advanced Lord William Cavendish to the heirship. Him Lord Hartington has just succeeded.

THE *Englishman's* Lady Correspondent, writing from London on New Year's Day, skims the cream of an account of the Royal kennel published in the *Stock-keeper* [sic.] *Journal*. The arrangements for Her Majesty's canine establishment are on a profuse and sumptuous scale and, though there are keepers and overseers and inspectors in any number, the Queen-Empress herself superintends it. There are dogs of many and various species, but she fancies Spitzes and Collies most. And yet not only all the breeds but every specimen and each individual share the royal kindness and care enough. From birth and, if possible, before, to death and after, they are equally served. It may be imagined with what intelligent sympathy the female kind of the kennel while in an interesting condition are treated on the establishment of the royal mother. Her Majesty loves to—may we say *christen* the dogs? Perhaps we may, for Her Majesty gives them something like a decent Christian burial. Well fed and thoroughly cared for as they are, living in dry and well-ventilated quarters, protected from wind and weather, physicked according to need, treated medically and nursed in sickness, finally, after life's fitful fever, they sleep well beneath the turf of their playground, having tablets to their memories raised over them. How many thousands, not to say millions, of Her Majesty's subjects must envy the lot of these lucky creatures! It is not added that the Poet Laureate is commanded to supply elegies. No matter; there are poetsasters in the Household enough to do the needful, in the cases at least of special favorites. We have little doubt that their portraits are taken, as those of the more favored menials of Her Majesty's Indian Viceroy.

Love of children has always been recognised as a mark of a good nature. Love of animals is, we think, a surer indication. Children are near to us and appeal directly to our feelings. Miniature humans naturally interest humanity at full length. After all, we vicariously love our own children in others, though unconsciously perhaps. There is no such consideration in the other case. There is no such tie between man and the brutes or beasts as they are contemptuously called. His kindness for them is, therefore, simply gratuitous—perfectly unselfish. Children should be encouraged to love the dumb harmless creatures about them by way of schooling them in the charities of life. We know no better moral training. Would that the officers of the Department of Public Instruction and school teachers and all who have the formation of youth in their hands kindly accepted this simple recipe and applied it within the sphere of their influence!

To us Indians, loyal by instinct and creed, this morality recommends itself with all the greater force from the example of the throne. The whole Royal Family are kind to animals. It is said in the *Englishman's* London letter that the Queen is assisted in the superintendence of the kennel by the Princess Beatrice. The whole Household take an interest in the work. Her Majesty's love of animals and specially dogs, is no new thing. Her intelligent interest in the lower world of being was the means of drawing out of obscurity to the fore front a unique but modest literary genius of sterling worth. Many of our readers must be acquainted with "Rab and His Friends," but not many, we believe, know the history of the narrative. It appeared originally as an article in a long defunct but once-distinguished serial, the *North British Review*. As such it was not much regarded by the public, until it attracted the royal notice. Many a learned Dryasdust doubtless thought that a description of a dogfight might be literature proper for Southern Europeans—for the bull-fight-loving Spaniards, for instance—but not for the humane and respectable British. Stiff Presbyterianism probably resented it as a degradation of its special

organ. The sovereign knew better. It was the finest thing that ever appeared in a journal enriched by the thought and scholarship of all the leading Scotchmen, a production of which Scotland may always be proud. Her Majesty was at once struck by the tender vivacity, the humour and pathos, the power of individualising members of the lower animal world. She discerned the hand of a new genius, and she sent to the conductors to enquire about the authorship. All at once Dr. John Brown emerged into fame. The Royal admiration was soon echoed by the great world at large. The publishers reaped a rich harvest. Successive editions of the periodical were exhausted and finally *Rab and His Friends* appeared in the glory of separate publication. It is a mere dog sketch. A genuine love of animals is the secret of its power, and the same love led to its recognition. Brown was a profound man of science, a subtle philosopher, and an original speculator, with a delicate taste in Art and *Belles Lettres*, but he never produced anything equal to his first effort. For that, besides being famous, he received a pension of £300 a year from the royal bounty.

THE *Saturday Review* administers a sharp castigation to "society" journalism in the person of one of its leading exponents. Referring to "Labby's" unseasonable exhibition of rude radicalism, it opened one of its recent issues with the following paragraph:—

"The progress of Prince George has been slow, but, it is hoped satisfactory. When he is well enough he will be able to amuse himself with the graceful pictorial tribute to his family which the editor of a 'Society paper' called *Truth* has produced under the guise of a 'Christmas number.' By the way, this publicist's pictorial reminiscences of the difference between 1841 and 1891, and his laudation of times past, might have been carried further. Mr. Grantley Berkeley, and other people who knew how to treat 'Society' journalists, though they may have made mistakes as to the culprits, were alive in 1841. Yet we are not wholly degenerate; and it is rumoured that there are still among us some of the tribe whose shoulders have felt the cane."

We are afraid few readers in these days, specially here so far abroad, will understand the allusion which conveys the punishment. Mr. Grantley Berkeley was a man of society and a fashionable novelist whose novels have long since been forgotten, but who is still remembered by his social adventures and his autobiographical reminiscences and his anecdotes of the upper ten thousand. His very works of fiction breathed the self-consciousness of a scion of aristocracy and his own house. This is particularly true of "*Berkeley Castle*," in which his ancestors are offensively exalted beyond the bounds of common partiality. The same story is disfigured by other errors of taste. In fact, it is not a very delicate production, though that is a rather common reproach against fashionable and sensational literature. But, whatever the measure of its faults, the book was treated by the press with excessive virulence. Those were the days of literary vivisectionists who carried on their operations without recourse to the use of anaesthetics or anodynes. *Fraser's Magazine* in particular was savage upon "*Berkeley Castle*." Not only was the book condemned as vain and immoral, full of "bestialities," and an insult to the lady to whom it was dedicated, but the author was pursued with extraordinary bitterness and loaded with contempt. Coarseness and want of truth as well as of honour were freely imputed, and the very secrets of his birth and parentage unearthed for the purpose of insulting him. Mr. Berkeley was stung to fury by the onslaught. Those were the days of violence in deed as well as in word, and Mr. Berkeley was known to be a fire-eater. Had he thought his assailant a worthy foe, he would have called him out. Instead, he went directly to the office of the *Magazine*.

But not quite as a hero. In fact, he justified by his conduct the imputation of poltroonery. He took another Berkeley with him and, what is significant, a British *goonda*—a mercenary London brave—and, whip in hand, marched to the *sanctum sanctorum* of literature and there

attacked Mr. Fraser. The unprepared and astonished publisher was ferociously belaboured within an inch of his life. It was a mad business and a blunder. Mr. Grantley Berkeley, as he thought, executed vengeance on his critic, but he had got hold of the wrong man. Poor Fraser was a vicarious sacrifice. He was incapable of the criticism which, whatever may be thought of its temper or taste, is a work of genius. Dastardly as the proceeding was, its heinousness was aggravated by the remorseless violence being heaped on the innocent. Fraser, according to the British way, sought for pecuniary compensation in court and obtained £100 with costs. Mr. Grantley Berkeley, not satisfied with breaking his heavy whip on Mr. Fraser, sued him for libel, and, strangely enough, he got a verdict, however nominal, of 40 shillings, each side bearing its own costs.

Mr. Grantley Berkeley now burned to punish his real enemy—as he regarded his critic. Dr. Maginn avowed himself to be the author of the critique on "*Berkeley Castle*." He was challenged to a combat. That Bohemian was as ready with the pistol as with the pen. Accordingly, a duel was arranged between them and fought—not to the bitter end, God be thanked! Three shots were exchanged without drawing blood, and the irascible novelist was satisfied.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, January 30, 1892.

AN ADMINISTRATIVE BLUNDER:

OR,

THE STORY OF A SACRIFICE.

SINCE some time we have lying before us the papers of a very extraordinary case of dismissal of a public servant. An able ministerial officer, having served in almost every subordinate grade, rose at last to the head of the establishment, becoming what is called Sheristadar or Registrar of the Subordinate Judge's Court of a near district. While serving as Sheristadar, he incurred the ill will of a particular Sub-Judge in connection with certain circumstances that do not, to say the least, redound to the credit of the superior. We refrain from mentioning names. But this much should be added that, of all public servants, judicial officers in particular should be very circumspect about their private character, especially in relation to the other sex. The Sub-Judge of whom we are speaking enjoys an unenviable reputation in this respect. An *Etien* or a Cordery may offend for love however illicit and opposed to one of the especial commandments on the Mount. A Chaki or a Talapatra may drown his sense for once in a friendly entertainment and even come to blows with each other or with menials keeping guard over affrighted womankind. A Government may overlook suchsprees occurring as they do once in a decade. It is quite a different thing to overlook ungallant gallantry that is, besides, almost systematic and swinish inebriation desecrating the temple that is exclusively dedicated to the goddess of the sword and the scales, although such desecration may be perpetrated under cover of the night. To be brief, the Sub-Judge, as the result of the counsels of his Peshkar, the boon companion of his nocturnal revels, came to hate his chief ministerial officer whose only fault was that he had succeeded in rescuing his superior from the clutches of certain stalwart Caboolis and Mussulmans who had, at depth of night, tracked the *nika* wife of one amongst themselves to the Court-house, and who, on that account, had invested it closely and were waiting for the great minister of justice to come out of the sanctuary. The men were sent away with difficulty, and with difficulty the Sub-Judge was smuggled into his own lodgings. The Peshkar received a sound drubbing. Believing, at the instance of that wily satellite, that the attack and the rescue had both been

Holloway's Pills are securities of health to all nations, of whatever clime. They have given hope, relief, and comfort to millions. In irritation and debility, generated by excesses of any kind, or in general prostration of the system, their effect is rapidly soothing, renovating, and restorative. They rapidly drive from the system the morbid cause of ailment, and renew in the frame its pristine animation, health, and vigour. They greatly increase the appetite, give tone to the stomach, assist the digestion, and impart elasticity to the spirits; their essence enters the circulation and carried through its course exerts its cleansing power over every organ. In the lungs they effect most striking changes, converting the impure venous into pure arterial blood, by which the whole frame is recruited.

pre-arranged by the Sheristadar, the judicial officer from that day began to seek for a pretext for breaking his benefactor. One was soon found. The intended victim had been examined as a witness in his court. The litigant against whom the deposition went was easily persuaded to prosecute the witness for perjury. The necessary sanction required by law was accorded by the Sub-Judge. The circumstances connected with the grant of that sanction, are simply extraordinary. The petition praying for it was actually kept pending for thirteen months. The reasons assigned for the successive adjournments are perfectly idiotic. For all that, there was method in the madness. The victim was well known to Sir Rivers Thompson, and it was feared that if dismissed during Sir Rivers Thompson's rule, he might be restored to his appointment. The scandal in connection with the grant of this sanction was perfectly nauseating. The victim appealed to the High Court. The Sub-Judge himself fee'd Counsel for opposing the appeal. The High Court rejected it upon technical grounds. But now the party who had obtained the sanction, and who knew its value, was found unwilling to institute the complaint. The victim, however, in his own clearance and interest, forced him to commence the prosecution. A regular trial followed, with the result that the accused was cleared and the accuser lost his character.

Before the trial had commenced, the Sub-Judge had endeavoured to tamper with the officer who was to have tried it. He met with a proper rebuff in that quarter. While the sanction was still hanging upon the head of his victim, the Sub-Judge, fully conscious of the fact that the principal ground, *viz.*, the establishment of perjury, against his victim, would slip away from under his feet, addressed some confidential communications to two District Judges successively. One of the latter, (to anticipate the details,) so ill understood his duties that he not only refused to grant copies of those letters to the principal party concerned when the latter subsequently applied for them, but took the extraordinary precaution of collecting them together and actually sealing them up for deposit amid the public records of his Court. Prince Talleyrand and Lord Dalhousie directed their respective papers, private documents over which they had the fullest control, to be sealed up for only half a century. Here, however, was a Civilian Judge who directed a *public* document to be sealed for an indefinite period, never providing for any contingency in view of which it might, at any future time, be opened even once. The only circumstance omitted was a curse denounced on the hands that would break the cover put by Solomon. His successor, upon a renewed application for copies, ordered the seal to be broken, remarking that he had never before come across such an endeavour at concealment of the contents of a judicial record. It is said that the present Chief Justice had heard some particulars about the case and promptly applied the recognised Anglo-Indian panacea for all kinds of administrative evil by transferring the offending Sub-Judge to another station. But before the man could think of joining his new appointment, there was the victim whose fate should be determined. His last act was to address another confidential letter to the *locum tenens* of the permanent head of the District judiciary. That officer, however, had kept his head. Very properly he refused to take any action, as the criminal prosecution for perjury was then pending.

In due course, the permanent incumbent returned,

he who was for sealing up the departmental accusations against the innocent victim. With a frame of mind that requires no messenger from heaven to explain, he took up an intermediate petition that the suspended Sheristadar made to him. That petition was by way of appeal from an order of a new Subordinate Judge recommending that the suspended officer might be appointed to an inferior post pending the result of the criminal trial, specially as the departmental charges against him were not of a serious character. The appeal against this order, after having been kept for about half a year, was disposed of by the District Judge in simply an unprecedented manner. The appellant was refused the privilege of pleader's assistance in explaining his case. The Judge, having heard him on the petition, opened a mine upon him by judging his case upon grounds not even remotely mentioned in any document before him and upon which, therefore, the appellant had not at all been heard. The Sheristadar was dismissed. It was practically and essentially like a conviction for smuggling in a trial for nuisance or battery. To crown the irregularity and the cruelty, the order of dismissal was given a retrospective operation by a whole year and a half.

We come now to another phase of this remarkable case. The poor officer, thus removed from his appointment after a service of 29 years, appealed to the Government of Bengal. He pointed out that he had been dismissed in the very teeth of the standing order of the Honorable Court of Directors and the Government of India laying it down that no public servant should be dismissed without the charges against him being reduced into writing and without being heard in his defence. Unfortunately for him, he was simple enough to believe that a Civilian Secretariat would undo what a brother Civilian of the Judicial Department had done. He did not know that any number of standing orders that the Viceroy, or, for that matter, the very Secretary of State, might fulminate against illegal practices, are sure to be more honored in the breach than in the observance. The case had created an extraordinary sensation in the District. Hundreds of respectable persons, all of whom knew and know the real facts, testified to the innocence of the victim, and prayed for a proper enquiry. These expressions of opinion were quietly shelved in the capacious pigeon holes of the Under Secretary's desk, and the brief order was passed—"Declines to interfere." It was a weak administration that could thus seek to hush up a grave administrative scandal and resolve to keep such a Sub-Judge on the judicial seat. Struck dumb by the extraordinary injustice of the order, the victim addressed a memorial to the Viceroy. It is an able document. It disposes of every pretension against the memorialist's conduct with a calmness and force of argument that are rarely to be noticed in documents of a similar character addressed to Indian officials. In the appendices the gravest statements are made against the dismissing superior. The prayer with which it concludes is that if his Excellency thinks that the case is one of details, it may be sent to either the High Court or the present District Judge for report after a full hearing. The Government of Bengal, however, is resolute. The Chief Secretary, with perhaps a latent kindness for the memorialist, suggested that the latter should be taken at his word by being prosecuted in a criminal court. The Lieutenant-Governor, however, knows what is what. Never doubting that the charges are true, the

Provincial representative of the Viceroy, is for saving the prestige of the administration by refusing to send up the memorial, lest, like Lord Dufferin in a similar case brought to his notice, the liberal nobleman now at the head of the Indian Government hears of the matter and remedies the wrong perpetrated in the name of a weak administration. The ostensible reason assigned for the refusal is that there is little chance of the orders of the Local Government being upset. The technical ground is, of course, added by some observant underling that the memorialist, while in service, drew a pay that was less than Rs. 100. The rights of such a servant can, under the so-called rules for the transmission of petitions, be safely trampled upon. This reply has called forth a second letter from the victim. Never, perhaps, has the Secretariat received another communication of the kind in a case of dismissal of a public servant. Official obstinacy ought to yield to it. We may give the document to our readers in a future issue. Our dissatisfaction with the Congress is that it seeks to invade new ground while what has been already won is difficult to keep. Is it too much to hope that Lord Lansdowne will, like his great predecessor in a similar case, call up the record of this unprecedented attempt at hushing up a grave administrative scandal?

THE ZEMINDARI PANCHAYET MONTHLY.*

ALMOST the only visible achievement of the Calcutta society called the Zemindari Panchayet, has been the starting of a monthly serial in Bengali and even that, we regret to see, is far from punctual in its periodical appearance. There are signs of active exertion again, however, as we have just received the fourth and the fifth numbers for Aswin and Kartik, 1298, Bengal Era, stitched together in one cover. We hope the society will not relax its efforts but try to clear the remaining arrears by bringing out soon the next three issues. A monthly magazine behind time by a quarter of a year, is an obvious anachronism, an anachronism particularly emphasised in the portion devoted to news. Thus, we are treated in this issue to public intelligence full half a year old. For instance, at p. 100, we are told that there was a depression in trade in England in the month of August last, that mercantile men were seeking the cause thereof, that some were of opinion that in consequence of diminished harvests throughout Europe the price of agricultural produce went up to the discontent and turbulence of the working classes, &c., while others held that the rise was no temporary effect of short production but a permanent symptom of a commercial revolution. This and such other obsolete views have an absurd appearance without doing anybody the slightest good. We would advise the conductors to eschew this sort of make-believe and trifling with the public. Nothing like straightforwardness. Let them have the courage to accept their unfortunate position. They need not attempt a chronicle till they are once more abreast of the times. But whatever they do, accuracy should be their first care. Let them remember that theirs is a magazine, appearing not even month after month, but at true Zemindari—lordly leisure. The Native political press in Bengal has of late years been deteriorating in character, and the vernacular press has for the moment lost all credit. There are, however, or at least ought to be, Patrikas and Patrikas, and under any circumstances the *Patrika* under notice, the monthly organ of the Zemindari Panchayet, should be careful both in statement and in language. Such unmeaning expressions as "India's very excellent (*hitaishi*) Secretary Mr. Cotton," ought to have no place in a well-edited serial.

The present double number contains in its 48 pages fourteen papers. The most ambitious of them is the opening article from the pen of Baboo Dwijendra Nath Tagore, the philosopher of the Adi Brahmo Samaj. It is entitled the "Treatment of the Diseases of society according to Hindu (Sanskrit) Therapeutics." The description of the lapse of the body social from health to sickness in the terms of indigenous physiology, is very clever, but necessarily laboured, and has

an oppressive effect like that of a long-drawn-out allegory. The teaching is, of course, vague, specially for the mere Bengali reader. Indeed, we doubt whether the generality of English educated Bengalis, who are not tolerably familiar with the Hindu system of medicine, will be able to follow the writer. We have great respect for Babu Dwijendra Nath Tagore both as a man and as an author. We have always delighted in his lectures and essays. No man among us can make a point better. Acute in analysis, he is rich in humour. When he condescends to alight on solid earth, he is a formidable fighter as well as an admirable teacher. But much of his present exercise seems a waste of power. He is not happy in his European illustration nor accurate in his Indian social history. The idea that Rousseau and Voltaire were the causes of the French Revolution, is a very old error. It was exploded as early as the very commencement of the present century, by no less an authority than Mons. J. J. Mounier, the popular President of the first French National Assembly, in his book on the Supposed Influence of the Philosophers, the Free-Masons, and the Illuminati on the French Revolution. Later in our century, De Tocqueville's careful inquiry dealt the finishing stroke to the theory. How, again, comes the grandson of Dwarka Nath Tagore to assert that, half a century ago, beyond one or two extraordinary men, no body among us believed that English education could be good for anything but money making? What! was the state of things so low in 1840? Why, at that time the Derozio of whom the writer himself speaks as the powerful mover of the Hindu mind, had been dead more than ten years. By that time there was quite a milky way on our firmament, not counting the writer's own grandfather. There were not only Rajas Radhakanta and Kali Krishna Bahadoors and Ramcomul Sen of the old Orthodox school, and Prosunno Coomar Tagore, Radha Madhub Banerjee, Ramanath Tagore, and Russomoy Dutt of the old Liberal school, but also Tara Chand Chuckerbutty, Chunder Sekhur Deb, Russick Krishna Mullick, Kashiprasad Ghosh, K. M. Banerjee, Dukhinanarjun Mookerjee, Ram Gopal Ghose, Ram Tanu Lahiri, Gunga Narain Sen, R. J. Narain Dutt, Rajinder Dutt, Peary Chand Mittra, Tarini Charan Banerjee, and dozens of others whom we could name. Even at an earlier period, in 1816, when the first seminary for the higher education of the Hindus in English was founded, there were, besides the prodigy Ram Mohun Roy, an appreciable minority who were above the Rupee view of education. Otherwise, there would have been no Hindu College. That institution was established by the leading Hindus of Calcutta and the Maharaja of Burdwan and with their money. And from the most honorable motives, without any eye to the main chance. They do not know who think otherwise.

There are some useful articles, however, in the number—like the Culture of the Potato, the Indian Cultivator, &c.

MOFUSSIL MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

TO THE EDITOR.

Will you or any of your numerous readers kindly let me know through your medium, whether a member of a Hindu joint family paying municipal tax for a holding (which may or may not be Benami) assessed in his name, is eligible either as a voter or a candidate for the Commissionership of any mofussil municipality.

Azinganj, January 29.

* * There seems in law no bar to such member's being a voter or standing for election, provided he is otherwise qualified—by sex, age and residence. Of course, he must have paid the rates or taxes to the required amount for the required period.—ED. R. & R.

QUEER TASTES AND APPETITE:

OR

MODERN RAKSHASES.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—The following extract from the Clinical Department of an American medical journal may be of interest to your readers. It is headed *A Soap eater*, and is from the pen of R. Ellis, Esq., M.D., practising in Danbury, Connecticut (U. S.)

"I should like to place on record the history of the following case of a mania for soap-eating, which I believe deserves the coinage of the word *sopessomania*, or a mania for eating soap.

Mrs. J.—, aged twenty-nine, consults me in reference to an irritable stomach of long standing. She gives the following details. When about three years of age, she first enjoyed a mouthful of bar-soap; so agreeable was the taste that she would eat it 'whenever she could get it.' When aged five years, her mother found her, spoon in hand, eating soft-soap with keen relish. As she grew in years, so did her yearning for soap; her playmates ate candy, but she preferred soap; her father brought home to the other children sweetmeats, but to equally satisfy her a piece from common

* *Zemindari Panchayet Patrika*. Published every Month. Aswin and Kartik, 1298, Beng. E. Edited by the Assistant Secretary Jogendra Nath Basu, M.A., B.L. Calcutta.

bar-soap must be given. Until she was eleven her sopossomania continued. When awake she loved to handle it, and smell of it, and eat of it. When asleep she dreamed of soap. Often, to pacify her, a piece was given to her to hold in her hand to soothe her to sleep, when she continued in her imagination still to eat soap. At eleven her stomach burned her so that she stopped her habit, but still continued to love to handle and to think of eating the great delicacy.

"When twenty-three, or twelve years after her last feast, an advertising agent left at her door a five-cent bar of both-room soap, which pleased her so much that she ate it all in twenty-four hours. Since then she has eaten none, though there is always the desire to do so. Today, did not her stomach forbid, the yearning to 'eat some more' would be irresistible. Though she can no longer eat it, she still loves to handle it, she loves to use plenty of it in her house work and in her bath room. The smell of it is still sweet to her nostrils, and the thick ends she delights in remind her of the days gone by, never to return. Strange to say, she cares only for the coarse bar-soap; fancy soaps she never uses. Personally she is of nervous temperament, yet evidently a woman of much self-control. She asserts that her mania is as strong today as it was years ago, though she has tasted soap but once in eighteen years. Despite her statements, however, I believe she is still eating the little amount of soap which her irritable stomach will allow her."

Permit me to add to the above certain cases of a mania for eating raw fish. If a new word is to be coined, why may we not call it piscissomania? About a year ago a Brahman youth, aged about 23 years, laid a wager with a neighbour that he would eat a raw *Hilsa* fish or lose Rs. 3. He did the feat before many witnesses. The fish selected was a tolerably large one, weighing about a seer (2 lbs.) The incident created a sensation in my neighbourhood. I called the young man a few days after to my house and began to question him closely. Being his father's friend, he always shows me great respect. At first he seemed to be unwilling to answer all my questions. Gradually, however, his shyness disappeared and he owned to me that the smell of fish is not at all disagreeable to his nostrils; that since childhood he has eaten many a fish in a raw condition; that if a little salt were given him, he could live entirely on raw fish. He did not feel any irresistible impulse to eat raw fish. Only he could eat it and did not dislike it. This, Sir, may not be a case of piscissomania, but then the case I detail below is certainly a mania of the kind. A friend of mine gave the particulars while we were reading the American medical journal. My friend hails from a market-town in the 24-Pergunnahs. He is now about 48 years of age. While he was only 14, he had a companion and playmate of the same age and the same place, who felt an irresistible desire to eat raw fish, and, strange to say, always discovered a preference for bony fish like *koi* and *chetal*. (I do not know the scientific names of these, and hence I transliterate the vernacular words.) My friend added that his playmate was very often chided by his parents and brothers and others of the neighbourhood, but he always said that he could not help eating raw fish, so irresistible was the impulse he felt at their sight. The young man did not live long, for his life was cut short when he was nineteen. Yours, &c.

BHARGAVA.

Secbore, January 21, 1892.

THE UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION.

THE CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH.

Lord Lansdowne, who on rising was received with applause, spoke as follows:—

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Your Honor, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The annual Convocation of the University affords me an agreeable opportunity of meeting you, which I should be sorry to miss, and I must express my pleasure at finding myself once more in this chair. It will not be necessary for me to detain you for more than a very few moments, but there are one or two matters which I cannot leave unnoticed.

You will, I think, expect me, in the first place, to say one word of sympathy and regret in reference to the death of the young Prince who was taken from us last week. The sympathies of this University are naturally with the young, and in this case will certainly not be indifferent to the fate of one who in the very prime of his youth, and with a bright and splendid career before him, has been cut off so suddenly and under such melancholy circumstances. I am sure that you will share the sorrow of his parents, and that you will not forget that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales took an interest in this University, which in 1876 conferred upon him the honorary degree of a Doctor of Laws. I was glad to see, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, that the Senate at a recent meeting so appropriately took notice of this sad occurrence.

I have to congratulate the members of the University upon the fact that the Hon'ble Dr. Gooroo Das Banerjee has been good enough to accept re-appointment as Vice-Chancellor. (Applause.) He has, during the past two years, discharged the duties of his office with tact and judgment, and in a manner which has secur-

ed for him the confidence of the University. (Applause.) We are, I think, extremely fortunate in having prevailed upon him to accept re-appointment.

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, I have to thank the Graduates of the University, whom I have for the third time asked to aid me in the selection of the Fellows who will be appointed to fill up vacancies on the list, for the assistance they have given me. They have exercised their choice in a manner which has met with general approval. The two gentlemen whose names they have submitted to me, Babu Pran Nath Pundit and Babu Upendra Nath Mitra, are both of them men of eminence in their profession (applause), and have a record of literary and academical achievement which clearly points to their fitness for the honour which has been done them. (Applause.) Both of them, curiously enough, have been elected Tagore Law Professors at different times. Babu Pran Nath Pundit is a well-known Sanscrit scholar. Babu Upendra Nath Mitra was gold medalist of his year, and was for several years Law Lecturer in the Government College of Dacca, and has written a standard work upon a legal subject.

I may say in passing that I was gratified to find that you were able, in accordance with the suggestion which I ventured to make to you last year, to discover means by which Graduates in the Mofussil have been permitted to take part in the election of these gentlemen. I understand that out of 900 persons qualified to vote, 641 exercised the privilege conferred upon them, a sign that this particular franchise has a higher value set upon it by those who possess it than certain other franchises which I could mention.

The result of the experiment has been so successful that I am certainly not disposed to abandon it. But it may be said, "if the experiment has succeeded so well, why not go further?" Why not make the arrangement "a permanent one, and give it a statutory sanction?" We all know of course that recommendations have been submitted to the Government of India by the Senate of the University for a revision of the Act of Incorporation, and I think I am right in saying that the principal change recommended was a proposal that one-half of the total number of Fellows annually appointed should be elected by the Graduates. Gentlemen, I have proved by my actions since I have been connected with the University that there is no difference between myself and those who hold this language as to the propriety of giving the Graduates a voice in the selection of the Fellows. University legislation is, however, a very serious matter, and not to be undertaken without a good deal of thought and deliberation. In this particular instance you are confronted with a special difficulty, that of providing adequately for the representation of the minority, whose claims none of us would desire to ignore. There is also this to be remembered, that changes of the law affecting one University to a certain extent involve the adoption of similar changes in regard to the others. In regard, however, to this question of the election of Fellows, experience has fortunately shown us that it is possible to give a voice to the Graduates in their selection without modifying the Act, and its revision may, for this reason, be regarded as less immediately urgent than it might otherwise have been. The same question has, as you are aware, been under consideration in reference to the Bombay University, which, like yours, has a body of Graduates representing a variety of different elements. The difficulty of devising a suitable amount of representation would be very great, and the University of Bombay is, I understand, prepared, at our suggestion, to follow the example set here and to proceed experimentally upon the lines which we have adopted. You may be quite sure that, even if we do not at this moment see our way to legislate in reference to this point just now the privilege which I have been able to confer upon the Graduates is not likely to be restricted. The sound judgment which they have shown in exercising that privilege renders me indeed disposed to extend its scope, and I will gladly consider whether this cannot be done before the time comes when I shall again meet you in this building. (Applause.)

These are the only matters of University business, strictly speaking, which I wish to refer to; but, as you allow me to take advantage of these occasions in order to mention to you any questions affecting the University in which I am specially interested, I should like this afternoon to refer for a moment to such a question.

I have noticed with much pleasure, and I desire to commend to all the friends and supporters of the University, the movement which has lately been set on foot by the society known as that for the higher training of young men in Calcutta. I feel no doubt that there is room for such a movement, and that much good may be done by it. What are the facts? This University is, as we all know, an examining University. Our students have to satisfy us that they have attended lectures at one of the affiliated institutions, and they are required to pass an examination which shall prove that their studies have provided them with a certain amount of knowledge, and we thereupon bestow upon them an academical title. This is, I am afraid, the beginning and the end of our connection with them. We do not attempt to take charge of them in any sense during the time which they spend in preparing for their degree; we are not responsible for their health, for their surround-

ings, and we do not seek to exercise any supervision over their private life. In some of the affiliated institutions no doubt some attempt may be made in this direction, but this affects only a very small minority of the students. The great bulk of them are, save for the fact that they attend the classes of school or college during a few hours of the day, absolutely uncared for.

The result is that we have some six or seven thousand young men between the ages of 17 and 29 turned loose in this wilderness of a city, exposed to its temptations and dangers without any precautions to ensure that their lives shall be healthy, or happy, or respectable. The picture is one which it is impossible to contemplate without the deepest misgivings. The position of the lads who come here from the Mofussil must, at all events, when they first arrive here, be one of the greatest isolation. They are, perhaps, separated by hundreds of miles from their friends and relations, and Heaven knows what sort of friends and what of connections they will form here, if they are left to their own devices. No contrast could be sharper than that between the condition of the young men who take their degree in the Calcutta University, and that of the students of one of our old English Universities. In the latter case you have the college with all its comforts and resources, its social life, its strict discipline and supervision; you have the intercourse of student with student, the *esprit de corps* which makes a young man proud of his college, the intimacy of teacher and pupil, and the influence of the former over the latter; the pleasant associations of the cricket fields and the river—all these build up a life, which has its social and domestic side, amidst the healthiest of moral and material surroundings. All these conditions are absent here. A young man coming to Calcutta from a distant town is a mere drop in this great sea, uncared for, exposed to every temptation and every discomfort, unknown perhaps to his fellow students—perhaps even to his teachers. Can we be surprised if many of them do not pass through the ordeal without the worst results alike to body and mind?

This, gentlemen, is, I understand, the state of things which the association, of which I have spoken, desires to improve. Let us be under no illusions as to the difficulty of the task. I hope it will not be supposed for a moment that, when I referred just now to the old English Universities, I believed that it was possible to reproduce them, or anything like them, in this country. I mentioned them rather with the object of suggesting that a student at Oxford or Cambridge would not have a much better chance of escaping the dangers which beset our young men here if he was exposed to them to the same extent.

I believe, however, that, without aiming at too high an ideal, it is within our power to do something to mitigate the evil, and I must express the pleasure with which I read the address recently delivered by Mr. Risley upon the subject of this movement. I understand that, in the opinion of the society, there are three directions in which something may be done. The work is, I am informed, to be divided into three sections,—the Literary section, the Athletic section, and the General section. The Literary section will be concerned with the books which the students may be expected to read outside of their regular school or college work. The Athletic section proposes to encourage those healthy games and outdoor exercises which play so large a part in the education of English youth, while the General section has for its object the exercise of useful influence over the conduct and character of the young men. It would be impossible within the limits of the observations which I am now offering to you to consider the possibilities which lie before us in these different directions. I can sum up all that I will venture to say this evening in a very few words.

In regard to reading, I see no difficulty in adopting the suggestion that a list of books should be prepared and recommended to our young friends for their reading—a list which would put them in the way of reading books quite as interesting as, and very much better for them than, the mischievous trash of which I believe many of them are copious consumers. Such a list, to be added to from time to time, could probably be prepared without very much trouble. If, however, this movement is to come to anything, I should like to look forward to the time when it will be possible to provide our students, not only with a list of books, but with the books themselves, and with convenient rooms in which to read them. A Library—perhaps a lending Library—with reading and recreation rooms attached, would, it seems to me, be a very admirable adjunct to the University. I say this without casting any reflection upon the existing University Library, which is intended mainly for the use of resident Fellows. I know that, under the Regulations, persons who are not Fellows may obtain special permission to use that Library, and even to borrow books from it, for purposes of literary research, but I doubt whether it could ever be made available as a popular Library for the bulk of the students.

As to the pursuit of athletic exercises, I do not believe that any amount of gymnastics will make up for the absence of such games as cricket, and football. I cannot resist quoting Mr. Risley's dictum when he said that "the memory of the pious founder who endowed the schools of Calcutta with a suitable playground will be held in everlasting remembrance when many more serious matters have been forgotten." I should like to look forward to the time when

suitable grounds of this kind will be provided for the use of our University students.

Of the work of the General section, it has been said with truth that the endeavour to form the character, and to guide the moral conduct of our young men is one of immense difficulty. I believe you can inculcate morality by precept and example, but I have not much faith in precept alone. Our schools, again, are, as a rule, day schools, and home influences upon which so much depends are, I suspect, much less strong here than they are in Europe. I have, however, an almost unlimited belief in the results which can be produced upon the young by the personal influence of individuals, and I believe that it is within the bounds of possibility that men might be found in this country capable of exercising such an influence over our students, and of exercising it with very far-reaching and very salutary results. If we could find here even one or two men animated by the same unselfish desire to do good and to spread the knowledge of the truth as the late Mr. Arnold Toynbee, whose name may be familiar to some of you, the difficulty would, I believe, disappear. We should, however, require not only the men, but some kind of an organization for them to work under, and my thoughts recur to a movement in which I took some part before I left England—I mean that for the extension of University teaching instituted not many years ago by Mr. Goschen and a few other persons connected with the great Universities. The object of that movement was the establishment of different centres at which course of lectures might be given by men carefully selected from among the most promising members of the University in subjects especially interesting to the residents of the localities selected. The movement has been very successful, and there is hardly any subject upon which lectures have not been given, and they have been very largely attended, and have, I believe, served to awaken a new interest in many objects of study hitherto completely neglected, except in the great centres of education. Is it beyond the bounds of possibility that teaching of this kind might be undertaken in Calcutta, not necessarily in subjects bearing directly upon the University examinations, but upon such subjects as history, literature, and those social, ethical, and economical questions in which we, all of us, take an interest?

But, gentlemen, even if we are to assume that we have got the men and established the organization, it would be absolutely necessary, if the experiment is to be tried with any degree of success, that there should be some suitable place at which students and teachers should come together, and for this reason I should like to see the Association, of which I am speaking, provided with a head-quarters of its own in a central position. Its principal features would be a Library, with one or two lecture and reading rooms attached, and if this building stood by the side of a suitable recreation ground, our institution would become complete. All this may be unpractical and unattainable, and there may possibly be difficulties in the way which I have not foreseen. The idea seems, however, to be one worth discussion, and I believe that, if it were to be thoroughly matured, you would find many persons ready to give it their encouragement and their practical support. I, for one, shall be very glad indeed to do so. (Applause.)

And now, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, it only remains for me to congratulate the young men upon whom degrees have been conferred this afternoon, and express my cordial hope that for them, and for the University, of which they are members, the new academical year may bring nothing but good. (Applause.)

THE DACCA BRIBERY CASE IN THE HIGH COURT SESSIONS.

Empress v. Anundo Chunder Roy and Madhub Chunder Dass.

CHARGE TO THE JURY.

Mr. Justice Wilson, in summing up to the Jury, said that this case had occupied a long time, and he was sorry that the case should have been so prolonged, but, on the other hand, he did not think it had taken a very long time if the case was to be properly and fairly tried, and the value of the evidence fully tested. The offences charged were two in form, though really only one in substance. The offence charged was that of bribery and abetting the bribery of a public servant, namely, a Juror; in other words, the offence charged was the offering of a bribe to Gurucharan, on the evening of the 10th June, in order to induce him to give a verdict of acquittal in the case, which was tried in Dacca, and in which he was the foreman of the Jury. If a bribe was offered by one person to another who did not accept it, the person who offered the bribe committed an offence, but the person to whom it was offered did not. If a bribe was offered, and the person to whom it was offered accepted it, then they both committed an offence, and the person who offered the bribe became in the eye of the law the graver offender. The main point they had to give their verdict upon was, Was it established to their complete satisfaction that Rs. 4,000 was brought to the house of Gurucharan by the second accused on the evening of the 10th June? Were they satisfied that it was sent by the first accused, and then were they satisfied that it was sent for

bribing Gurucharan? If Anundo Roy really sent it, and sent it as a bribe, then there was another thing they had to consider—What part had Madhub played? Even if Anundo sent the money for an illegal purpose, Madhub might, as an innocent person, have carried it without any guilty knowledge. These were the points the Jury would have to consider in all their bearings.

Before going into the details of the case his Lordship would remind the Jury of the outlines of the case. They had it in evidence that the case then under trial, spoken of as the Belliati case, was the result of a charge brought against certain servants of people known as the Babus of the East Belliati house, brought by persons of the Middle Belliati house, and the Babus of the West house, and in some measure supported the prosecution. Gurucharan, the first witness in this Court, was the foreman of the Jury empanelled to try the Belliati murder case, and the subject of the present charge was that, on the evening before the verdict given in the Belliati case, Rs. 4,000 was brought from Anundo by Madhub to the house of Gurucharan. It was a verdict with regard to which the four accused were acquitted by a majority of four to one. Gurucharan said that he gave his own verdict. According to his account it was a unanimous acquittal as far as it concerned two accused, while it was not as regarded the other two. On the evening of the 10th, Gurucharan said the money, Rs. 4,000, was brought by Madhub, and was intended as a bribe to induce him to give a verdict of acquittal. The evidence of the other witnesses was important as far as it had any bearing upon this point. It was said that on the night of the 10th June 4,000 rupees were brought by Madhub to Gurucharan's house. On that occasion the money having been left in the house, Gurucharan signed a promissory note or hundi, and that that was given to Madhub who had brought the money. It was further said that Madhub together with the money brought a letter from Anundo Chunder Roy to Gurucharan. The three things said to have been brought were the money, the receipt, and the letter. The letter was delivered to Gurucharan, the money made over, and Madhub having obtained the acknowledgment or hundi left, leaving the letter with Gurucharan. The matters relied upon by the prosecution seem to be these. It was also said that there had been previous attempts or proposals to bribe this witness Gurucharan, but this rested upon the statement of Gurucharan alone, with the exception of one man, the Government Pleader Troyloko, to whom he had spoken in reference to this matter. It is said that Gurucharan came back from the Court after the verdict, and that Madhub, who came to or was already at, Gurucharan's house, demanded the money back, and then the story was that Sreenath and Madhub went away, in a ticca garri, to the house of Anundo, and having gone there, paid back the money, and in exchange received back the promissory note. But that letter which was sent with the money was not given up to Anundo; they did not make over the letter, and it remained in the possession of Sreenath or Gurucharan. It might have been a very dangerous and incriminating letter, and if that letter was really sent, it went a good way to confirm the story of the occurrences of the night of the 10th June. Two persons said they saw a letter, and they, Sreenath and Juggut, spoke of it as an English letter, and this seemed to be confirmation of the letter remaining in the possession of Gurucharan.

Then there was another matter which, if it was true, also confirmed this, and it was the event which is said to have occurred on the 24th of June. On this occasion this letter was taken to Anundo, and offered to be given up to him in exchange for a sum of Rs. 5,000, but it was by the hands of Madhub that the money was paid and the letter taken back. The Jury might take it for granted that if a man paid Rs. 5,000 to get back a letter of his own, it was a letter which was dangerous or damaging. Of course the Jury would have to consider the truth of the story. In connection with this matter it was said that Gurucharan's debts were paid out of this money. He was an impecunious man, and some, or perhaps a good many, of his debts were paid. This was confirmatory evidence, and there was also the evidence of Troyloko and the evidence of Rojonikant, who spoke to a statement made to him and Troyloko at an interview in which Gurucharan made a statement adverse to one of the accused persons. In dealing with all these statements his Lordship asked the Jury to bear in their minds some general observations which he would make a little further on, which they would do well to remember when the evidence was being gone through. It had been very truly said by the prosecution that where there was a charge of this kind to be substantiated, it was impossible to help calling witnesses whose evidence must be received with a certain amount of caution. Now in a case of this kind it became the duty of the Jury to scrutinize very closely the evidence laid before them, and to accept nothing without the greatest caution. Without being quite satisfied, they must not convict. The two first witnesses, Gurucharan and Juggut, were, within the meaning of the law, accomplices. By their own evidence they were accomplices, and the Jury must not convict upon the unsupported testimony of accomplices. They must not convict the accused unless the evidence of these two witnesses was, in substantial particulars, supported by others. As far as these

two witnesses were concerned, they could not convict unless they were corroborated in a satisfactory way by other witnesses. They would also have to take into consideration Gurucharan's behaviour and demeanour and the grossly contradictory nature of his evidence. He was not the sort of witness whom they could rely on, neither would they accept any statement of his as true except so far as it was confirmed. The second most important witness was Sreenath Gossain, who also had told them that he told a false story on former occasions. There was another thing they ought to bear in mind, and it was this. His Lordship did not suppose anybody would suggest, though it had been said for the defence, that the investigation of this case by the officers in the mofussil was not as full as it should have been, nor did his Lordship think that it had been suggested that any of the officers concerned in the trial of the case had the remotest idea of getting up a false case against the accused, and this, he was certain, applied also to the police. But there were other people besides the Magistrates and police, upon whom the Magistrate and police had to rely for the facts. It was exceedingly important to observe from whom or from what group of people the charges first came to lie, and who were found to be connected with the case in its earliest stage, and who were found to be connected with it in the end. Then another great and serious reason for exercising the utmost caution was that there were some people who were connected with this case, and the bringing forward of this charge who had an interest in doing so for no other purpose but to reopen the charge in the Belliati case. This was a matter which made it necessary for the Jury to exercise the extremest care. Before dealing with the evidence his Lordship had to remind them of another fact. In considering the amount of anxious scrutiny which they must give to the evidence they must see who were concerned in bringing up the charge and how it was brought forward, and his Lordship was bound to say that the circumstances under which the story had been brought forward was such as to require all the greater caution. The substance of the first statement made to the Judge by Gurucharan on the 24th was that on the evening before the verdict a man came and brought four or five thousand rupees, and that it was forcibly taken away the next day. The next statement that was made was not by anybody having any personal knowledge of the matter, but Issur, who had been shown to be one of the hostile opponents of the first accused. The statement made by Gurucharan in the presence of the Government Pleader and the other pleader was considerably different from the present one, and in that one Madhub took no part. It was a totally different story. Then about the same time Gurucharan made statements to Issur and Anundo Chunder Chuckerbutty, which were somewhat similar to those made to Troyloko and Rojonikant. From that time Gurucharan was in regular communication with all these persons, who were exceedingly hostile to the accused. The next statement Gurucharan made was on the 9th July. Up to that time that story about the price of the letter as Rs. 5,000 was contradicted by Gurucharan and by all except Sreenath.

Two theories had been put forward to explain the case, first, that the story as now told was the true story and, second, that Gurucharan was a witness hostile to the prosecution, and that all that has been told by him has been extracted from him bit by bit. One great difficulty in accepting that theory was that on notice of intention to cross-examine Gurucharan, he and Anundo Chuckerbutty on the evening after that notice were in consultation for two hours. This was an incident that made it very difficult to accept the theory of the prosecution. The theory, on the other hand, was that attempts had been made to bribe Gurucharan, who was foreman of the Jury, by the other side. There were two groups of persons ready and willing to make use of him, one of which were enemies of A. C. Roy's, persons who had conducted former fruitless prosecutions against him. His Lordship after drawing the attention of the Jury then proceeded to deal with the evidence at great length. In commenting on the evidence of the District Judge of Mozufferpur, his Lordship said that the good character given by this gentleman of the accused would have to be taken into consideration in determining his guilt or innocence, and concluded by exhorting the Jury to weigh the matter well in their mind before arriving at a finding, and if they were perfectly satisfied that the accused had been proved guilty they would find accordingly. If, on the other hand, they had any reasonable doubt, they were bound to give the prisoners the benefit of the same and acquit them.

The Jury then retired, and, on returning after three minutes, gave a unanimous verdict of not guilty on both counts of the indictment with respect to both prisoners. The accused were then ordered to be discharged.

An attempt was made at cheering, but it was promptly suppressed by the police.

Mr. Woodroffe then applied to his Lordship with regard to the question of costs, and urged that his client had been put to terrible expense. His Lordship did not think he could make a reference on the subject. He did not think he could take the initiative in the matter, but if a petition was forwarded to Government, and it came to him, his Lordship would put his recommendations thereon.

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ARMY CLOTHING DEPARTMENT.

Alipore, the 20th January 1892.

Sealed tenders are invited for the supply of miscellaneous stores and materials including buttons, haversacks, canvas, sewing cotton, flannel, gaiters, pith-hats, puttees, thread, cloth blue local, khaki drill, webbing drab, &c., &c., more or less as may be required, for the year 1892-93.

2. Tenders will only be received on the printed forms which are obtainable at this office. Blanks in the printed form must be filled up correctly.

3. Each tender must be accompanied by a Bank of Bengal or Government Treasury deposit receipt in the name of the Superintendent for Rupees one hundred as earnest-money. Cash or notes will not be accepted in lieu.

4. The lowest tender will not necessarily be accepted, any tender may be accepted in whole or in part.

5. Any person whose tender may be accepted, will be required to furnish security in cash, Government Loan paper, Savings Bank deposits, or approved Bank deposit receipts, for the due fulfilment of his contract within one week from the date of acceptance of his tender, in default of which his earnest-money will be forfeited. The security will be calculated at 10 per cent. on the contract.

6. Any further information required may be obtained, and sealed patterns inspected at the Clothing Agency.

7. Tenders will be opened by undersigned at noon on Monday the 15th February 1892 in the presence of such persons as may desire to attend.

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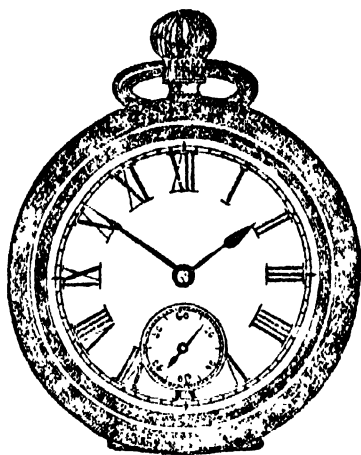
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ON THE

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AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1892.

No. 510

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

APOSTROPHE TO PATIENCE.

These stanzas, from an address to Patience, in the St. James' Magazine, (vol. i., p. 108,) signed C. J., have been preserved by the Poet Southey as deserving "to be relieved from oblivion."—ED. R. & R.

O come, surrounded with thy sober train
Of meekness, piety, and holy hope ;
Blest source of peace, blest cure for every pain,
Without whose aid the proudest spirits droop.

Kindly descend to those whose humbled mind
Knows no relief, but what from Patience springs ;
Whose griefs no cure, whose pangs no respite find ;
On those descend with healing on thy wings.

O hover round the melancholy bed,
Where lingering sickness claims thy fostering care,
Thy influence rears the drooping sufferer's head,
And gives a ray of merit to his prayer.

TO MY LITTLE DAUGHTER'S SHOES.

Two little, rough-worn, stubbed shoes,
A plump, well-trodden pair ;
With striped stockings thrust within
Lie just beside my chair.

Of very homely fabric they,
A hole is in each toe,
They might have cost, when they were new,
Some fifty cents or so.

And yet, this little worn-out pair
Is richer far to me
Than all the jewelled sandals are
Of Eastern luxury.

This mottled leather, cracked with use,
Is satin in my sight ;
These little tarnished buttons shine
With all a diamond's light.

Search through the wardrobe of the world !
You shall not find me there,
So rarely made, so richly wrought,
So glorious a pair.

And why? Because they tell of her,
Now sound asleep above,
Whose form is moving beauty, and
Whose heart is beating love.

They tell me of her merry laugh ;
Her rich, whole-hearted glee ;

Her gentleness, her innocence,
And infant purity.

They tell me that her wavering steps
Will long demand my aid ;
For the old road of human life,
Is very roughly laid.

High hills and swift descents abound ;
And, on so rude a way,
Feet that can wear these coverings
Would surely go astray.

Sweet little girl ! be mine the task
Thy feeble steps to tend !
To be thy guide, thy counsellor,
Thy playmate and thy friend !

And when my steps shall faltering grow,
And thine be firm and strong,
Thy strength shall lead my tottering age
In cheerful peace along !

SONGS BY CHARLES SWAIN.

THE COTTAGE DOOR.

The starry silence falls
Along my sylvan way,
A spirit walks the earth,
We never meet by day ;
And listening to the voice
Of years that are no more ;
My feet—Oh ! know'st thou why?—
Have wandered to thy door.

The quiet taper burns
And makes thy casement bright,
And soft thy shadow falls
Between me and the light ;
I gaze as on a shrine
My heart would bend before ;
My couch had seen no rest,
Had I not seen thy door.

The night, as if to breathe,
Her starry curtain parts ;
The very air seems faint
With breath of lovers' hearts ;
Some spirit robes the earth
In light that heaven wore ;
Or is that light thine own?—
And is that heaven thy door?

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

'T WAS COMING FROM THE VILLAGE CHURCH.

'T was coming from the village church
I saw my false love nigh,
I said—Oh ! shame me not, my heart,
But let me pass him by.
And so the color left my cheek,
The tear forsook mine eye ;
And with a timid step, and weak,
I passed my false love by.

He looked—and thought, perchance, to see
The blush and tear of old ;
But I was cold as he could be—
That is, I seemed as cold !
For fast and fast my heart did fill
Mine eyes could hold no more—
He might have seen I loved him still,
Had I not gained the door.

I hurried to my own dear room,
I knelt me down to pray,
But still no firmness could assume,
My tears they would have way.
Oh ! false, false lips—oh ! faithless part—
Oh ! base, unmanly aim—
To seek for years to win a heart,
Then make its love—its shame !

NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THERE is a lion out here—young Grant who won his majority in Manipur, the grave of so many men and reputations.

THE twenty-eighth annual Conversazione of the Mahomedan Literary Society, fixed for the 27th January and postponed on account of the death of the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, comes off on Friday, the 4th March.

FIRST to the fore on this melancholy occasion in expressing the feelings of the community at the death of the heir-presumptive to the throne of England, the Mahomedan Literary Society has received the following letter from the Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Department to the address of its Secretary :—

"Calcutta, the 30th January 1892.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter conveying a message of condolence on behalf of the Committee of the Mahomedan Literary Society of Calcutta with Her Imperial Majesty the Queen Empress of India and their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, on the melancholy occasion of the death of His late Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence and Avondale, and to say that the Government of India have been desirous to convey to you an expression of Her Imperial Majesty's thanks for the kind sympathy displayed by the Society."

TWO Hindus have filed a suit in the District Court of Lahore for recovery of the body of their deceased brother Sodagar Mal. He died recently at the village of Bhogiwal, leaving a fortune now in the possession of a Mahomedan mistress who claims to have married the Hindu after his conversion to Islam. Before they give up the claim, the plaintiffs want to satisfy themselves that their deceased relative discarded the *chonti*—the consecrated tuft of hair on the head.

UNDER the authority vested in him by the Indian Factories Act (XV of 1881) as amended by Act XI of 1891, the Governor-General in Council has prescribed a fee of four annas as the fee payable to a certifying Surgeon by a person employed, or desirous of being employed, in a Factory for examining him and granting him a certificate.

CANDIDATES for appointment in the Upper or Lower Division of the Secretariat Clerical Service of the Government of India and attached offices, are required to send written applications for permission to appear at the examination to the Secretary to the Board of Examiners between the date of issue of the notification announcing the number of vacancies to be competed for and the 15th December.

SIR Monier Williams who has for some months been travelling on the Continent in search of health, lately received the princely gift of £2,000 from the Thakur Saheb of Gondal towards the Indian Institute at Oxford. About £3,500 only is now wanting to make up the £8,000 required for the extension of the Institute.

It is as well that we should record that

"the following petition to the Government of India was adopted at a public meeting, held in Shri Murlidhar's Temple, Poona, on 22nd November :—'That your Excellency's Memorialists beg most respectfully to intimate that the majority of the inhabitants of the City of Poona do not recognize the so-called National Congress as their representative body until it undergoes a desirable change, and that, therefore, any representations made by the Congress, should not be considered as having the consent of the people in general. That in the pavilion of the Congress, a meeting of the persons, calling themselves social reformers, is held, the proceedings of which have always been disapproved of by the orthodox people. Your Excellency's Memorialists, therefore, beg that any representations, made by the said reformers, should not be considered as emanating from the people in general,—(Sd.) Narain Rao Bhikaji Joglekar, Vishnu Venkatesh Behere, Venkatesh Vishwanath Jogelkar, Narain Gopal Patwardhan, Gonesh Shastri Malwankar, Krishna Shastri Vyajapurkar and 248 others."

GOOD "F. H. S." has been writing with his usual earnestness to the *Pioneer* on the sad vandalism still permitted under a civilized Government. This is his last protest :—

"SIR,—You were good enough to publish a letter in which I drew attention to the indignities offered at Christmas-tide to the beautiful works of art in the Delhi Fort. My story has not been contradicted : and on the other hand, the public has not received the assurance it has a right to expect, that due punishment has been meted out to the perpetrators of the outrages complained of, and that measures have been taken to prevent their recurrence. In order to place matters in the clearest light I will give the statement of an eye-witness as recorded by me. He is willing to place it in the form of an affidavit, and to communicate his name to any person in authority. 'On the afternoon of Christmas Day,' he says, 'I visited the Dewan-i-Khas in the Delhi Fort in company with two fellow travellers Messrs. Bachmahr of Vienna and Snuyder, who, I think, hails from New York. Our attention was at once attracted to a hole at least ten inches in diameter, which had recently been made in the lovely monolithic screen of perforated foliage at the back of the Hall. The marble-dust scattered about showed the fracture to have been recent ; and, on looking over the wall, we saw the broken pieces of marble lying in the ditch below the building. My companions expressed the greatest indignation at the outrage and offered their services to aid me in exposing it. There was a private of the Leinster regiment, which is apparently in garrison there, lounging about without his helmet. Thinking that he was the guardian, I asked him if he knew how the damage occurred, and suggested that the fragments of marble should be gathered up for repairs. His looks and manner were most insolent, a fact which was accounted for when I found that he reeked of liquor and was evidently half tipsy. He said that he would have nothing to say to me—it was no business of his. On entering the adjacent building we found another hole smashed through the perforated marble screen separating the two halls known as the Emperor's and the Empress' audience-chambers. Here, too, the broken fragments of marble showed that the damage was fresh. The native guardian, hearing us express indignation at the vandalism, told us that it was the work of drunken European soldiers, with whom he was afraid to interfere. We then adjourned to the Moti Masjid, hard by, and the first thing that met our eyes was a piece measuring about a foot, by four inches, broken off the cornice of a marble tomb or table on the left of the gateway. The fragments and dust were scattered around. The native keeper told us that this, too, was the work of a drunken soldier, who had been placed under arrest."

"Two deductions may be drawn from this plain, unvarnished tale. One is the necessity for a curator of ancient remains—an officer who is found in every other civilized country with a history. The other is the criminal folly of permitting the British soldier to roam fancy-free at all hours over the Diwani Khas. But it is, perhaps, vain to look for a tender regard for the relics of a mighty past in a generation which tolerates dancing to the blare of a brass band within the precincts of the Taj."

The whole world of Culture is indebted to the writer of that letter, and all the generations of India's sons now and hereafter will bless Mr. Skrine—if we mistake not the identity adumbrated by the initials.

WE read lately in the *Indian Mirror* :—

"The *Bungabashi* thus writes :—'The Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal informs us that while Sir Charles Elliott was inspecting the Durbhunga Jail, he saw an old man undergoing imprisonment for not having been able to pay Rs. 40 to a creditor, named Mohesh Chunder Singh. His Honour took pity on the man who was released from the Jail on the judgment-creditor condescending to forego his claim to the amount of money due to him."

That was the first intimation of the good Samaritanism of the Head of the Local Government. Is it possible that since the late prosecution, the *Bangabashi* has become the official or semi-official organ of that Government? Otherwise, it is impossible to account for the Chief

Secretary's preference of a single vernacular newspaper over the rest of the press. Or, is this the Secrétariat method of combining the duty of informing the public mind with the principle of Christianity of not letting the right hand know the beneficence of the left?

THE appointment of Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick, K. C. S. I., Resident of the 1st class, and Resident at Hyderabad, as Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab and its Dependencies, is Gazetted, subject to the approbation of Her Majesty the Queen, Empress of India, which will be communicated in due course.

COLONEL Sir Robert Sandeman, K. C. S. I., Governor-General's Agent and Chief Commissioner in Baluchistan, is dead. The Government of India mourns the loss in the Gazette as of "a brave and devoted servant of the Queen" and as "a public misfortune."

THE Maxim gun is said to fire 750 shots in a minute. That record is beat by the Winchester. The new gun was recently tested at New Haven by the Winchester Repeating Arms Company. It ejected 900 shots per minute. It has a water jacket surrounding the barrel and holding one gallon of water. But for this precaution, the barrel would become too hot for handling in half a minute. The breech mechanism is described to be operated by a crank connected with a system of multiplying gearing which imparts the rapidity of motion. The ammunition is supplied from a continuous web belt holding the cartridges in packets. The inventors are the gun-makers Messrs. Browning Brothers, of Odgen, Utah. That reveals the extraordinary progress not only made but also making in America unto the farthest West—to the backwoods of old. So they were not simply marrying and multiplying up in Utah.

NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE general mourning for the death of the Duke of Clarence and Avondale concluded yesterday.

FROM the reports brought by the last mail, it appears that the Prince caught the cold which ended fatally while out shooting. A party was made up at Sandringham House on Wednesday morning, the 6th January.

"Having shot several coverts, the Royal party, which included the Prince of Wales and both his sons, finished up prior to luncheon in the copse which lies on the further side of Wolferton station. Luncheon was served in the Prince's private room at the station. During the meal the Duke of Clarence complained of feeling chilly, and it was evident that he had taken a slight cold, but he treated the matter lightly, and insisted upon finishing the day's sport. At the end of the day he again complained of cold. Instead of driving back to the house with the rest of the party, the Duke started to walk home in order to get warm, the distance being about two and-a-half miles. He dined with the family, but was not at all well, and retired early. Next morning he accompanied the shooting party again and shot over the woodcock wood, luncheon being served at the Park House, the residence of Sir Deighton Probyn, which is just outside the Park walls. The Duke was unable to proceed further, however, and walked quickly back to Sandringham House with the Princess May.

That evening his Highness appeared at dinner, but only remained a short time in the room, retiring to bed at half-past eight. On Friday he was in good spirits, but although strongly desirous of being present at the dinner party in honour of his birthday he yielded to advice and remained in his room. On Saturday it was found that he was so seriously ill that Dr. Laking was sent for from London. Dr. Laking's report was so disquieting that Dr. Broadbent was summoned on Sunday. Both remained with him to the end. On Wednesday night it was hoped, almost in spite of hope, that the Prince had taken a turn for the better. He had fallen asleep, and the symptoms were such as justified a hopeful message to the Queen. Two hours after midnight he woke evidently much worse. It soon became obvious that the end was very near. The Rector of Sandringham was called to the room to read the prayers for the dying. He died at a quarter past nine in presence of his father and mother. The patient was unconscious for some hours before death. Previously he had been delirious."

ZANZIBAR has, to general rejoicing, been proclaimed, by the British Agent and Consul-General, a free port.

THE new Khedive Abbas opened the Egyptian Assembly on January 30, and secured it of his adhesion to his father's policy.

THE German merchants resident in Rangoon, have presented Prince Bismarck with a service of plate and ivory of Burmese workmanship, valued at 500/.

FOR performing pieces of a scandalous character, M. de Chirac, director of the Théâtre-Réaliste, Paris, together with the principal actress, has been sentenced, by the Correctional Tribunal, to 15 months' imprisonment. Two other persons who took part in the performance suffer for two months and one month respectively.

That reminds us of the nuisance nearer home. We have in Calcutta places of amusement which trade in vice. The Prefecture and the Correctional Tribunal ought to interfere.

THE famine in Russia continues grinding the people to a slow and torturing death. The papers of the Continent and in the British Isles are filled with the most melancholy details. A letter in a leading London magazine from a gentleman belonging to one of the relieving organizations, tells a truly harrowing tale of one of the Districts. Thousands of men have neither food nor money to buy it with, and have had none for days. It is a shame not only to Russia but to the civilised world, to let those poor men perish by inches. What is the good of our boasted inventions for speedy communication, if they are not made use of at such a juncture to pour succour in a trice into the stricken land?

WHILE such relief as is being given, is utterly inadequate to the demand, its efficacy is being diminished by the vile manipulations of sordid officials intent upon growing rich by the opportunity. The phenomenon of selfishness witnessed in the Bengal Famine of the 18th Century, is being repeated at this moment in Russia.

COUNT Leo Tolstoi thus records his experience of the famine-stricken provinces of Russia:—

"My first visit was to the Krapivinsky district, the black loam portion of which had had a bad harvest. The first indication of what I noticed was that the bread eaten by nearly everyone there contained 35, and in many places 50, per cent. of pigweed. It is not the brown bread which is usually called 'black,' but is, in sober truth, of inky blackness, heavy, clammy, and bitter. And this is the stuff which young and old, weak and sickly, consume; delicate little children eat it; women, before and after childbirth, are nourished on it; mothers who suckle their new-born children draw from it whatever strength and nutriment it can give; and the sick and dying feed the flickering lamp of life with it. Another sign of exceptional distress consisted in the universal complaints I heard of the dearth of food. As early as September, I was told, it had given out, and since then considerable suffering had been endured, and extraordinary makeshifts restored to in consequence. People were forced to cut up planks of their threshing floors, to saw up blocks of wood, logs, and wooden utensils—in a word, to utilise everything they could lay their hands on that would burn."

THE *Novoe Vremya* of St. Petersburg has taken up in right earnest the question of the adulteration of flour for the famine-stricken by various merchants. It has been threatened with a prosecution for libel, for its pains. The chief editor, M. Souvorine, has declared himself the writer of the articles complained of, and challenges any action against his paper. He says that if the law and the administrative authorities remain powerless to protect the public, it becomes the right as well as the duty of the Press as the representative of public opinion, to denounce, regardless of danger, such criminal acts, which otherwise would be concealed. He is prepared for the worst. "Even though," says he, "representatives of the Press be sent to prison for their temerity, the evidence in judicial proceedings will at least throw a light upon the hidden swindling recklessly perpetrated to the detriment of the welfare and health of the people."

A PICTURE-COLLECTOR in Pesth has stumbled upon a little fortune. He bought for a few florins in a second-hand shop a small canvas. He has sold it in Paris, as a genuine Meissonier, for 30,000 frs. Too much for a whistle, perhaps, who knows!

THE bill before the Reichstag for compulsory religious instructions in all public schools, was opposed by the National Liberals. General Caprivi was wroth. He charged the Liberals with desertion and reminded them of the necessity of protection against the spread of Atheism in the present troublous times. To emphasise his dissatisfaction, he left the House abruptly, followed by other members.

DEATH is busy among the great and the good, and the Old Indians, good, bad, and indifferent. This week, the death roll includes the Revd. Mr. Spurgeon, the preacher, Sir Charles Wingfield, formerly Chief Commissioner of Oudh, Sir Thomas Pycroft, Sir Morell Mackenzie, the physician, Sir John Lambert, Sir George Edward Paget, Mr. C. T. Metcalfe, of the Indian Civil Service, who earned a fame of a kind whether as Commissioner of Behar, or of the Orissa Division, or as Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality.

Mr. Spurgeon was the greatest theological humourist of the day. It were idle to compare him with Robert Hall, but his popularity may be estimated from the church—the Tabernacle, holding the largest congregation in London—which it helped him to build.

Sir Charles Wingfield was a Judge on the Oudh frontier when the Mutiny broke out. He took refuge with the late Maharaja Drigbijey Singh, of Bulrampore, who saved him. Appointed the first Chief Commissioner of Oudh on the conquest of that Province, he was enabled to repay the services of the border baron. He made Drigbijey Singh the premier landlord, the first in property as in the confidence of the British Government. To make him the leading one—the moving spirit and brain of the Talooqdars—was beyond any Chief Commissioner, or Viceroy, for that matter. That position belonged to, and was held by, Man Singh, of Shahgunje, by hereditary right as well as by force of intellect. Mr. Wingfield was wise enough to submit to the inevitable and accepted Man Singh cheerfully. He appreciated the Bengalis too and enabled Dukhinaranjan Mookerjee, through the two chief barons, to start the Talooqdars' Society, which another Mookerjee organized on a permanent footing. Mr. Wingfield got Lord Canning to make a free gift of the famous royal residence, the Kaiserbagh, to the Talooqdars for their town residence. If Lord Clyde conquered the barons of Oudh, Wingfield subdued them and made of them loyal subjects of Her Majesty. The Talooqdars repaid him with a memorial structure, the Wingfield Munzil, as they commemorated the first Viceroy in the Canning College. After his retirement, Sir Charles Wingfield entered Parliament, in which he was a staunch and useful friend of the Indian people.

H. M. S. VICTORIA *à la* Renown is lying in a precarious condition on the shore of the Levant, near Platæa. Her end would be a sad loss to the nation, among whose principal bulwarks she was esteemed. Her original name was changed at her *debut* at Her Majesty's Jubilee.

Victoria is one of the queens of the Royal Navy. Single-turreted, 340 feet long between perpendiculars, with a displacement of some 10,500 tons, armed with a couple of 110 ton guns, one 25 ton, 12 six-inch, besides many smaller guns, propelled by engines of twelve thousand horse power at over 17 knots an hour, she is one of the most powerful British line of battle ships. While cruising as the flagship of the Mediterranean Squadron, she has run ashore on the Levant coast and is reported to be leaking. Such is the telegraphic news of the last day of January.

By the latest news, after repeated attempts, the vessel has been refloated.

THE *Moscow Gazette* has discovered a mare's nest. It is reported that, at the instance of the British Legation, a Persian religious official at Tabriz has been seized upon while taking a walk in the suburbs and conveyed to Bushire, whence he was taken on board an English ship and transported to Bussorah in Asiatic Turkey, whence he was conveyed to India. Great indignation is expressed against England and this "high-handed proceeding."

THE planets are not just now propitious to the Shah. Riots are disturbing the very capital. There is, moreover, an insurrection in the Provinces. A sort of Madhi has arisen. He is a Syad, of course, a descendant of the Prophet. From his boyhood to seems to have been brooding over the manifold corruptions of Islam about him, and on attaining majority he announced himself a Reformer. He is credited with divine powers and supposed to perform miracles. His piety is unquestioned. Men flocked to him to become his disciples. Still he observed some secrecy. Latterly, he removed himself from Sahna to Maganderan, where his followers increasing to thousands, he threw off all reserve and openly proclaimed his mission. The Shah was kept informed of the movement and looked on in contemptuous silence.

At last, it waxed intolerable. The Syad essayed to establish a *régime* of his own, which collided with the established order. *Husbool-Hookooms* and edicts were fulminated which were answered by bulls. Then troops were ordered against the pious disturber. Meanwhile, the Saint had seized Kellar Dagit and held it in strength. The last news from Tiflis speaks of a rather severe engagement between the Shahi troops and the rebels in which the latter were worsted, losing two hundred of their number killed. Let us hope that this lesson will be sufficient.

The Russian press think this a good opportunity for Russia to secure a predominant influence at Teheran.

THE rather lengthy trial of Christopher Nickels, in the Allahabad High Court, on seven charges of abetting Debi Prasad, a Sub-Inspector, to frame an incorrect report of the information given to him about a riot at Sohni Factory on the 3rd October, 1890, and of abetting rioting and mischief at Sohni on that day, otherwise known as the Jaunpur case, ended in the disagreement of the jury. Six of them were for acquittal and three for conviction. The presiding Judge—Mr. Justice Straight—not agreeing with the majority of the jury, the nine gentlemen were discharged; and a fresh trial has been ordered. The evidence, we take it, will be the same in the second trial, but a new Judge, either the Chief Justice or Mr. Justice Knox, and a different set of jurors will consider its sufficiency or insufficiency for conviction.

THE sanctioned estimate of expenditure under "General Administration" for 1892-93 in the territories under the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is:—

Imperial.	Rs.
Civil Offices of Account and Audit	2,45,000
Allowances to Presidency Banks	14,000
Provincial.	
Salary of the Lieutenant-Governor	96,000
Staff and household of the Lieutenant-Governor	24,330
Tour expenses	34,000
Legislative Council	23,000
Civil Secretariats	4,98,790
Board of Revenue	2,76,000
Commissioners	5,21,500
Civil Offices of Account and Audit	1,05,000

With the new official year, the clerical establishment of the Private Secretary's office will be incorporated with that of the Judicial, Political and Appointment Departments of the Civil Secretariat. The Head Clerk, however, will continue to belong to the Staff and household of the Lieutenant-Governor, and draw his pay accordingly.

OUR statesmen are determined to save the Empire. They have entered on a career of reform in right earnest. To begin with, the Vizier-e-Hind—Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for India—has saved the wings of his goose. He will no more supply quills to this country and they shall not be supplied by any body on account of Government. True to the times, the Services will from this month be restricted to the use of steel.

This is a reform appropriate to the Iron Age. The poor Hindu clerks who are accustomed to ply the old instrument for writing and no other, will, we fear, be inclined to echo that sentiment in no complimentary sense.

THE *mooreeds* will not let the *Peer* escape. The *Pioneer* notices—

"The apotheosis of Mr. Hume! The *Chandan-Shu*, a Marathi weekly newspaper with the enormous circulation of one hundred copies, has discovered what would be a fit and lasting memorial of the Congress leader. It proposes in all seriousness that 'a small image of that gentleman should be placed in every village and worshipped like God,' and that 'contributions collected in his name should be applied to defraying the expenses that may be incurred in preaching the objects of the Congress throughout the country.' It admits that at the first blush this scheme may appear 'rather strange,' but it is confident that it will prove in the end an effective means of promoting the interests of the association. 'Considering the condition of Native society and the practice of idolatry prevalent in it, it is possible,' observes the paper, 'that a large number of the followers of Mr. Hume, like those of Tukaram and other Indian saints, will move throughout the length and breadth of the country and work for the welfare of the nation.' The idea will no doubt commend itself to the apostle of reform in India. 'Tud is worshipped as a God in Rajasthan; Nicholson is a saint in the eyes of the simple-minded Punjabi villager; and it would be another illustration of the fine impartiality of the Hindu pantheon were Mr. Hume added to the number of its Gods.'"

It is that "impartiality" which will, probably make the object of the gushing attention pause. Mr. Hume knows that the pantheon of the people is rather indiscriminately filled with both the powers of darkness and the powers of light.

BUT if it is a trifle extravagant in our Mahratta friends to instal a Hume in the flesh in Heaven, surely it is too bad in an Anglo-Indian contemporary—other than the *Pioneer*—to send him to the wrong place at all. This is the very earthen "pottery" with which that un-"handsome man 'the Pote'" of the *Planters' Gazette* damns the Father of the Congress:—

"There was an old bounder named Hume
Who the shape of a god did assume;
But he proved such a sell,
That they said 'Go to—' well,
A place where such daisies don't bloom!"

Call that a "handsome man!" Handsome is that handsome does—and not that swears.

A GREAT sensation was naturally caused lately in England by a startling decision of Vice-Chancellor Peile. From his place in the Cambridge Court House, he actually sentenced a poor girl named Daisy Hopkins, of seventeen years of age, to fourteen days' imprisonment in the Spinning House, because forsooth one Charles Russell, of his University, spoke to her in the street. The case was taken up on public grounds. An application was made to the Queen's Bench, and a writ of Habeas Corpus was obtained, returnable on December 11, when the girl was discharged from custody. Pandits are Pandits all the world over.

A SENSATION of a different kind was excited since by another case, in which both sides were of the feminine gender. We refer to the action for slander—before Mr. Justice Denman and a special jury—by which a *quasi* fashionable lady tried to disburden herself and even, if necessary, shift on to other shoulders, the theft of some rare pearls belonging to a friend who, in a moment of feminine weakness, had let her into the secret of their safety in a specially constructed escritoire.

EARLY in February last, Miss Elliot went to Torquay and stayed till the 18th with her friends Major and Mrs. Hargreaves. The latter owned some fine gems almost above her, worth over Rs. 10,000 (about £800). As she was not in a position to wear them, her husband thought they should be converted into money. The vanity of woman would not listen to that sordid suggestion. They were an anxious charge, however. Mrs. Hargreaves deposited her jewels in a drawer, to the secret of which, besides the husband and the wife, only another person called Mr. Engelhart was privy. Mrs. Hargreaves showed her visitor her rare possession and the secret of their keep. After Miss Elliot's return from Torquay, the pearls and diamonds were missed. Major Hargreaves was immediately recalled from the Continent and inquiry was instituted. Suspicion fell upon Miss Elliot, who was known to be in straitened circumstances, so much so that she could not leave Torquay without borrowing from her host to "tip" the servants. Meanwhile, Miss Elliot had become the wife of Captain Osborne, a true gentleman who deserved a better fate. An opportunity was offered to the lady to return the articles on a promise to hush up the matter, if she would give a confession in writing. The proposition was rejected with disdain by her as well as her husband and her brother, who both believed in her. The matter, however, was far too serious to be poohpoohed. Mrs. Osborne expected every day to be hauled up for larceny. To prevent that, she had recourse to a desperate game. She anticipated her prosecution by bringing an action against her accusers for slander.

It was all in vain. The jewels were traced to Messrs. Spink, of Gracechurch Street, jewellers, who had purchased them, on the 19th February, for £550, from a lady who gave the name of Mrs. Price, of Radcliffe Hall, near Bradford. No such person has been known near Bradford. At first, Messrs. Spink had given the so called Mrs. Price a crossed cheque for the price on Messrs. Glyn, Mills and Co., the bankers. On the 23rd February, she returned the cheque, as

the bankers had refused to cash it and wanted an open order. Messrs. Spink were accommodated enough to accede to the unknown lady's proposal. An open cheque was given, which was duly cashed by Glyn, Mills & Co. The case hung on the question of the identity of the young lady calling herself "Mrs. Price" with Mrs. Osborne. The plaintiff tried to ward off suspicion by accounting for every moment of her time on the 19th February when she was alleged to have called at Gracechurch Street and sold the jewels. It was an arduous attempt, and she was successful by nearly three-fourths. But, as the *Saturday Review* says, an incomplete *alibi* is the most damaging of all defences. Even overlooking the contradictions of her servants, by whom she showed how innocently she was engaged all that day, she left seventy five minutes of her time unexplained, and an hour and a quarter is sufficient in London to buy and sell a diamond mine or a pearl fishery, or, for that matter, a crown with all its belongings. The toils daily tightened round Mrs. Osborne. It turned out at last that a lady brought £550 in gold on the 23rd February to Messrs. Benjamin, of Conduit Street, for conversion into notes. They gave an order on a bank where she received the notes, and one of these was traced to the Bank of England endorsed "Ethel Elliot." The end of it all was that Messrs. Spink lost their money and Mrs. Hargreaves recovered her jewels. They are rightly served for clutching at their "bargain," and she must thank herself for all her intermediate anxieties and trouble, for having locked up for ever trinkets whose only *raison d'être* was to be worn! Mrs. Osborne did not wait for the verdict of the jury, but took "French leave" to the Continent on the collapse of her case. A warrant followed and, on Thursday last, she was arrested at Dover. Apparently making a virtue of necessity, she said that she surrendered out of regard for her husband, whose career might otherwise be wrecked. Would that she had shown a little more regard for the unhappy man by abstaining from marrying him. She was brought to court and charged with fraudulently obtaining a cheque for £550 from Messrs. Spink, and then remanded.

THE literary treatment of the subject by the press kept up the sensation and almost went down to the depth of the scandal. This is a sample of the description of the scene in court in a society paper:—

"The opening speech was marked by a masterly reticence and incisiveness of style. Sir Charles Russell spoke for over two hours, maintaining throughout his grand knack of impersonal expression. His soft blue eyes that pierce while they caress, now rested on the defendant's golden head in benevolent rebuke, and now impressed upon the jury some point in the plaintiff's favour. Once or twice he was interrupted by Sir Edward Clarke, whose play of features is so eloquent that, were the law of libel to take notice of mere looks, he would sometimes be engaged upon his own defence; or the Judge would make a well-meaning and equitable remark; but usually there was intense interested silence as the conviction grew upon those who listened that it was impossible that the lady of whom he spoke could be guilty of so vulgar and commonplace a crime as that imputed to her. Mrs. Osborne is tall and graceful, with dark eyes and beautiful dark hair gathered in a loose knot on her neck. Her expression is pleasing and extremely candid. Her voice is a very sweet one. It was so low during her examination as to be almost inaudible at times; but the evident reluctance with which she gave her evidence was held to be the natural shrinking of a sensitive, refined woman from so public an inquiry."

The "masterly reticence" of an opening by counsel suggests the eloquence of silence! Was Sir Charles Russell playing a two hours' pantomime? We have never before seen the soft blue eyes of a hard-headed knowing man of law dwelt upon with dithyrambic gush. After that, the glowing portrait of the pretty plaintiff was a matter of course. Had the interesting creature not already been fastened as a millstone round poor Captain Osborne's neck, she was sure, after that certificate from the press, to be magnificently wedded.

MEHERPORE and Chooadanga are two rural towns, in the district of Nuddea. Although within a distance of less than 20 miles from each other, these two places have, since the time of the indigo riots, been the headquarters of two conterminous sub-districts, each with its own staff of judicial and executive officers. Now that the European planters have very nearly given up Nuddea as a field of their enterprise, Sir Charles Elliott has wisely decided to amalgamate the two subdivisions into one. But as this decision rendered the abandonment of one of the two aforesaid towns inevitable, a bitter controversy arose as to their relative claims to preference. While the champions of aristocratic Meherpore sought to make out a good case for her by insisting upon

the fact of her being an old town and having a central position, the Choadangites took exception to her insalubrious climate and her being less easily accessible than their own parvenu little station on the E. B. S. Railway. After giving due hearing to both sides, Sir Charles Elliott has decided in favor of the older town. We should think that the better course would have been to discard both, and to make some place like Tibhatta on the Jelengi the headquarters of the new sub-district. We would not, however, regret the choice that has been made, if its ultimate result be to draw the attention of Government to the necessity of adopting some measure for admitting a sufficiently large volume of water into the stagnant bed of the Bhyrub, so as to make it a blessing to the populous tract it passes through in its meandering course, instead of being, as it is, the nursery of the pestilential diseases which now decimate the poor inhabitants.

It is said that the Emperor of China is learning English. Irrespective of the British subjects of different races in the various colonies and dependencies of England, most foreigners are content to learn the French of all European languages. The Persians and Turks of the modern school affect French speech as well as manners. Diplomatic Pashas and Mirzas are commonly fair French scholars but ignorant of English. In the countries bordering on the Mediterranean and throughout Northern Africa, the French is extensively prevalent, while the English is a mere name. The conquests of Napoleon, the political ascendancy of France, and, above all, the persevering, pushing character of French foreign policy, supported by the skill of French diplomacy, have had more to do with bringing about this result than the inherent merits of the French language, great as these undoubtedly are. The statesmen of England and their agents abroad have sadly neglected to create the corresponding extent of influence among foreigners and specially those beyond the pale of Christendom. Amid the prevailing selfishness and sordidness of international intercourse in former times, England had the rare distinction of being enlightened and animated by great ideas and good principles. But she shrank from an imperial policy. It was long before she dimly discerned her position in the globe or her destiny. Otherwise, the English speech and English letters would by this have overspread the greater part of the earth. On the other hand, France made the most of her opportunities in this behalf.

In Southern and Eastern Asia, although the enterprise of the Jesuit missionaries gave the French language the start, the political ascendancy of the British has enabled the English tongue to distance it.

THE following is being innocently related in all the newspapers of Christendom as a fine joke, characteristic of the interesting idiosyncrasy of a British wit of quality :—

"One of the best stories told of Lord Lytton refers to the maid servants whom he kissed. Buried one day in a dream he entered his carriage with Lady Lytton, when she asked :—'Do you know what you did when you came out?' 'I have not the slightest idea' said the Ambassador, when Lady Lytton continued—'you kissed all the maid-servants.' The astonishing assertion made an impression upon the absent-minded diplomatist for some while, but at last he answered—'Let us hope that there were some pretty ones amongst them.'"

We wonder how the lady appreciated the compliment. How considerate towards the feelings of the poor wife was the repartee! So much for the chivalry of the practical lord! The lady was, of course, used to this sort of treatment as his mother was used to worse brutality from his still more eminent and far more poetical father. This sort of day-dream was too common. Speaking from Indian tradition, it was his normal condition. His vicereignty was one long dream.

THE Bengal Government is developing persistency in error. The curtailment of the Doorga Pooja holidays has been a blundering business throughout. Last December, the Local Government published the public holidays it would allow under the Negotiable Instruments Act during the current year. We pointed out at the time that the number of the Act relied upon was not XVI but XXVI of 1881. This week, the same notification without any rectification is repeated in the Gazette without any justification for its reproduction.

THE *Times of India's* "Pen" is now far away on the tramp in France. He is of course reminded of the commonplaces current in English society in regard to that country. A good soul, he naturally remembers

the more pleasant remarks on the natives, whether he agree with such remarks or not. He writes :—

"They manage these things better in France," is an old saying, to which, as a true born Briton, I by no means give an unqualified adherence."

It is difficult to compress more blunder in a single sentence. There is no such "saying," "old" or new. "They manage these things better in France," is simply a popular mistake—one of the numerous misquotations current not only in society, but also among literary men who are content to take remarks at second hand. It is the popular recasting of a little passage at the outset of Sterne's *Sentimental Journey*. The author writes, if we may trust our memory, "They order the matter better in France".

IN our Poet's Corner this week, we present to our readers some notable little pieces. The first consists of three stanzas on Patience which were clipped from an old magazine by the indefatigable collector, Dr. Robert Southey, Poet Laureate. The second is an anonymous piece which we ourselves draw from a similar source. The third and fourth are two of Mr. Swain's English Melodies. Although they have already appeared, few in this country are acquainted with them, specially of our Hindu and Mussulman readers. All, we are sure, will be glad of this opportunity of reading a couple of the loveliest little lyrics in the world. We reproduce them on purpose to show to our fellow Orientals who delight in erotic literature, what the pure Poetry of Love is like—Poetry as true as ever stirred the human heart, but free from the grossness of the flesh. Until they can appreciate such effusions, their claim to civilization will scarcely be fully admitted by the Western world.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, February 6, 1892.

DEATH OF ÆSCULAPIUS.

SUCH, indeed, was the late Hakeem deemed. Mahmood Khan was not only the leading Mahomedan doctor of Delhi, but the chief physician of all India.

Hakeem Mahmood Khan's ancestors accompanied the Emperor Babar Shah from Kashghar to India. The place where they at first chose to settle in India was Hyderabad (Sind), and the tombs of two of his ancestors, Khajah Mahomed Hashim and Khajah Mahomed Kassim, are still to be found there. From Hyderabad they shifted to Akbarabad (Agra), where two or three generations passed away, and their dwelling houses are still in existence there. It was from this place that Hakeem Wasil Khan removed himself to Delhi, where since that time up to the present moment his descendants have permanently settled. The beginning of the family's medical profession dates from the time of Hakeem Fazil Khan, whose son Hakeem Wasil Khan had become the then court physician. After his death, his son, Hakeem Akmal Khan, succeeded him. The latter had completed all his education necessary for the profession when he was only 15 or 16 years of age. His genius was unequalled. He was the contemporary of the famous physician Ulvee Khan. After the death of Hakeem Akmal Khan, Hakeem Shareef Khan (one of his two sons) was appointed physician to the Emperor of Delhi and the Royal Family. He was a well-known man of extensive Eastern learning, and, as such, he is held in great regard and admiration in the world of letters. He is the author of some several useful and valuable works; and most of the Indian physicians read his book *Ilaj-ul-Amraz* with much benefit and advantage. It contains the most rare and choicest Yunani prescriptions. There is not a single educated physician who is not aware of Hakeem Shareef Khan, or has not been benefited

by his professional writings. After the death of the latter, Hakeem Sadick Ali Khan (one of his six sons) became his successor; and although he did not figure prominently as an author, he showed special ability and skill in his own practice. There are people still living at Delhi who have been eye-witnesses to his marvellous power of curing most serious cases. Hakeem Sadick Ali Khan had three sons. The eldest, Hakeem Gholam Mahomed Khan, who was the court physician at Patiala, died, in the lifetime of his father, on his way back from Mecca. After the death of Hakeem Sadick Ali Khan, Hakeem Mahmood Khan took upon himself the burden and responsibility of this honorable profession. Though the venerable Hakeem used to live a free and independent life, and besides his professional practice he had nothing to do with the Government or the public at large, yet during the mutiny he rendered yeoman's service to thousands of people then in trouble. He had all those persons released who had been unjustly arrested. It is a well-known fact in Delhi that, at the time of the mutiny, when things worth thousands were sold at hundreds and those valued at hundreds could be had at tens, Hakeem Mahmood Khan, though well off, did not then buy anything worth a pice even. Those articles that had been entrusted to his care during the mutiny were kept by him with great safety and perfect honesty, and finally restored to their respective owners at the time of peace. In the days of the mutiny, when many conscientious persons were ready to buy cheap articles, Hakeem Mahmood Khan acted up to his own lofty conscience, and would refuse to buy anything brought to him for sale. To the following Native States, the Hakeem was called in for treatment—Hyderabad (called by Sir Khurshed Jah) Bikanir, Odeypore, Jummo, Rampore and Jheendh. Besides these, there are many other places whence he was sent for. His services were required at two or three other Native States, but he did not go, being utterly without avarice. Out of his 5 or 6 medical works, only two have been published. These two books treat of the most important matters for India considered from a medical point of view.

THE DRESS QUESTION.

THE recent order of Sir Charles Elliott that ministerial officers should be respectably and decently dressed, deserves careful consideration. While the question of the higher training of our young men is engaging attention and when so many other important questions of social reform are on the tapis, it is, I think, worth while to make a few observations regarding the dress of our younger generation which has of late undergone a remarkable change.

Dress is a great thing for a nation and a great link of unity. The Arabic proverb says, a person's worth is to be gauged from his dress and it makes the first impression upon an observer. I believe the greatest diversity prevails in dress among the people of Bengal generally and especially among the present generation of Bengalis. English education, European ideas of fashion, great changes in social association, frequent visits of our youngmen to England and changes in religious thoughts, all these have to account for this remarkable change. It seems that the Hindus had no national, or at least decent and respectable, dress which they could call their own. Therefore, during the Mahomedan rule, they adopted the Mahomedan costume in full which, although transformed in many ways, holds its place still among the old classes of Bengali gentlemen. Even in these days, on ceremonial occasions, we are not surprised to see the jamas and lattuodars puggies and other remnants of old times. Generally speaking, the dresses of our young men in Bengal and also most of the respectable classes and durbaries, is a ludicrous and

shabby mixture of the European and the Mahomedan, each in itself incomplete and based on no principle or good taste. A large amount of money is spent on them, but without much good result. A respectable Babu is not uncommonly seen with a loose satin trouser, a fine black coat, a fashionable neck-tie and an embroidered cap. Another would prefer a kinkhab trouser, a satin or silk choga resembling a night gown, capped with a peculiar Bengali pagree. I have seen several young Babus with their Santipore dhoties and fashionable frock coats and high neck-ties. Shirts and dhoties of the above kind are used by many. As far as one's private home dress is concerned, I have not much to say if it is only decent, that is consistent with notions of decency as understood among educated and respectable classes. But when any person or member of a community attends a public place, party or durbar, with any particular dress and it is objectionable, it comes within the range of public criticism.

The English Government is no doubt a very liberal Government, and it has given much freedom to its Indian subjects. Freedom of speech is the first great boon which it has conferred on us with many others. But I think all of us have not up to this time made a very good use of it. Government has hitherto been very indifferent to the question of dress, with the result that matters went from bad to worse, and even the rules of darbar were transgressed. The dress with which some of our people attend Viceregal durbars and parties, is most objectionable and shows not only their bad taste but also want of proper training. Twenty years ago, no one would have dared to go and see a young Assistant Magistrate in such ludicrous and disrespectful dress. There was a time when the nobles of the land would not see the Commissioner except in proper durbari dress, and this rule is still observed in all the Provinces in Upper India, where again there is at least in each Province some uniformity in dress. A Mahomedan reis would not admit any man in his durbar or in his presence until and unless he was properly dressed, and subordinates were severely punished for neglect in that behalf. Englishmen have their own dresses and their rules which they strictly observe. It is time that the attention of the authorities should be directed to this point, as they can introduce many reforms by one word and one stroke of the pen which it would take our reformers years to effect. If the Viceroy really means to teach our young people good manners, he ought to insist upon their dressing properly in either the English or the native fashion. It is true that many young men have now a great liking for European dress. If it is so, let them have it by all means. But it must be perfect and respectable and not such as is neither fish nor fowl. If they like the Hindustani dress, let them adopt it in full, and I think most of them would look more respectable in it, as was remarked by Lord Dufferin.

We want uniformity, completeness and decency in the dress of our people. There are young men of each community who are now after English fashion and English dress. I don't wish to deprive them of their legitimate desire if they wish to fulfil it. The young English-knowing Mahomedans are quite welcome to adopt Turkish or Persian Durbari dress for ceremonial occasions, both of which are in reality European in two distinct forms. They may have the English dress also if they choose, but I should not like them to be dressed like a clown or a coxcomb. I think it is the duty of Government to prescribe the dress and uniform for its servants as for those who attend its courts or wait upon its representatives. There is in fact no exhibition of independence, as some think, in attending the Viceroy's parties and Durbars with brimless caps and China and frock coats. I believe, the Lieutenant-Governor could not see those ludicrous pictures of indecency and disrespect with which our courts have of late been full. Bench clerks with dirty shirts and dhotis, Moharruers with dhotis, chudders or wrappers, the Mahomedan Amla with ruj caps, and young officers with coxcombish brimless caps—these men must have changed their dresses or kept themselves aloof during his Honor's inspection. I think most of them can be rightly punished for contempt of court. The district officers are to some extent responsible for this deplorable state of things. I believe clerks in the Calcutta mercantile houses dress more respectably than the present Government clerks, and it is a pity that Government servants should not be taught how

to appear before their superiors. Poor chaprasi and the rich pleaders have up to this time stuck to their old dresses and *lebasī Durbārī*. The Lieutenant-Governor's order is quite opportune, and since it has been issued officers are busy carrying it out. In detail that order may be advantageously modified, and I shall revert to it in my next letter if I have time.

An order of the same kind from the Viceroy in distinct terms will put matters to right and rouse the people to their sense of duty in this respect. It must have a good effect upon the manners of our young men who admittedly don't learn these things either in the school or at home. The class of men who are now being made respectable as a result of Government policy, cannot learn these things in our schools or in their homes. Most of the men who now enter public life in different professions and become durbars and title holders, are entirely left at the mercy of their tailors regarding matters of dress. The old rules must be relaxed in the case of youngmen who adopt either European, Turkish, or Persian dress in their integrity. Noblemen of other countries and representatives of other Powers who have attended the Viceroy's durbars and parties in Calcutta, had occasion to remark the laxity which prevails in his court as regards the dress of the durbars.

AN OBSERVER.

5th February.

ANOTHER CASE OF LIBEL.

THERE seems to be no end to the attacks, public and private, on the press. The last case took place in the Western Presidency, which is the special hot-bed of this species of litigation.

Captain H. de B. Howell, of the Worcestershire Regiment, sued in the Bombay High Court, Cursetjee Rustumjee, printer and publisher of the *Poona Observer*, claiming Rs. 5,000 damages for defamation.

The case as stated in the plaint is this. Pursuant to an advertisement in the newspapers, a walking match took place at Poona, on the 17th July, 1891, between Hancock, a professional pedestrian, and Private Watts, of the Lancashire Fusiliers.

The match took place on a course measuring 230 yards, or ten yards over a furlong. The walk was restricted to an hour, within which, in order to win, Hancock must walk five furlongs further than Watts. No judge having been appointed, Mr. T. Le Mesurier, who was time-keeper, announced, at the close, that Hancock had won. The announcement came upon the plaintiff, as on others, as a surprise, as he believed that, in point of fact, Watts was the winner. The whole thing having been conducted irregularly, without any constituted judge, Mr. Le Mesurier having acted beyond authority and made a mistake, the plaintiff, with many others, thought that the walking ought to be gone through again under proper arrangements, particularly as Mr. Le Mesurier was disqualified from being judge by having a bet on the race. To this end, he supplied to the sub-editor of the *Poona Observer*, of which the defendant is the proprietor and publisher, a true report of the circumstances attending the match. The sub-editor received it and made certain additions of his own. This report was published in the *Poona Observer* of the 18th July 1891. Subsequently, the defendant published in his issue of July 23, the libel complained of, charging Captain Howell with misleading the public by a false report attacking Mr. Le Mesurier's honour for nothing, &c.

The defendant denied that he was the publisher of the *Poona Observer* and averred that he was not in a position to know how far the allegations of the plaint were accurate. His account of the publication of the plaintiff's version of the match was this, namely, that the plaintiff called at the office of the *Poona Observer*, at the middle of the night of the 17th July, when the proof-reader, Mr. Cronan, alone was in attendance. Mr. Cronan showed him the report by the journal's reporter, which was then being set up in type. Captain Howell condemned the report as inaccurate and offered to give a correct version, which was taken down by Mr. Cronan, handed to the compositors, revised in proof between the Captain and Mr. Cronan, and thus published in the issue of the 18th July. The defendant denied that the sub-editor noted down and made certain additions, as Mr. Cronan was not the sub. No such responsible person was present in the office at that hour, or such a report would never have been admitted. Mr. Cronan clearly went beyond his authority in substituting a stranger's account for the reporter's report already accepted. Mr. Le Mesurier

complained of the report published, correspondence took place, and the result was the insertion of the article, of which the plaintiff now complained. According to the defendant, the plaintiff had no just ground of complaint against the article, still, for the sake of peace, Cursetjee Rustumjee had published the letter of Captain Howell's solicitors, containing his complaint, in the *Poona Observer* of the 25th August, and at the same time he had caused portions of the article complained of to be withdrawn and regret was expressed that the same had been published. The defendant maintained that, whatever the case before, Captain Howell had no more ground for complaint left after the amende of the 25th August. Of course, the defendant concluded with denying that the plaintiff had suffered anything like a damage of Rs. 5,000. In short, the defendant prayed that the suit be dismissed with costs.

On application from the defence an order having been made by the court for the production of certain documents, the Advocate-General, for Government as well as Captain Howell, stated that the documents were official and the plaintiff had been ordered by the Commander-in-Chief not to produce them. Upon this, an interesting conversation took place.

"His lordship: But you have the documents and can produce them?"

Mr. Latham: We cannot do so, as the plaintiff is a public officer.

His lordship: I have nothing to do with that. I am only considering whether I shall dismiss the case now or give you some grace.

Mr. Jardine: When I asked for the production of the documents, I mentioned that the matter might be allowed to stand over till Thursday, so that we could have Wednesday for the inspection of the letters; but if I had thought the plaintiff would not have produced them, I should have at once asked for the case to be dismissed.

Mr. Latham: I may say that Captain Howell, after hearing your decision that he must produce the documents, is willing to do so; but I must now ask your lordship to hear me on behalf of Government as objecting to their production.

His lordship: I cannot hear you.

Mr. Latham: Will you rule, then, that I have no *locus standi* here as Advocate-General? Will you rule that you will not hear me on behalf of Government?

His lordship: I thought you were speaking on behalf of Government before.

Mr. Latham: No, on behalf of Captain Howell.

Mr. Jardine: I thought he was then appearing on behalf of Government also; he spoke about the Commander-in-Chief's letters.

Mr. Latham: The important point is whether Government is to be heard or not. That is what I should like to know.

Mr. Jardine: This is simply a matter between private parties, so the Government have no right to interpose.

Mr. Latham: Will your lordship rule that?

His lordship said an order had been passed on which the plaintiff was liable to have his suit dismissed. In order to give him time to produce the documents, as it was then past five o'clock, he would postpone the case to Thursday, when, if the order was not obeyed the suit would be dismissed. He had made a note to the effect that he understood the Advocate-General had been addressing him on behalf of Government, and that it was not necessary for him to be heard further in regard to the matter.

Mr. Latham: It is important to know whether Government has any *locus standi* here or not.

His lordship: I have decided that and ruled they have not.

The case was then adjourned till Thursday."

On that day the documents were produced.

The case was dismissed with costs on the 29th January, Mr. Justice Parsons holding that the article in question was not a libel, but was strictly and literally true in every particular, as the account furnished by the plaintiff contained statements which were incorrect and had not been verified.

THE UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS.

The Hon. Justice Gooroo Das Bannerjee, the Vice-Chancellor, in reply to the call from his Excellency the Chancellor, after a few introductory remarks, addressed the Convocation in the following terms:—

The number of candidates for our examination in the past year, was, I observe, less than the number in the year preceding. One cause of this is, I think, to be found in our own statistics. The successful candidates at the Entrance and F. A. examinations of 1889, who would in due course form respectively the majority of the candidates for the F. A. and B. A. examinations of 1889 were comparatively small in number, the year 1889 having been, as you will remember, a year of heavy failures; and the year 1890, which was one of fair average results, did not leave any unusually large residue of unsuccessful candidates to make up the deficiency.

Another circumstance, which may also partly account for this decrease, was the exercise of greater care and discrimination by the heads of institutions in sending up candidates for examination. So

far as the falling off is due to this cause, it need not create much misgiving, especially when our schools and colleges, which are the real source of our strength, are steadily increasing in number.

The question whether the growth of our educational institutions has not reached a point after which their further growth requires to be regulated and restrained, came up before the Senate last year, and is still under consideration. Some are of opinion that new schools and colleges should be recognized and affiliated irrespective of their effect on older institutions, and then free competition would lead to the survival of the fittest; while others maintain that if rival institutions opened for purpose of gain, but not required to satisfy any real want, are allowed to exist, they lead to unhealthy competition, injurious to the interests of discipline and sound education. There is some force in the argument on each side.

Remembering that it is only a small fraction of the vast population of the country that shares the benefits of education, we must not too rigidly adhere to the principle that demand should precede supply, but should sometimes allow supply to anticipate and create demand, as it not unfrequently does. But, on the other hand, it must be borne in mind that as in nine cases out of ten the customer here is not likely to be a competent judge of the commodity, free competition requires control to secure efficiency and usefulness.

The subject involves conflicting considerations of some nicety, and much will always depend upon the good sense and discrimination of the controlling authority. We may hope that the question will be considered by the Senate, in all its bearings, and a satisfactory solution will soon be arrived at.

The Regulations relating to the examinations in the several Faculties have undergone revision more or less during the past year.

The scheme of Law Studies has been carefully revised by a committee consisting of a learned Judge of the High Court, who is the President of the Faculty of Law, and of the Advocate-General, the Senior Government Pleader, one of the leading Attorneys, and two experienced Professors of Law representing the affiliated Law Colleges. A scheme thus prepared may well be accepted as including all that it is necessary to equip the young lawyer with, to qualify him for the responsible duties of his profession; and the B. L. degree will, I hope, continue to enjoy and deserve the recognition it has hitherto had, as a test of fitness for entering the profession, or the judicial service.

In the Regulations in Medicine an important change has been introduced requiring unsuccessful candidates to go through a fresh course of instruction in the subjects in which they are found deficient, before they are admitted to examination again. The rule is intended to secure that standard of proficiency which is necessary to be attained by those who must be entrusted with life and health.

The Regulations in Engineering have been referred for revision to the Faculty of Engineering along with a letter from the Director of Public Instruction and a Resolution of the Government of Bengal recommending certain changes. One of these recommendations is to introduce an alternative course for Mining Engineers. The somewhat better prospects held out to graduates in Engineering in the Government Resolution just referred to, may, I hope, make our degrees in Engineering more attractive than they have hitherto been.

The privilege granted last year to the M. As. and holders of corresponding degrees in the other Faculties to elect two gentlemen from among themselves for appointment as Fellows was again allowed by his Excellency the Chancellor to be exercised this year; and electors resident in the mofussil were invited to take part in the election by signing their voting papers in the presence of a Magistrate. How greatly the privilege is valued is shown by the fact that out of about 900 Masters and Doctors whose names are on our rolls, no less than 641 took part in the election, and voting papers came from the most distant parts of the empire. The voting resulted in the election of Babu Pran Nath Pundit and Babu Upendra Nath Mitra, and I am glad to say that their election has met with the approval of His Excellency. To these, and the other gentlemen who have been just appointed Fellows, I accord a most hearty welcome.

After a passing tribute to the late Mr. Downing, Raja Rajendra Lal Mitra and Pundit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, the address alluding to the death of Pundit Adjudhaya Nath, said :—

In Pundit Adjudhaya Nath we have lost another distinguished colleague, a man 'of whom,' as the Vice-Chancellor of the Allahabad University has justly remarked, 'any country and any race might be proud.' His numerous professional and other engagements in the North-West left him little time, it is true, to take any active share in our work, but his warm sympathy for our educated young men in all their hopes and aspirations, and his earnest exertions and immense self-sacrifice to promote the good of his country, made him loved and respected by the educated classes all over India, and Bengal mourns his loss as deeply as his Native province.

The speaker alluded to the death of the Duke of Clarence, and then proceeded to touch upon one or two of the educational problems that pressingly demand solution.

It is said, not without some truth, that the University is turning out graduates in much larger numbers than can find suitable employment; and that, while the education that it encourages is so ill-remunerative, the cost of time and energy that preparation for its examinations demands is disproportionately high. The question therefore presses upon us, how to regulate our courses of study so as to ensure the greatest usefulness and entail the least loss of time and energy to the student?

As regards the courses of study prescribed for examinations in the special Faculties of Law and Medicine, it is not easy to see what useful change the University can introduce. These courses have been settled by distinguished members of the respective professions with due regard to their usefulness for the careers for which they are intended to train our graduates; and considering the grave responsibilities to be undertaken, they cannot be said to be too exacting in their demand upon the time and attention of the student. If skilled labour in these professions does not find sufficient work or adequate remuneration, the law of supply and demand must be left to bring about the necessary economic equilibrium.

The case, however, is somewhat different with regard to our course of study in Engineering. Here it is, I think, possible for the University to introduce changes for the better. Though a well qualified body of legal or medical practitioners can create no new work for themselves, unless it be by making people oversensitive about their legal rights or health—a state of things not very desirable in itself—a body of engineers or persons duly trained in those branches of science and art which enable them to develop the material resources of the country, can create work for themselves and wealth for others.

But even here the University unaided can do very little. It may prescribe courses of study and institute examinations in Mining Engineering or Agriculture, or other similar subjects; but unless there are colleges established, competent to give a thorough and efficient theoretical and practical training in those subjects, the prescribed courses of study can never be profitably pursued, and the examination creditably passed.

But how are we to have such a college established? It must be a long time before private liberality which is taxed in so many ways can be expected to endow an institution of this sort. Though I am extremely reluctant to ask my countrymen to invoke the aid of Government where they can help it, in the present instance I must say we cannot do without such aid. We ought therefore to be deeply thankful to Sir Charles Elliott for the views expressed by him in the Resolution already alluded to, where he says: "He considers that the increase of the number of young men trained to engineering pursuits and qualified by their training to develop the resources of the province is an object on which he is justified in incurring large outlay, since he is confident that all such outlay will be fully reproductive."

The policy indicated in this Resolution regarding the training of our young men in Engineering and Agriculture will, if fully carried out, as I confidently hope it will be, mark a new era in the educational, and the general progress of the country, and the dreams of gold of which we recently heard so much, will be realized, though in a somewhat different shape.

In the courses of study prescribed for our Arts examinations, I think it is not only desirable, but absolutely necessary, to introduce certain changes, and I am glad to say that the attention of the University has already been drawn in this direction.

Our Entrance examination every year attracts several thousands of candidates, of whom only a small number intend to pursue their studies in Arts any further, the rest being anxious to pass the examination to qualify themselves for some occupation for which an Entrance certificate is considered a necessary or a desirable recommendation. It would, therefore, be ignoring the case of this large body of candidates if the Entrance course is prescribed only with a view to train students for entering the University. It may no doubt be said that those who do not intend to enter the University need not come up for the Entrance examination. But the passing of this examination implies a certain well-recognised education and even social position which has made the examination so attractive; and, in the interests of education and progress, we ought to do our best to foster the generous ambition which even the intending cultivator or mechanic feels to be an

Holloway's Ointment and Pills.—Indisputable Remedies.—In the use of these medicaments there need be no hesitation or doubt of their cooling, healing, and purifying properties. The Ointment stands unrivalled for the facility it displays in relieving, healing, and thoroughly curing the most inveterate sores and ulcers, and in cases of bad legs and bad breasts they act as a charm. The Pills are the most effectual remedy ever discovered for the cure of liver complaints, diseases most disastrous in their effects, deranging all the proper functions of the organs affected, inducing restlessness, melancholy, weariness, inability to sleep, and pain in the side, until the whole system is exhausted. These wonderful Pills, if taken according to the printed directions accompanying each box, strike at the root of the malady, stimulate the stomach and liver into a healthy action, and effect a complete cure.

undergraduate of the University. Considering, however, the great diversity of careers for which the Entrance examination will have to prepare the students, if it is to be organised for such a comprehensive object, the prescribed course of study must consist of a large number of alternative subjects, each being suited for a particular career, but everyone of them ensuring a certain amount of mental training. If such a scheme is judiciously devised, it will qualify our undergraduates not only for literary and scientific careers, but also for industrial and commercial pursuits—a thing that is very much needed to remove the block caused by overcrowding in their avenues to employment.

The movement recently set on foot to reconcile sea voyages with Hindu orthodoxy may, if it succeeds, stimulate commercial activity and enterprise, and hereby open out fresh fields of employment for our educated young men.

After pointing out that "though to enable us to supply ourselves with the necessaries of life must be the first object of education, to earn wealth is certainly not its sole, nor its chief end;" the speaker referred to the hurtful effect exercised on the mind of the student by the great extent of the course of study.

Another cause, he said, which operates prejudicially in a similar way is the time-serving spirit in which our young men often pursue their study. A pernicious habit, which I am sorry to hear is gaining strength, prevails with the great bulk of our students, of reading not with a view to gain knowledge and improve the mind, but merely with a view to pass examinations. It is high time now that our teachers and professors should exert all their influence resolutely to put down this evil, and should use every opportunity forcibly to point out to their pupils the lamentable folly of wasting their time and energy in learning the petty art of achieving unmerited success at the temporary trials in the examination hall when they should be improving and strengthening their minds to qualify them for the continued trial in life.

While imputing to our students the blame that justly attaches to them, I must not disclaim our own share of it. Our examinations have, no doubt, from a desire to make them thorough and searching, occasionally been such as to require special preparation as distinguished from such general study of the prescribed subjects as a student desirous of gaining knowledge and improving his mind would naturally go through. We have sometimes demanded from our examinees a too minute knowledge of minor details or knowledge of a sort that is not likely to be necessary or useful anywhere except in the examination hall. As a very eminent and experienced examiner, Professor Huxley, has remarked, 'examination, like fire, is a good servant, but a bad master.' It should serve as a test for diligent and thoughtful study, instead of making study serve its peculiar requirements.

One great reason why our University education fails to awaken much original thinking is because it is imparted through the medium of a difficult foreign language, the genius of which is so widely different from that of our own. The acquisition of such a language must, to a great extent, be the work of imitation; and the habit of imitation gradually becomes so deep rooted as to influence our intellectual operations generally. Again, the costly foreign drapery in which our students have to clothe their thoughts, taxes their limited mental resources to an extent which does not leave enough for the proper feeding and fostering of thought. The only way out of the difficulty is for the student to economise his means, and to forego all temptation for finery in language, and concentrate his efforts to the cultivation of the thinking faculty; and he may rest assured that noble thoughts never fail to command attention, though clad in plain and homely garb.

The Vice-Chancellor then referred to what he characterized as the "deplorable neglect of physical education" :—

The University can do very little to remedy the evil, but those who are entrusted with the management of schools and colleges should never forget their responsibility in this matter. They should strongly impress upon their students the indispensable necessity of attending to health, and they should encourage healthful and harmless physical exercise, and supply facilities for it, without however introducing any element of compulsion or restraint.

One very hopeful sign of progress in this direction is to be found in the fact that the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province is taking a kindly personal interest in the physical well-being of our students, and I take this opportunity of sincerely thanking his Honor for the encouragement they have been receiving from him.

And may I here appeal to Government and private liberality to acquire for us some suitable playground near the Senate House where our undergraduates may resort, so that side by side with the seat of those trials that so severely tax the mind, there may be a place for refreshing recreation to strengthen the body, and the University may be associated not only with distressing thoughts of impending examinations, but also with joyous recollections of youthful pastime and innocent pleasure?

There is one other educational topic upon which I have a word to say. A good deal of adverse criticism, sometimes proceeding from high authorities, is levelled against the fluctuating percentage

of failures at our examinations, which no doubt ranges between widely divergent limits. The fact commented upon certainly requires examination, and I must thank our critics for drawing attention pointedly to it. If it is due to any variation in our standard, the result is clearly unfair to the examinees. But it may be due to other causes (besides, as a little consideration will show. Ordinarily no doubt one year is just as good as another, and the percentage of good candidates would not vary greatly from year to year. But owing to some change in the teaching staff of a large college or owing to an epidemic such as influenza (causes which are not altogether imaginary, but have sometimes been in actual operation), the percentage of ill-prepared candidates in any year may greatly exceed the average. Besides, there are, as every one who has experience in the line knows, good and bad years in respect of the proportion of good and bad students in a class, just as there are good and bad years in respect of many natural phenomena, though we are not always able to ascertain the cause. So then the University may not always and alone be responsible for the fluctuations noticed. So far as it is, it should do its best to prevent any recurrence of the evil. One of the remedies suggested, the appointment of a permanent Board of Examiners, though theoretically perfect, involves many practical difficulties. The subject will, however, I hope, receive careful consideration soon.

While on this subject of criticism on our work, I would beg leave to say to our critics in all sincerity and earnestness, that such of them as are in a position directly to assist the University in its deliberations, will do immensely greater service to it, if they will favour it with their counsels first, and then, if need be, with their criticism next.

I must now offer my young friends who have just obtained their degrees my most hearty congratulations. The success of the lady graduates whom I have had the pleasure of admitting to their degrees is to my mind matter for special congratulation. In saying this I am far from insinuating that their success was unexpected or exceptional; on the contrary, considering the highly susceptible and impressionable nature of the gentler sex, which enables them to imbibe knowledge soon and retain it long, such success is but natural, and the poet truly says,

Men seeking knowledge long must strive,
And over many volumes pore;
But favoured women all their lore
With ease from Nature's grace derive.

What I mean to say is that their success is a more sure index of the progress of education than the success of young men can be. Young men may, and very often do, seek for knowledge in order to succeed in life; but when women who are far less likely to be swayed by such motives, seek for it, the love of knowledge for its own sake must be influencing those whose influence upon society though gentle is irresistible.

I would also specially congratulate the three distinguished graduates in Arts who have won our most valuable prize—the Premchand Roy Chand Studentship, and the young Doctor who, after a brilliant college career, has so well earned the highest degree in Medicine.

Many of you, my young friends, may be thinking now that you have passed through the first stage of life, the stage of preparation, and are about to enter the second, the stage of action.

Now one of the most distressing realities of the world you are going to enter, is the immense disproportion between the many that toil and the few that succeed. If at any of the examinations held in this hall, there is heavy failure, the result attracts public attention, and evokes criticism, and steps are taken to prevent its recurrence in future. But who can criticise to any purpose the conduct of the world's examinations? We must take the world as it is. But if you cannot make the world conform to your views, you must not on the other hand servilely suit yourselves to the world to achieve success.

Another perplexing reality of our situation is the strange inconsistency between profession and practice. As students you have spent much time in learning principles; be it then your first aim upon entering life rigidly to adhere to those principles in spite of the contaminating influence of example. If you wish to succeed in life, that is, if you wish to control the material forces of nature, and the still more subtle forces that move society, so as to make them subserve your purpose, you must possess a powerful and a resolute will,—a will at least as powerful and resolute as can enable you to bring your own actions into conformity with the principles you profess.

If you are able to surmount these difficulties, if you can reconcile your practice with your principles, and if, furthermore, you can reconcile yourself with your lot, you shall have earned that peace within, that true source of happiness, which even the most successful men often fail to attain. And your success, though measured by the amount of work done it may not be great, will surely not be small if measured by the moral strength acquired, strength which will not only sustain you in the race of life, but will stand you in good stead even in that awful stage of it that leads to eternity.

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The first dose will give relief in twenty minutes. This is no fiction, for they have done it in countless cases.

Every sufferer is earnestly requested to try one Box of these Pills, and they will be acknowledged to be WORTH A GUINEA A BOX.

For females of all ages these Pills are invaluable. No female should be without them. There is not a medicine to be found to equal them for removing any obstruction or irregularity of the system. If taken according to the directions given with each box they will soon restore females of all ages to sound and robust health. This has been proved by thousands who have tried them, and found the benefits which are ensured by their use.

For a Weak Stomach, Impaired Digestion, and all Disorders of the Liver, they act like magic, and a few doses will be found to work wonders on the most important organs in the human Machine. They strengthen the whole muscular system, restore the long lost complexion, bring back the keen edge of appetite, and arouse into action with the rosbud of health the whole physical energy of the human frame. These are facts testified to continually by members of all classes of society, and one of the best guarantees to the Nervous and Debilitated is, BEECHAM'S PILLS have the Largest Sale of any Patent Medicine in the World.

SOLE AGENTS FOR INDIA:

NAYLOR, SON, GRIMES & CO.

Wholesale Depot, 35, Clive Street, CALCUTTA:

NOTICE.—MESSRS. NAYLOR SON GRIMES & Co. will forward, on receipt of letter, sample boxes of the Pills at the following rates:—9½d. size 8 annas per box. 1s 1½d. size 12 annas per box. 2s 9d. size 2 Rupees per box. These rates do not include the cost of postage, which will be added to the amount. Chemists and Storekeepers can obtain wholesale rates on application.

NOTICE.

The Chairman will, under rule 15 of the rules prescribed by the Local Government for the Election of Commissioners for Calcutta, hear claims and objections relating to the following Wards at the days and hours stated below:—

1892.	At 12 noon.	At 2-30 P.M.
Monday, Feb. 8th	Ward Nos. 5, 12, 13 & 14	Ward Nos. 15, 16 & 17
Tuesday, " 9th	18, 19, 20 & 21	
Wednesday, " 10th	23, 24 & 25 ... 6	
Thursday, " 11th	1 ...	
Friday, " 12th	2 ...	
Saturday, " 13th	7 ...	
Monday, " 15th	4 ...	10
Tuesday, " 16th	3 ...	
Wednesday, " 17th	8 ...	11
Thursday, " 18th	22 ...	9
Friday, " 19th		

Under the rule specified, all intending candidates and their agents as well as the public generally may attend at the Municipal Office and assist at the disposal of the claims. A list of the claims and objections made in each Ward will be posted up in the Municipal Office at least two days before the day of hearing.

JOHN COWIE,

Secretary to the Corporation.

MUNICIPAL OFFICE,
Calcutta, 5th February 1892.

THE MAHOMEDAN LITERARY SOCIETY.

THE Twenty-Eighth Annual Conversation of the Mahomedan Literary Society of Calcutta, which was to have come off on the 27th January, and which was postponed owing to the death of H. R. H. the Duke of Clarence, will be held at the Town Hall, on Friday, the 4th March, 1892, at 9 P.M.

ABDOOL LUTEEF,

Secretary.

ARMY CLOTHING DEPARTMENT.

Alipore, the 20th January 1892.

Sealed tenders are invited for the supply of miscellaneous stores and materials including buttons, haversacks, canvas, sewing cotton, flannel, gaiters, pith-hats, puttees, thread, cloth blue local, khaki drill, webbing drab, &c., &c., more or less as may be required, for the year 1892-93.

2. Tenders will only be received on the printed forms which are obtainable at this office. Blanks in the printed form must be filled up correctly.

3. Each tender must be accompanied by a Bank of Bengal or Government Treasury deposit receipt in the name of the Superintendent for Rupees one hundred as earnest-money. Cash or notes will not be accepted in lieu.

4. The lowest tender will not necessarily be accepted, any tender may be accepted in whole or in part.

5. Any person whose tender may be accepted, will be required to furnish security in cash, Government Loan paper, Savings Bank deposits, or approved bank deposit receipts, for the due fulfilment of his contract within one week from the date of acceptance of his tender, in default of which his earnest-money will be forfeited. The security will be calculated at 10 per cent. on the contract.

6. Any further information required may be obtained, and sealed patterns inspected at the Clothing Agency.

7. Tenders will be opened by undersigned at noon on Monday the 15th February 1892 in the presence of such persons as may desire to attend.

W. H. MACKESY, Colonel,
Superintendent, Army Clothing.

THE ELYSIUM DRAMATIC COMPANY, "LIMITED."

110, College Street, Calcutta.

(Incorporated under Act VI of 1882.)

OBJECTS.—The main objects of the Company are:—(1) the erection and establishment of a Theatre in the heart of the town, and in the best modern style of comfort, elegance, completeness and finish; (2) the advancement of the Drama, and all the Fine Arts connected with it, and the encouragement of Talent, especially new Talent, by a tasteful and correct presentation of the choicest works of the age or day; (3) the elevation of the Stage into an honourable calling by the elimination from it of all that is low and degraded, or, in any way, objectionable; and (4) the printing, publication and issue of plays, pamphlets, leaflets, journals and magazines, likely to further the interests of the Company in any regard, and, generally, the sale of all books and stationery, &c.

CAPITAL.—Rs. 3,00,000, divided into 3,00,000 shares of Re. 1 each.

DIRECTORS.—Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee (Chairman), Principal Krishnakamal Bhattacharyya, Babu Haralal Ray (late Headmaster, Hindu School), Pandit Tarakumar Kavinatna, Babu Nilambar Mookerjee, M.A., B.L., late of Cashmere, and four others.

BANKERS.—The New Oriental Bank Corporation, Ltd.

Full details in the Prospectus, which contains letters of sympathy and support from the most eminent personages in the land. The following, among others, are our principal

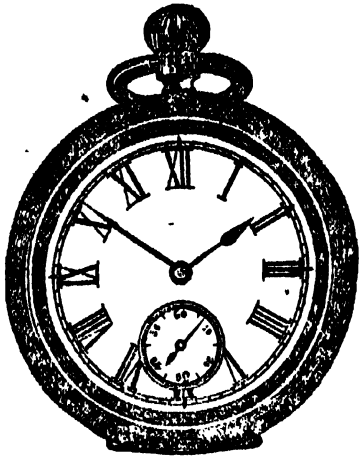
DONORS AND SUBSCRIBERS:

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Babu Hem Chandra Banerjee, Senior Government Pleader, High Court,
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Babu Kunja Behari Mallik, of Posta,
Babu Chandi Lal Singha, late President, National Chamber of Commerce, Banker,
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Lala Bangsagopal Nandey, Burdwan,
" Banbehari Kapur, Burdwan,
Babu Satya Kinkar Sen, B.L., Government Pleader, Burdwan,
Ray Nalinakha Bose Bahadur, Chairman, Burdwan Municipality,
Babu Umacharan Banerji, M.A., Principal, Raj College, Burdwan,
Dr. Jagat Bandhu Mitra, Vice-Chairman, Burdwan Municipality,
Babu Satkari Banerji, Member, Burdwan Raj Committee,
Babu Rajendra Kumar Bose, Sub-Judge, Burdwan,
Munsif Golam Azduk, Pleader, Burdwan,
Babu Jagannobhan Bhattacharyya, Deputy Magistrate, Burdwan,
Babu Taraprasanna Mukerji, Pleader, Burdwan,
Thakur Govinda Prasad Tewari, Zemindar, Burdwan,
&c., &c., &c.

NOTICE.

Wanted active and pushing Agents everywhere for the above Company. Cash security required Rs. 250, (each).

Cheapest and Perfect Time Keeping Watch in the World.
All our Watches Guaranteed for 2 years
PRICE RS. 6-8.



A strong accurate Keyless open-face Watch in nickel silver case.

Runs 30 Hours with one winding, short wind, Regulated to a minute a month. Bold hands and figures, enameled dial, sunk second hand, set from outside. It has a jewelled visible compact escapement. Can be repaired by any watch-maker for a trifle. Is a thoroughly reliable Machine-made Watch, in velvet lined spring case.

Do. Do. Ladies' Wrist Watch. Price... 8 8
Do. Gent's Lever movement, fully jewelled Chronometer balance to prevent variation in extremes of temperature. Price ... 13 0
Do. Hunter do. ... 13 8

Chain.

White Metal Albert Chains, standing acid. Of all Patterns ... 1 4
Imitation Guinea Gold do. ... 2 0
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Repairs of Watches, Jewellery, &c.

We give our greatest attention to every kind of repairs, stone settings, Waltham and Waterbury including, as we always employ a staff of the most skilful workmen for our jobbing dept., our charges are based upon the very lowest calculations.

P. K. MOITRA,

Late Manager, Waterbury Watch Depot,
37, Musjidbari-street, Calcutta

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS & OINTMENT.

THE PILLS

Purify the Blood, correct all Disorders of the
LIVER, STOMACH, KIDNEYS AND BOWELS,
They invigorate and restore to health Debilitated Constitutions, and
are invaluable in all Complaints incidental to Females of all ages.
For children and the aged they are priceless.

THE OINTMENT

Is an infallible remedy for Bad Legs, Bad Breasts, Old Wounds, Sores and Ulcers. It is famous for Gout and Rheumatism. For disorders of the Chest it has no equal.

For Sore Throats, Bronchitis, Coughs, Colds,

Glandular Swellings and all Skin Diseases, it has no rival; and for contracted and stiff joints it acts like a charm.

Manufactured only at Professor HOLLOWAY'S Establishment
OXFORD STREET (late 533, Oxford St.) LONDON.

"IT RECOMMENDS ITSELF."
All who suffer find sure relief from



The Greatest Pain Cure Extant.

It has driven out from the system
Acute Rheumatism and Rheumatic Gout
after years of semi-helplessness and suffering; while in **ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS, LUMBAGO, SCIATICA, FACEACHE, SPRAINS**, it is the surest and safest remedy for these complaints in their severest and most chronic form.

Its magic effect in affording instantaneous relief in
Neuralgia in the Head, Face and Limbs

Is almost too remarkable for CREDENCE.
Are you subject to HEADACHES and the tortures of TOOTHACHE? A single application will relieve you.

In Sore-throat its power has been so rapid and complete that it is universally recommended as

The Marvellous Sore Throat Cure.

Try this wonderful Medicine and let the result speak for itself.

The Oriental Balm is used by the best Physicians in the world in their practice. It has been pronounced a blessing in thousands of homes. By its intrinsic virtue, it has achieved a wide-spread popularity which no similar preparation has ever before attained.

Sold in Bottles at 1 Re. each.

Obtainable of all respectable chemists throughout the world.

Agents in Calcutta: Smith Stanistreet & Co.,
R. Scott Thompson & Co. and Bathgate & Co. Limited.

FOR SALE

Price Two annas, Postage one anna,

SPEECHES

ON THE
AGE OF CONSENT BILL
delivered by

Sir A. Scoble, introducing the Bill in Council,
H. E. the Viceroy, on the same day,
Sir A. Scoble, on the passing of the Bill on
19th March,
The Raja of Bhinga,
The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Krishnaji [Lakshman Nulkar, C.I.E.,
The Hon'ble P. P. Hutchins,
His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
H. E. the Viceroy,

with

Circular from the Home Department to
Local Governments

on the Administration of the Act.

Published by Government.

Apply to the Manager, *Reis and Rayyet*,
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Rs. 6 WATCH.

Guaranteed two Years.

Pretty small, accurate, strong, open-faced, keyless, short winding, nickel silver Undaunted watch, with hand setting mechanism, secondhand, enameled dial, jewelled, and bold figures for Rs. 6 per V. P. P. with an extra glass, spring, box and two years' guarantee. Easily repairable. Warranted to stand roughest use. Others sell at double our rates. Have no appearance of cheapness. Mr. S. Gooniah of District Munsiff's Court from Chicacole says:—"A watch maker valued it at Rs. 25." Mr. B. V. Chetty from Anantapur says:—"Many were deceived thinking that its price was Rs. 25." Mr. Moungh H. Myah of Marine Workshop from Mandalay says:—"Has never been repaired during the whole period of three and a half years."

FASHIONABLE JEWELLERY.

Pretty Canadian Gold Chains, Lockets, Pencils, Tooth Picks, complete Shirt Buttons, Bracelets, Bangles, Earrings, Eardrops (all pairs), Scarf Pins, Scarf Rings, Necklets, Brooches, Hair Sprays, Spectacle Frames, Cigar Holders, Thimbles and Rings set with scientific Diamonds, Sphires, Rubies, Emeralds, &c., at Re. 1-8 per each V. P. P. Mr. G. Smith, Salt Inspector, Sanikutla, says:—"A German valued the diamond ring at Rs. 50 and ruby at Rs. 30." Nickel Silver Timepiece for Rs. 4; guaranteed 3 years.

WESTERN INDIA TRADING CO.,
BOMBAY.

REIS & RAYYET

(PRINCE AND PEASANT)

WEEKLY (ENGLISH) NEWSPAPER

AND

Review of Politics, Literature, and Society.

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RATES OF ADVERTISEMENT.

Advertisements (three columns to the page and 102 lines or 12 inches to the column) are charged by the space taken up, at the rate of 4 annas a line or Rs. 2-2 an inch each insertion. The lowest charge for any advertisement is Rs. 2, except Domestic Occurrences, the lowest charge for which is Rs. 5.

Business Communications (post paid) to be directed to "The Manager," and Literary Communications and books and pamphlets (carriage paid) to "The Editor" of "Reis & Rayyet."

OFFICE: 1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane, Wellington Street, Calcutta.

DROIT ET AVANT.

Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS, LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1892.

No. 511

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

DAMAGES, TWO HUNDRED POUNDS.

SPECIAL Jurymen of England ! who admire your country's laws,
And proclaim a British jury worthy of the realm's applause ;
Gaily compliment each other at the issue of a cause
Which was tried at Guildford 'sises, this day week as ever was.

Unto that august tribunal comes a gentleman in grief,
(Special was the British jury, and the judge, the baron chief,
Comes a British man and husband—asking of the law relief,
For his wife was stolen from him—he 'd have vengeance on the thief.

Yes, his wife, the blessed treasure with the which his life was crowned,
Wickedly was ravished from him by a hypocrite profound,
And he comes before twelve Britons, men for sense and truth renowned,
To award him for his damage, twenty hundred sterling pound.

He by counsel and attorney there at Guildford does appear,
Asking damage of the villain who seduced his lady dear ;
But I can't help asking, though the lady's guilt was all too clear,
And though guilty the defendant, was n't the plaintiff rather queer ?

First the lady's mother spoke, and said she 'd seen her daughter cry
But a fortnight after marriage ; early times for piping eye.
Six months after, things were worse, and the piping eye was black,
And this gallant British husband caned his wife upon the back.

Three months after they were married, husband pushed her to the door,
Told her to be off and leave him, for he wanted her no more ;
As she would not go, why *he* went ; thrice he left his lady dear,
Left her, too, without a penny, for more than a quarter of a year.

Mrs. Frances Duncan knew the parties very well indeed,
She had seen him pull his lady's nose and make her lip to bleed ;
If he chanced to sit at home not a single word he said ;
Once she saw him throw the cover of a dish at his lady's head.

Sarah Green, another witness, clear did to the jury note
How she saw this honest fellow seize his lady by the throat,
How he cursed her and abused her, beating her into a fit,
Till the pitying next-door neighbours crossed the wall and witnessed it.

Next door to this injured Briton Mr. Owers, a butcher, dwelt ;
Mrs. Owers' foolish heart towards this erring dame did melt ;
(Not that she had erred as yet, crime was not developed in her,)
But being left without a penny, Mrs. Owers supplied her dinner—
God be merciful to Mrs. Owers, who was merciful to this sinner !

Caroline Naylor was their servant, said they led a wretched life,
Saw this most distinguished Briton fling a teacup at his wife ;
He went out to balls and pleasures, and never once, in ten months' space,
Sat with his wife, or spoke her kindly. This was the defendant's case.

Pollock, C. B., charged the jury ; said the woman's guilt was clear ;
That was not the point, however, which the jury came to hear,
But the damage to determine which as it should true appear,
This most tender-hearted husband, who so used his lady dear,

Beat her, kicked her, caned her, cursed her, left her starving, year by
year,

Flung her from him, parted from her, wrung her neck, and boxed her ear
What the reasonable damage this afflicted man could claim,
By the loss of the affections of this guilty graceless dame ?

Then the honest British Twelve, to each other turning round,
Laid their clever heads together with a wisdom most profound ;
And towards his lordship looking, spoke the foreman wise and sound :
" My lord, we find for this here plaintiff damages two hundred pound."

So, God bless the Special Jury ! pride and joy of English ground,
And the happyland of England, where ~~from~~ justice does abound !
British jurymen and husbands ; let us hail this verdict proper ;
If a British wife offends you, Britions, you 've a right to whop her.

Though you promised to protect her, though you promised to defend her,
You are welcome to neglect her ; to the devil you may send her ;
You may strike her, curse, abuse her ; so declares our law renowned ;
And if after this you lose her—why you 're paid two hundred pound.

—Punch, 1850.

ODE TO THE BED.

A POSTHUMOUS POEM BY THE LATE THOMAS HOOD, THE ELDER.

OH, bed ! oh, bed ! delicious bed !
That heaven upon earth to the weary head ;
But a place that to name would be ill-bred,
To the head with a wakeful trouble—
'T is held by such a different lease !
To one a place of comfort and peace,
All stuffed with the down of stubble geese,
To another with only the stubble !

To one, a perfect Halcyon nest,
All calm, and balm, and quiet, and rest,
And soft as the fur of the cony—
To another so restless for body and head,
That the bed seems borrowed from Nettlebed,
And the pillow from Stratford the stony !

To the happy a first class carriage of ease,
To the land of Nod, or where you please.
But, alas ! for the watchers and weepers,
Who turn, and turn, and turn again,
But turn, and turn, and turn in vain,
With an anxious brain,
And thoughts in a train
That does not run upon sleepers !

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, nor other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

Wide awake as the mousing owl,
Night-hawk, or other nocturnal fowl—
But more profitless vigils keeping—
Wide awake in the dark they stare,
Filling with phantoms the vacant air,
As if that crook-back'd tyrant, Care,
Had plotted to kill them sleeping.

And oh ! when the blessed diurnal light
Is quenched by the providential night,
To render our slumber more certain,
Pity, pity the wretches that weep,
For they must be wretched who cannot sleep,
When God himself draws the curtain !

The careful Betty the pillow beats,
And airs the blankets and smooths the sheets,
And gives the mattress a shaking—
But vainly Betty performs her part,
If a ruffled head and a rumpled heart
As well as the couch want making.

There's Morbid, all bile, and verjuice, and nerves ;
Where other people would make preserves,
He turns his fruits into pickles—
Jealous, envious, and fretful by day,
At night to his own sharp fancies a prey,
He lies like a hedgehog rolled up the wrong way,
Tormenting himself with his prickles.

But a child—that bids the world good night,
In downright earnest, and cuts it quite—
A cherub no art can copy—
'T is a perfect picture to see him lie
As if he had supped on dormouse pie,
(An ancient classical dish, by the by,)
With a sauce of syrup of poppy.

Oh, bed ! bed ! bed ! delicious bed !
That heaven upon earth to the weary head,
Whether lofty or low its condition !
But instead of putting our plagues on shelves,
In our blankets how oft we toss ourselves,
Or are tossed by such allegorical elves
As Pride, Hate, Creed and Ambition !

NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THE Secretary of State has sanctioned the appointment of a fourth stipendiary Presidency Magistrate for the city of Bombay. In Calcutta, we have only two such magistrates.

PARIS ate last year 21,291 horses, 229 donkeys, and 40 mules, the meat weighing, according to the returns, 4,615 tons. Not many years ago, within our remembrance, there was no strong prejudice against eating these quadrupeds.

MR. Chunilal Punalal, of the Kalbadevi Road in the city of Bombay, "in submitting his condolences to her Imperial Majesty the Queen and their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales in the general calamity which has overtaken the Empire in the death of his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence and Avondale," had "the honor to send (to the Bombay Government) a sum of Rs. 1,000 in aid of the sufferers on account of the famine, though partial, that is now raging in Bijapur and its adjoining districts."

THE Governor of Bombay has just declared, under the Famine Relief Code, that famine is now prevailing in the Bijapur district, area 5,757 square miles, population 796,339 ; Athni, Gokak and Parasgad talukas (with Murgod Petha), area 2,096 square miles, population 350,249 ; Belgaum district and Gadag (with the Mundargi Petha) Ron and Navalgund (with the Nargund Petha) talukas of the Dharwar district, area 1,631 square miles, population 321,199.

WE draw the attention of the Indian paper-manufacturers to the following:—

"Very satisfactory results are now being obtained by some of the English paper manufactures in bleaching paper by electricity ; the process rendering the paper perfectly white, without in the least injuring its strength. The process in question depends on the use of a solution of magnesium chloride, which is decomposed by the action of strong electric current into chlorine and oxygen on the one hand and into magnesium and hydrogen on the other. Plates of platinum are used as electrodes."

THREE years ago, Robert Sims, an intelligent farmer living in Choctaw County, Alabama, started a sect called the "Simsites," the chief doctrine of which was that every man was master of himself, and owed no obedience to any human law. In a short time, there were over a hundred Simsites, who started an "organ" named the "True Way," which was edited and set up by Sims' three accomplished daughters. It gradually transpired that the Simsites distilled illicit whiskey, and this was a frequent cause of quarrel with the revenue officers. Social order is still nebulous in those parts, for these fiscal differences led to free fights, resulting in the loss of men on both sides. The struggle could not go on for ever, and after all Sims was captured, and lynched, together with his son and a friend appropriately named Savage. It is reported that since then Sims' three daughters, who, though well educated, are chips of the old block, fanatical and determined to the last degree, have been lynched too—the first example of this rude judicature against woman.

MR. Barker, of the Survey Department, of 24 years' service, is charged, before the District Magistrate of Bellary, with criminal breach of trust, in connection with the salaries of his establishment. He was refused bail.

THE following passages about volunteers and volunteering are from the speech of Lord Roberts, the Commander-in-Chief, at the inspection of the Presidency Volunteers on the 30th January:—

"The fact that the Government so promptly accepted the offer made by the Calcutta Volunteer Rifle Corps and the Surma Valley Light Horse to take part in the Manipur expedition shows the use it believes that Volunteers may be in time of trouble. And, since I had the honour of addressing you in March last, the Viceroy has been pleased to mark his appreciation of the services of the Volunteer force by appointing four Volunteer Officers to be his Excellency's Honorary Aides-de-Camp, which distinction must be very gratifying to every Volunteer in India. Their Excellencies the Governors of Madras and Bombay, and their Honors the Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal, the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab have all shown their interest in Volunteers in many different ways, and have connected themselves with the force by selecting Aides-de-Camp from it, an example which, with the approval of the Government of India, I propose to follow, if I can persuade any Volunteer Officers to honour me by becoming my Honorary Aides-de-Camp. Then, the committee which is about to sit in Calcutta to enquire into various matters connected with the Volunteer service, some of which have been already partially discussed by the preliminary committee which assembled at Simla last September, must satisfy every one belonging to that service that there is every desire to make all reasonable concessions, and to confer on all ranks such substantial advantages as may be practicable, in return for the efforts and sacrifices which Volunteers make on behalf of their country."

"It is not for me to anticipate the decisions that may be arrived at in regard to the recommendations that have been made by the Simla committee, or, judging by those recommendations, what are likely to be made by the Calcutta committee, but Volunteers may rest assured that no one recognizes more fully than myself the value they possess as an important element in our military organization. Having this high opinion of Volunteers you can understand how anxious I am that they should be in all respects thoroughly efficient ; that the rank and file should be really good shots, and the officers so intimately acquainted with their duties as to be able to instruct those whom they command. As in the Army, so with Volunteers, the efficiency of a regiment or battery mainly depends upon its officers, but there is this difference between the two services, that, while in the Army, the men have nothing to say to the appointment of their officers, in the Volunteer force in India the selection of the officers, under existing regulations, practically lies with the men. A grave responsibility thus rests on the force generally, and I earnestly hope that the selections may be made with a due sense of this responsibility, and that men intended to hold the position of Volunteer Officers may be chosen for their ability to instruct their companies in all duties they are likely to be called upon to perform, and not because of the length of their purses. Money is undoubtedly a great power, but since the abolition of purchase we have done our utmost in the regular Army to prevent its coming into competition with military efficiency."

"Another point to which I desire to draw attention and which is applicable to officers and men of the regular Army and Volunteers alike, is the desirability of cultivating a smart and soldier-like appearance in uniform, on and off parade. Every man should be correctly dressed, he should invariably carry his rifle himself, and he should salute all officers in uniform and also those not in uniform whom he knows to be officers."

"To give you an idea to what length the want of a proper soldierly spirit may go, I may mention an incident which was brought to my notice a short time ago. At an up-country station a Volunteer battalion was brigaded with the regular troops, as part of a force holding the bridges across a river, and it was ordered to advance at a certain hour to the assistance of a convoy which was supposed to be attacked by the enemy's cavalry. The Officer Commanding the Volunteers was directed to take every precaution to prevent his own corps being cut off by the enemy, and in compliance with this order, a reconnoitring party was sent forward previous to the advance of the battalion. As you all know there are certain very simple rules laid down in the drill book for the composition and movements of such a party, and yet in the case under reference the reconnaissance actually took the form of one corporal and three privates driven along the road in a ticca gharry—a proceeding which could not fail to bring discredit on the battalion concerned, and which really amounted to the ludicrous."

They have undertaken a Herculean task who are for making an army, even of the amateur auxiliary kind, of such material. And the state is truly to be pitied which depends upon such easy soldiering. The unspeakable Baboos of caricature have never been worse represented by Anglo-Indian wits than Lord Roberts paints his dear Volunteers.

ACCORDING to a German paper, when Prince Alexander, now Count Hartenan, was ruler of Bulgaria, the Czar sanctioned a large subvention which he was told would be the means of Alexander's submission to Russian dictation. Notwithstanding the grant, Alexander proved himself hostile to the Russian Minister at Sophia. This was a surprise to the Czar. He, thereupon, conceived a disliking for the Bulgarian ruler, and Alexander was deposed. On learning the cause of his deposition, the Prince expressed his surprise—he was not aware of any subvention and he never saw a rouble of the large sums said to have been sent from Russia to Bulgaria.

Where then did the money go? Doubtless to the pockets of the officials. Great ministers of state are not above suspicion in the West, any more than in the East.

THE *Times of India* says:—

"General Von Kodolitsch, in course of an interview with a press representative, said he envied and admired the Indian Army. He considered the Indian Cavalry quite up to the standard of that of any Continental power, and were able to hold their own, man for man, against any regiment of the French and Russian Cavalry. The sporting qualities of the British officer particularly struck the General during his tour in India, and this sport seemed to give the officers such good physical training for war, that in his opinion this training in field sport was almost as important as that on the drill ground. He nowhere had seen so much money offered for prizes in rifle shooting as in India. As regards a Russian invasion, the General said the Russians would have absolutely no chance of success."

This is reassuring, and, in the face of the British habit of grumbling and self-depreciation, it is even valuable.

THESE limbs of the press are not to be easily appeased. Not content with the frank way in which General Von Kodolitsch gave his opinion of the Indian army, specially in its cavalry branch, a correspondent of a Madras Anglo-Indian journal—probably the same as the press representative mentioned by the *Times of India*—pursued the distinguished foreigner with impertinence. The General said that he had seen the Indian native troops in Abyssinia look well and fight well too, but there is a wonderful improvement in them since then. He confessed he was never more astonished in his life than at the horsemanship and skill displayed by the native cavalry at the Poona manœuvres. He added:—

"They are splendid looking men too, and their seat and bearing very soldier-like. Everything about their saddlery and appointments was thoroughly clean, smart and serviceable. I am an old cavalry officer myself, and I must say I consider your Indian cavalry quite up to the standard of that of any of the Continental powers, and able to hold their own, man for man, with any of the regiments of French or Russian Cavalry."

Nothing could be better than that tribute. But the "gentleman of the Press" had got a live Continental General within range, and he could not have the heart to let him off easily. He actually asked him "Or Austrian?" The man is so sure of the wit, to say nothing of the propriety, of his query, that he adds, "I asked, with a smile." The General was, of course, too prudent, in a foreign territory, to answer by a slap in the face. As the correspondent himself relates—"But the General laughed and said, 'Ah, well.'"

THE following, started by a Lahore paper, is going the round of the press:—

"A horrid story is brought to Peshawur by some fugitive eunuchs

from Jellalabad. According to them, a Cabuli Sirdar, a relative of the Ameer, was celebrating the birth of a son; and some ten eunuchs, of whom there are about 30 in Cabul, were employed to dance and sing in the women's apartments. One of them misbehaved towards one of the women present, the young and beautiful wife of a Sirdar guest, whereupon a great clamour arose among the women. The men, rushing upon the scene, seized the supposed eunuch and found that he and another of the ten were not what they represented themselves to be. They were then, so the story goes, taken before the Ameer, who ordered them to be flayed alive, which was done, and the flesh thrown away. The rest of the eunuchs were driven out of Afghanistan, and the terror of the Ameer also caused the eunuchs of Jellalabad, some ten in number, to flee to Peshawur, where they arrived and told the above story."

There is evidently a little misconception here. These are not eunuchs proper but hermaphrodites, a despised and miserable class, who live by singing and dancing at births and marriages, and by begging and bullying. Eunuchs have more respect, as they are far more respectable, living as members of the families in which they are slaves, and often commanding influence in their respective households. They do not go about singing and dancing at different families—an occupation forbidden to the good Mussulman. Hermaphrodites, so far as one may judge from their gestures in this city, are lascivious, while, as regards capacity for mischief, all are not quite so fangless as might be imagined. The preceding account seems to suggest that the outrage was committed by a man—whole and sound—who had got himself smuggled into the *sanctum sanctorum* of the Oriental home in the company, and as one of the eunuchs, or hermaphrodites as we take them to be. There is no impossibility in this idea. An Emperor of Delhi, one of the most abandoned wretches who ever disgraced the throne, used to visit the houses of the nobility in female disguise, in the company of musicians and dancing girls.

BABOO Gonesh Chunder Chunder, attorney-at-law, has walked into the shoes of the Hon'ble Dr. Rashbehari Ghosh in the local Legislative Council, leaving his friend the Rai Bahadar Surbadhicary in the lurch. How the successful limb of the law must be astonished at the latest trick of Fortune!

NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

PARLIAMENT was opened on Tuesday, the 9th instant, by Royal Commission. The Speech from the Throne referred to the death of the Duke of Clarence and Avondale and the deep sympathy shewn by her Majesty's subjects throughout the empire; to the death of the Khedive Tewfik of Egypt; to the friendly relations with Foreign Powers and the throwing out of Zanzibar as a free port conducive to the development of the Sultan of Turkey's dominions and to the promotion of British commerce in East Africa. The House of Lords voted an address in reply to the Speech, Lord Salisbury informing the House that Government would never abandon Egypt to the supremacy of any other Power or to anarchy.

In the Lower House, they are still debating on the Address. Mr. Samuel Smith, Member for Flintshire, complained of the neglect of Indian affairs. He advocated the elective principle in the Indian Legislative Councils and the suppression of the opium trade. He was replied to by the Hon. George Curzon, the new Under-Secretary for India. He hoped the Indian Councils Bill would come before the House of Lords before Easter, and that a despatch of the Government of India shewing a resolute intention to restrict the traffic complained of, be shortly presented to Parliament. According to the *Times*, that despatch displays the qualities of vigilance, prudence and zeal for which the British rule in India is remarkable. Mr. Smith's opposition was formulated in an amendment moved by an Irish Member, Mr. Macneill, for Donegal. It also regrets the absence in the Speech of any proposal for the decrease of the salt tax.

THE Bills announced deal with Local Government for Ireland on the lines in force in Great Britain; proposals for improving the Legislative Councils in India, and for revising the agreement between the Government and the Bank of England.

THE Unionists have elected Mr. Joseph Chamberlain their leader in the House of Commons. Mr. Chamberlain attacked the speeches made during the recess by members of the Opposition regarding the occupation of Egypt. Mr. Morley replied, saying that the Opposition only

wants Great Britain to persevere in her declared policy, based on the prospect of evacuation. The permanent occupation, he said, was incompatible with true statesmanship and good faith. He denied that Mr. Gladstone had ever demanded the immediate abandonment of Egypt. Altogether, Mr. Morley's tone seems to have been rather apologetic.

THE House of Commons has ordered the attendance of Mr. Decobain in his place on the 23rd.

MRS. OSBORNE is lodged in the Holloway Gaol. The charge against her of fraudulently obtaining money has been abandoned. She is now accused of perjury.

It is reported from St. Petersburg, that the Amir of Bokhara, in his loyal attachment to the Russian throne, has expressed his intention to pay one hundred thousand roubles towards relief of the famine in Russia. That is an act at once of statecraft and charity. We hope England will have the wisdom to take it in good part.

THE Hotel Royal in New York has been destroyed by fire. It was full of visitors, and fifty inmates perished.

THE Silver question presses itself once more to the fore. The rupee has gone down below 15. 4d. That means ruin to thousands.

THE Finance Committee of the American Senate vetoed the proposal for free coinage of silver. But the Coinage Committee of the House of Representatives has reported in favor of Mr. Bland's Bill for free and unlimited coinage.

THE Viceroy, unaccompanied by Lady Lansdowne, left yesterday for Darjeeling. After a stay there of a week, Lord Lansdowne visits Cooch Behar, where preparations are making for the advent. Lady Lansdowne joins his lord at Cooch Behar. The illness of the Maharani having taken a chronic turn, the Maharaja of Cooch Behar feels himself free to welcome in person his august guest in his State.

THE Committee appointed more than a year ago to report on the subject of European and Eurasian poverty, have concluded their inquiry and will shortly announce to Government the result. The Europeans and Eurasians of Calcutta are 19,000 in number, equally divided, and it has been ascertained that 8 per cent of the former are paupers and 25 per cent of the latter live on public charity. Their relation with public employment shows a gradual falling off, from 70 per cent of the appointments in the Government of Bengal having been filled by them in 1840 to a little over 18 per cent in 1890. In 1870, the Europeans and Eurasians held over 9½ per cent of posts under Rs. 100 per mensem. In 20 years, the per centage fell to about 5¼ per cent, that of 1890 being actually 5·23 per cent. In the higher grades of service, the proportion was far more favorable, as many as 45 situations between Rs. 100 and Rs. 300, out of every 100, being held by Europeans and Eurasians, while in 1890 they were reduced to 25 such appointments. We await with interest the suggestions of the Committee for improving the condition of the poor Whites and the Eurasians.

ACCORDING to the Gazetted programme, the Lieutenant-Governor left on the 9th instant for the Cuttack tour. Among others, he will visit Balasore and Puri. At the former place, he will lay the foundation-stone of the female ward—the gift of the sons of the late Raja Syamanund De—to be attached to the dispensary bearing the Raja's name. At Puri, Sir Charles Elliott will not omit to enquire into the safety of the temple, and the sanitation and water-supply question prominently brought to the front by Baboo Jodoolal Mullick of this city. The Baboo interested himself in the subject during his visit to the holy shrine in February 1887. He was disappointed to find the city as it is. He was dissatisfied with the management of the temple. The *mahaprasad* was an abomination—"prepared from the coarsest stuff, unfit for human consumption." The whole place is insanitary. There is no regular mehter service. To add to all these discomforts, there is no pure drinking water. Baboo Jodoolal, a the double spirit of religion and sanitation, saw the Magistrate on

the subject, who, while agreeing with the Baboo, regretted his inability to mend matters and referred him to Government. Not to leave a stone unturned while still in Orissa, the Baboo saw the Commissioner, the late Mr. Metcalfe, who subsequently presented him with a scheme of water-supply and a report of a former date for the better sanitation of Puri to Government. The Baboo has a scheme of his own. He advocates a municipal debenture loan for the water-supply scheme, and a pilgrim tax and a poll tax to meet the interest and maintenance charges and for repayment of the loan. Mr. Metcalfe was for raising the required sum by public subscriptions. The Baboo is against such a proposition, for the very sufficient reason that those "who do not directly benefit from the work, should not be called upon to contribute."

Mr. Metcalfe's report to Government is dated 2nd October, 1886, and we doubt not Sir Charles Elliott will make the necessary enquiries on the spot and issue his orders as soon as possible in a matter which concerns not only Puri and but the entire Hindudom.

Baboo Jodoolal's view is entitled to every consideration as that of an orthodox Hindu who has had experience of local self-government. When a man like him suggests a pilgrim tax, the proposition loses all its offensiveness. The purpose for which he proposes it, is the least objectionable that might be imagined. For the rest, the old horror of Exeter Hall of this impost has, we believe, been a good deal whittled away. And certainly, if ever a tax on pilgrims could be justified, it would be a tax to be devoted to the purpose contemplated.

THE Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation held Baboo Nobin Chand Boral disqualified to vote in Ward No. 12 in the forthcoming election. Not that he had not qualified himself by payment of rates, but he failed to produce the rate bills in proper time. Armed with the rate bills, the Baboo applied to the Chief Magistrate for an order on the Chairman to include his name in the voters' list. That functionary was surprised at the application—for it was the first of its kind—but the law being quoted, he granted it and made an order—without any notice to the Chairman—as prayed for. He would not, however, fix the number of votes, till after refusal by the Municipal Chairman.

"ATLAS," of the *World*, was told by a French lady, whose husband was an ambassador in London some forty years back:—

"One evening there were some private theatricals, in the course of which a young lady came on to the stage dressed as a danseuse, with low body, short sleeves, and round her neck a very beautiful pearl necklace. This 'young lady,' who danced a passepall, was no other than Lord Dufferin, then a lad of about nineteen and very juvenile in appearance. The statement was corroborated by his Lordship."

Who can identify in the several lines of Lord Dufferin's deeply marked countenance the mock lady of the stage? But frail is beauty, whether masculine or feminine. Forty years make a great difference.

Danger, long travel, want, or woe

Soon change the form that best we know.

For deadly fear can time outgo

And blanch at once the hair,

Hard toil can roughen form and face,

And want can quench the eyes' bright grace,

Nor does old age a wrinkle trace

More deeply than despair.

And Lord Dufferin has had his full share of at least "long travel" and "hard toil."

Yet, beauty is a hereditary possession with our late Viceroy. Even now, though the lines are obliterated, the figure is still slim and graceful, defying the encroachment of adipose degeneracy, while the hands are supple and soft, as those declare who have felt them, and the voice musical.

IN the Wilts Quarter Sessions, John Kibblewhite and John Gray were found guilty of night poaching at Purton, but not sentenced. Just at the time the Chairman, Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, was about to make his order, the counsel for the defence offered to produce the real poachers, one of whom was then in court. Judgment was stayed and the two found guilty let out on bail. A second postponement was granted for surrender of the real culprits and prosecution of the game keepers for perjury. It is the occurrence, from time to time, of such mistakes of haste founded on insufficient evidence that makes us cling to the noble principles of British criminal jurisprudence and to abominate the dangerous innovations introduced into this country.

by Sir James Fitz James Stephen. We hope Sir Alexander Miller will revert to the sound old English maxima.

On Monday, the 24th Jamadus-Sani, corresponding to the 25th January, at 11 A.M., the remains of Hakeem Mahmood Khan were buried at Syed Hassan Rasool Noma. Some seven thousand people attended the funeral. The prayer or service was conducted by Mowlana Shah Abul Khair, the Sajjadah-Nashin of the Khanga (or the spiritual head at the shrine) of the late Shah Golam-Ali.

On the 5th instant, they held a meeting at the Town Hall, to mourn the loss of the Hakeem. It was densely crowded by representatives of all sections of the community of Delhi, and presided over by Mr. R. Clarke, the Deputy Commissioner. Learned men like Moulvi Nazir Ahmed, noblemen and prominent citizens like Nawab Ikram Ullah Khan, Nawab Ahmed Said Khan, (son of the late Nawab Ziauddin Ahmed Khan Bahadoor) Khan Bahadoor Ilahi Baksh, Rai Bahadoor Sri Kishen Dass, lawyers like Lala Girdhari Lal, Senior Pleader, and Mr. M. Lutfur Rahman, Barrister-at-law, took part in the proceedings. A committee appointed includes, besides some of these gentlemen, a few more important names, namely, Rai Bahadoor Pyarey Lal, Khan Bahadoor Syed Hadi Husain Khan, Rai Bahadoor Ram Kishen Das, and Shumsul Ullana Khan Bahadoor Munshi Zikauulla Khan. The meeting began with a Resolution of sorrow for the dead and of recognition of his merits and services, and concluded with one desiring in some way to perpetuate the memory of the deceased.

On Sunday last, in our neighbourhood, a miniature dacoity was enacted in broad daylight. A childless widow died, leaving a house and five thousand rupees in charge of a relative—the house and rupees three thousand being dedicated by a deed to the service of a god established in that house. The heir-at-law coveted the little estate left by her, and wanted to take possession of the house and other things found there. He came to the relative in charge who was willing to make over the Rs. 2,000 on proper receipt granted. But that would not satisfy the heir-at-law. He must have the house. He offered to perform the obsequial ceremonies of the deceased at that house. This being suspected by the relative in charge as the way to enter into possession, he would not consent to the proposal. Other arts and devices failing, the heir came, accompanied by men armed with clubs, attacked the house, routed the defenders, broke open the doors, and made a forcible entry. Then they broke into the doors within, smashed the furniture, broke open drawers and almirahs and chests, opened the iron safe. It was Sunday in the forenoon, and alarm spread throughout the neighbouring houses. Between the proceedings of the marauders and the cries of the attacked and the hurrying to and fro of panic-stricken neighbours, a scene of indescribable confusion occurred. The day before, the Police had been apprised of an impending attack, but it seems that the Police have no jurisdiction in an apprehended row or fight, and they declined any assistance unless there was an actual occurrence. The next day, however, being informed of the outrage which was being perpetrated, they came and arrested four men, the others making their escape on news of their advent. The four are now on their trial in the magistracy.

THE Great Dacca Bribery Case is over, but not so its consequences. Whatever may have been the zid of Official Dacca or the hopes of Partizan Dacca, while the litigation was going on in East Bengal, there were unmistakable symptoms of a disposition to decline the contest here. Hence the mysterious disappearance of the record from the High Court. Each side threw the onus of that disappearance on the other, but the defendant showed very good grounds why it was not for his benefit, and after his triumphant acquittal, it more than ever seems to have been the work of his enemies. Verily, some such mishap was urgently needed to save their credit. They would have hailed an overwhelming flood or earthquake or consuming conflagration, rather than meet their own handiwork! After all, the missing record turned up and the case proceeded. From the outset, however, it was evident that the prosecution had not a leg to stand upon. It never had one even in Dacca, if only the officials could see through the mist of secret misrepresentation or under the weakness of smelling a rat. The finishing collapse was contributed by the Majoochi of tender conscience and slippery memory of this case, Gooroo Charan Bhuttacharjee. Neither judge nor jury had the slightest hesitation. Nor had the public the slightest doubt, as to the result. It was for days openly said in and about the Court that there was not evidence enough to convict a dog.

The result is most humiliating to the Civil Service and a fine commentary on the boasted perfection of the administration in India. Here was a highly respectable man, a man of position, intelligence and wealth, himself the leading pleader in East Bengal, who has been calumniated and victimised in the foulest manner, and who had very nearly been sacrificed to the rancour of a faction and the simplicity of the magistracy and judiciary. Not even his innocence would have saved Babu Anand Chunder Roy, if he had stinted expense. But he paid like a prince, retaining the best legal assistance, &c., got his case tried in Calcutta, and succeeded in proving his innocence.

But is he to be so heavily mulcted for his innocence? Is an honest citizen to suffer incredible pangs for months and be impoverished for life, because the county magistracy allowed themselves to be the easy tools of professional jealousy and private feud and pursued an *ignis fatuus*? Such an impression ought not to be permitted to prevail, if it can possibly be prevented. Great as has been the scandal created by the trial, every effort should now be made to undo it, or at least, so far as may be, to reduce its proportions, and to exact guarantees for the future. Such is the plain duty of Government and the official hierarchy. The candour and liberality of Government in this behalf has already been appealed to in due form. As might be anticipated from the fate of the trial, Mr. Woodroffe, the leading counsel for the defence, promptly followed up the acquittal and discharge of both prisoners (Baboo Anand Chunder Roy and his Mohorur Madhub Chunder Das,) with moving the court for a recommendation to the Government to reimburse them for their expenses. Under the peculiar circumstances of the case, the claim for compensation was *prima facie* so reasonable that, although the presiding Judge expressed his inability to offer an opinion at that stage, Mr. Justice Wilson suggested an application to Government, and said that if, after that, the Government asked him, he would give his opinion. We see that Baboo Anand Chunder Roy has applied to Government for compensation. In a lucid memorial to the Lieutenant-Governor, he has laid bare all the circumstances of the trial and shown how he has been the victim of relentless persecution through the forms of law. He gives unanswerable grounds to prove that the prosecution against him pursued to the bitter end, was at once false and foolish and that it had never any chance before any properly constituted tribunal with an ordinarily sensible *personnel*. Respectful in tone and moderate in demand, steering clear of all debatable and unpleasant matters, the memorial is a model of such writings. How a man so deeply injured has been able to avoid all bitterness and anger, is a marvel. We trust it will be received by Sir Charles Elliott with the sympathy which the undeserved misfortunes of the memorialist merits.

CAPTAIN Duncan Ross, the Champion braggart who for some weeks filled all Calcutta with his potential prowess in wrestling, but who was never put to the crucible test of the arena, is touring back home through the Upper Provinces, and apparently tarnishing the easy laurels won down country. At Cawnpore, the Europeans got up a match between him and a sepoy. Colonel Prinsep specially patronised him, and by his exertions he got a retainer of Rs. 10 per diem and Rs. 500 besides if he fought the sepoy. Ram Dobey was a mere amateur and of no great pretensions even as such, being much smaller in size and far inferior in strength than his opponent. It was obviously *infra dig.* in the Champion to waste his powers on him. Even over such an unpromising contest, the Europeans thought fit to bet. Of course, they championed their own colour. It was the universal and firm belief among them all that Ram had not the ghost of a chance, to speak colloquially, against Ross, that the Christian would make short work of the Hindu. For the effect of the latter's obvious inferiority had been heightened by the former's brag. On the field of battle, however, Ross presented rather a sorry figure. He was not in the best "form," apparently. He was certainly not lenping for the fray. What wonder

Holloway's Pills.—In cases of chronic indigestion, disordered liver, and general debility, these Pills are wonderfully effective. They indeed have so general and powerful an effect on the whole system that they clear away or ward off most of the ills that flesh is heir to. They cleanse the bowels, purify the blood, correct the bile, give tone to the stomach, excite a healthy appetite, produce sound sleep, and impart increased energy to both mind and body. The admirable properties of these far-famed Pills are too highly appreciated to require any encomium here, as they are resorted to by rich and poor of every nation. The cures they effect are not temporary or imperfect, but they bring about a marvellous and most beneficial change throughout the entire body, and enable it with renovated powers to resist the approach of all future attacks.

that Ram, remembering how the *sahablogues* had all made common cause with his antagonist and with all the praises of him still in his ear, eyed him with anxious interest! The more so when, before the commencement of the action, several new conditions were demanded, in favour of Ross and meekly acquiesced in on the part of the poor native. One of these was that to constitute a fall both shoulder blades must be brought to the ground at one and the same time—a condition unknown in Indian wrestling. All the preliminaries—even the 11th hour ones—settled, the spectators awaited the commencement of the fire, but they had to wait long. Notwithstanding the indulgence granted him at the last moment, Ross seemed as lukewarm as Ram. There was nothing worth seeing—no excuse for excitement. The betters were impatient. After an introductory shying, however, Ram seized his formidable-looking combatant straight by the neck and, with an agility which surprised all the Europeans present, laid him flat on the ground. Perhaps, Ram himself was astonished at his own easy success in prostrating the giant. At any rate, he did not follow up his advantage, but Ross did not take advantage of his antagonist's lapse to get up, so that Ram now quietly laid himself on Ross' back for the next move of turning him over. That was not easy to do, considering the difference in the weight and strength of the two. Accordingly betting went on briskly, Ross' backers indulging the liveliest expectation of his showing his mettle yet by throwing the puny native overboard. As the minutes passed, however, their hopes began to shake. Ross took an extraordinary length of time for his great move. He lay on the earth like a huge land-crab, that would not even walk backwards. Thus the two men remained motionless—a far from agreeable spectacle—to the infinite vexation of the sightseers, and specially the betters. Thus an hour and a half were consumed. Ram would have soon ended this infliction by handling Ross' waist band or string, but this the well known *lungoi* manipulation, he was not allowed. Ross would not hear of it, growling at the least attempt in that direction by Ram. He threatened to break Ram's jaw if he touched the waist-string. In vain the natives said that Ram was entitled to seize the string. As it was manifestly impossible for the small light man by any other way to turn over the heavy lumber, they were of opinion that the foolish spectacle of piling of trunk over trunk should cease and Ross ought to get up and commence the wrestling over again *de novo*. But Ross preferred grovelling on the ground. In spite of his umpire Captain Ashley's efforts to cheer him up and draw him out, there he lay, without making the slightest sign. There being no way out of the tie, the spectators left and the wrestlers were told that they had tried the public enough.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, February 13, 1892.

THE LORD OF THE MILKMAIDS IN EXILE.

GOPINATH or the Lord of the Milkmaids, is the presiding deity of the famous shrine at Agradwipa, within a few miles of the field of Plassey. Like that of his prototype of flesh and blood, the history of the Thakoor has been a chequered one, and at present a large section of the Vaishnava community feel deeply aggrieved at his enforced exile in the court of the prince who holds the office of his *sevait*. The former Rajas of Nuddea used to bring the image every year for a few days to their palace at Kishnaghur, in order to entertain and worship the god. But, since the accession of the present Raja to the *gadi* of Kishenchand, Gopinath has become virtually a state prisoner at his court. The lip-deep orthodoxy of Babu journalism does not concern itself with such events. But the removal of Gopinath from his shrine, is a real grievance to the Hindu community, though no political capital can be made out of it.

As to the legal aspect of this act on the part of the Raja, there cannot be any difference of opinion. In a case reported in I. L. R., 7 Cal., 767, the High Court of Bengal held, under very similar circumstances, that the manager or mohunt of a temple had no

power to remove the objects which are worshipped in it. Gopinath is a public Thakoor set up, in the early part of the fifteenth century, by Govinda Ghosh, a *Kayasth* of the *Utter Rarhi* clan, who was one of the followers of Chaitanya. Govinda died childless, but such was the kindness of the deity towards him, that the god actually undertook to perform the functions of a son to him. At the anniversary of his death, thousands of devout Hindu pilgrims assemble at Agradwipa, to witness the celebration of his funeral obsequies by the hand of the stone image set up by him. Whatever explanation may be suggested to account for the phenomenon, the pious Hindu sincerely regards it as a miracle, which only proves the extent of the god's love for his own people.

True to the traditional policy of the mythical hero whom he represents, the Thakoor has always favored the cause of the rising sun. At the time of Raja Man Singh's invasion, Gopinath had already attained great celebrity, and the Raja, in pursuance of a vow, made a grant of some villages in the neighbourhood of Agradwipa for his worship. When the Nattore family first rose into power, the temple of Gopinath passed into their hands with its endowments. But at one of the annual gatherings in honor of its founder, there was an emeute which was attended with very considerable loss of life, and when Nawab Aliverdi Khan, who then ruled Bengal, threatened to punish the Nattore Raja for his inability to prevent the riot, he disclaimed his right to the temple, and in his defence declared that it belonged to the Raja of Nuddea. Thus, the famous Kishen Chand became the *shebait* of the god, and the manager of his property. He did not, however, remain in uninterrupted possession of the windfall. Within a few years, Nawab Aliverdi died, and the events which led to the downfall of Mahomedan power, followed in quick succession. The tradition goes that Agradwipa being on the route taken by Clive in his march towards Plassey, Nava Kissen, who was with him, made a vow to Gopi Nath invoking the blessing of the god for his patron. The success which Clive's arms or good luck secured for him, confirmed Nava Kissen's faith in the might of the god, and, as the easiest way to secure his favor permanently, determined to take possession of the idol anyhow. With the resources and prestige of Clive at his back, Nava Kissen experienced no difficulty whatever in carrying out his project. Gopinath was brought by force to Calcutta, and for a long time was entertained as an honored guest in the house of his captor. The Nuddea Raja was deeply chagrined at the loss, though he had hardly a better right to the idol than his adversary. To regain possession of the image, by force, was out of the question. So Kishen Chand made every effort to secure the good graces of the superior authorities. Nava Kissen had a powerful rival in Ganga Govinda Sing. Somehow, Warren Hastings was prevailed upon to order the restoration of Gopinath to his own temple. In spite of this order, Nava Kissen made one more effort to retain possession of the Thakoor. He pleaded that in his family chapel there were other idols of the same size and appearance, and that it was not possible for him or any of his men to make out what particular idol he brought from Agradwip. The authorities, however, gave permission to Kishen Chand and his people to have an inspection of all the Thakoors, and to take away the particular one that belonged to him. Kishen Chand came down to Calcutta with the priest of the Agradwip temple. The latter identified

Gopinath, and marched off with the image on his back, to the delight of the Raja and his men.

From the above history, as to the main incidents of which there is, we believe, no dispute, it would appear that Gopinath is not the family idol of the Rajas of Kishnaghur. He is a public Thakoor, and though the Hindu community may have allowed his temporary removal in times past, the Nuddea Rajas, who are his *sewaits*, have no right to remove him permanently from his temple. We hear of preparations for the institution of a suit for the restoration of the god to his temple. But we hope the Nuddea Raja will have the good sense to concede to the demand without any litigation.

THE INDIAN LAW OF BRIBERY.

MR. JUSTICE Wilson, in his charge to the Jury in what is called the Dacca bribery case, is reported to have said that, "if a bribe was offered, and the person to whom it was offered accepted it, then they both committed an offence, and the person who offered the bribe became in the eye of the law the graver offender." Intended as a general proposition of law, nothing could be more erroneous than this, in view both of the circumstances of India and the provisions of the Indian Penal Code itself. In the draft Code of 1837—the Macaulay Code as it is generally styled—the receiving of a bribe was made punishable by substantive sections dealing with the various phases of that offence. The giving of a bribe, however, was left to be punished under one of the abetment sections. The Code, as passed in 1860, received numerous alterations and additions from Sir Barnes Peacock. Many of the chapters were entirely recast. Many additional sections were introduced. Extensive as were the changes with which the Code of 1837 was passed, no change was effected in the original principle of not making the giving of a bribe, in a country like India, an offence equal in gravity to the receiving of a bribe. Doubtless, circumstances may occur even in India, under which the giving would be more culpable than the receiving. The Dacca case itself furnishes a good instance to hand, for the charge here was that a respectable person, of superior culture, and himself a minister of justice—an inferior minister but a minister of justice still—tempted an impecunious man acting for the nonce as a public servant in the very important capacity of foreman of a Jury. The observation of Mr. Justice Wilson, however, in so far as it has been reported for the papers, is evidently one made without limitations of any kind. It is very true that in so far as the general character of the observation is concerned, its effect may be avoided by the common rule of interpretation founded upon the distinction between a dictum and a decision. Nevertheless, Judges fresh from England and under the influence of the traditions of the English Courts, very often err in matters of this kind by ignoring the broad distinctions that exist between the circumstances of England and India. The following extract from the notes appended by Macaulay to the Code of 1837 as drafted by him and his colleagues on the Indian Law Commission for submission to Lord Auckland, may be read with interest by Judges and practitioners alike. In explaining what might be regarded as an omission in the chapter on bribery, Macaulay observed:—

"One important question still remains to be considered. We are of opinion that we have provided

sufficient punishment for the public servant who receives a bribe. But it may be doubted whether we have provided sufficient punishment for the person who offers it. The person who, without any demand express or implied on the part of a public servant, volunteers an offer of a bribe, and induces that public servant to accept it, will be punishable under the general rule contained in clause 88 as an instigator. But the person who complies with a demand, however signified, on the part of a public servant, cannot be considered as guilty of instigating that public servant to receive a bribe. We do not propose that such a person shall be liable to any punishment, and, as this omission may possibly appear censurable to many persons, we are desirous to explain our reasons.

"In all states of society the receiving of a bribe is a bad action, and may properly be punishable. But whether the giving of a bribe ought or ought not to be punished is a question which does not admit of a short and general answer. There are countries in which the giver of a bribe ought to be more severely punished than the receiver. There are countries, on the other hand, in which the giving of a bribe may be what is not desirable to visit with any punishment. In a country situated like England, the giver of a bribe is generally far more deserving of punishment than the receiver. The giver is generally the tempter, the receiver is the tempted. The giver is generally rich, powerful, well educated; the receiver needy and ignorant. The giver is under no apprehension of suffering any injury if he refuses to give. It is not by fear, but by ambition that he is generally induced to part with his money. Such a person is a proper subject of punishment. But there are countries where the case is widely different,—where men give bribes to Magistrates from exactly the same feeling which leads them to give their purses to robbers, or to pay ransom to pirates,—where men give bribes because no man can, without a bribe, obtain common justice. In such countries, we think, that the giving of bribes is not a proper subject of punishment. It would be as absurd, in such a state of society, to reproach the giver of a bribe with corrupting the virtue of public servants as it would be to say that the traveller who delivers his money when a pistol is held to his breast corrupts the virtue of the highway man.

"We should by no means be understood to say that India under the British Government is in a state answering to this last description. Still we fear it is undeniable that corruption does prevail to a great extent among the lower class of public functionaries, that the power which those functionaries possess renders them formidable to the body of the people, that in the great majority of cases the receiver of the bribe is really the tempter, and the giver of the bribe is really acting in self-defence.

"Under these circumstances we are strongly of opinion that it would be unjust and cruel to punish the giving of a bribe, in any case in which it could not be proved that the giver had really by his instigations corrupted the virtue of a public servant who, unless temptation had been put in his way, would have acted uprightly."

Since the above has been in type, we have been disturbed by doubts as to whether so able and experienced a Judge as Mr. Justice Wilson had announced so startling a proposition on a point settled by code. Accordingly, we prosecuted inquiry and we have learnt with a feeling of relief that the reporter

has done the Judge injustice. Mr. Justice Wilson made a distinction which the reporter missed and substituted his own misunderstanding. We think we better quote the letter of a learned friend who was present. He writes :—

"There is no warrant for the proposition that the giver of a bribe is a graver offender in the eye of the law than the taker. You are quite correct in your remark that under the I. P. Code, the giver is only punishable as an abettor. Mr. Justice Wilson did not say what he is reported to have said. The reporters entirely failed to understand what he did say. He said that if a bribe were accepted, the giver, in the eye of the law, becomes a graver offender than in the case in which his offer was not accepted by the public servant concerned. What is, as you will see, not only a correct proposition, but a very different one from what the reporters have imputed to him.

The newspaper reports of the Dacca case were all extremely unsatisfactory."

PANINI IN ENGLISH !*

SUCH is the apparition that confronts us in the fasciculus the name of which is transcribed below. The elaborate Sanskrit grammar of the greatest of Sanskrit grammarians, with his 4,000 Rules divided into eight books—the glory of India and the wonder and admiration of the civilised world—done into a modern vernacular, would be a literary phenomenon. The very thing is, in part, before us, with promise of the remainder! That, before being reduced to any of the numerous Indian dialects, Panini should be done into English, is all the greater marvel. It is an audacious undertaking, from every point of view. The labour and the expense demanded, are appalling. As many as forty such fasciculi as the present, will be required to complete the work—or half as many parts as Mr. Pratap Chandra Roy calculates to finish his English Mahabharata. But the get up of the new book is much richer than that of the Mahabharata. The Ashtadhyayi of Panini is sumptuously printed in new type, on good paper, and covered over with a beautiful cream-colored cover of good stuff. The size is also superior, so that as much matter is compressed in the 70 pages of this part as in the 100 of the Mahabharata. The intellectual audacity of Babu Vasu is no less significant. To translate a grammar is never agreeable or easy work. How much less so to translate an antique Aryan grammatical treatise—the most ancient of all Hindu grammars extant! It is certainly quite as difficult to render Panini into English as to render Vyasa, perhaps more. The difficulties of the Mahabharata are no doubt manifold, but they generally arise from faulty texts. Those of Panini are different. It must, in the nature of things, be more difficult to make an ancient monument of philological analysis intelligible to English readers than to transfer into English the mammoth cyclopædia of the history, traditions, institutions, philosophy and ethics of early India of Vyasa. "For a' that and a' that," we give the undertaking welcome.

We admire Baboo Vasu's courage. He has started in a career of high enterprise worthy of a hero. We wish him all success. We are glad that the work of interpreting the grand old grammar to the English reading world has been taken up by a countryman of ours. The editing and translating of Sanskrit texts has hitherto been left to Europeans, at home or abroad. Men who have never walked the Indian soil nor talked to a live Indian, unearth the treasures of ancient Indian literature, sacred and secular. It was time, however, that the Indians themselves evinced a proper interest in the remains left by their glorious old ancestors and took their share of the business. In the province of English translation, hitherto Protap Chunder Roy alone has maintained the honor of our countrymen. Here, then, in Srisa Chandra Vasu is another worthy volunteer in the same cause. In the specimen of his work before us,

he shows himself a scholar of parts. So far as we can judge, this specimen is well executed. Of course, this is only the first chapter of the first book. But if the succeeding parts are as well done, a great work will have been accomplished, to the credit of our country and the advancement of letters.

The translator's preface is pitched in a key of high enthusiasm for Sanskrit learning. This is natural, and excusable. When, however, he exalts the revival of Sanskrit above all the other effects of British rule, it is time to warn him against the false teaching. The Preface begins:—

"Since the advent of the British rule and the peace and prosperity that has followed in its train, India has witnessed a glorious revival of her ancient literature, in which is embodied some of the highest philosophies and religions of the world."

That view of Sanskrit literature as embodying some of the highest religions of the world, is peculiarly Hindu. For other nations, the prime question in regard to a religion is, whether it is true or false. It is the characteristic of the Hindu that he can steer past that issue to dwell on the good points of a creed. So far so good. The next sentence is:—

"Among the various blessings which our benign Government has conferred upon us, none can be greater in value or usefulness than this revival of Sanskrit."

That is simply extravagant. Can Babu Srisa Chandra seriously believe that the opportunities presented by the present régime for the cultivation of Sanskrit, are the best recommendation of British Rule? If he can, he must be singular indeed. Other thinkers think differently. Baboo Srisa Chandra must remember the lofty period with which Lord Macaulay crushed the Oriental Movement of his day and in which he exposed for all time the pretensions of Sanskrit literature as an instrument of culture in the modern world, or a means of regeneration of the Indian people. We Indians cannot sympathise with the great rhetorician's contemptuous treatment of our ancient writings. For our part, we have always been of opinion that Macaulay's ignorance led him to far too sweeping a condemnation, while the educational policy which was adopted under his influence, was too one-sided for the happiest results. But that there was a great deal of truth in his scathing remarks, must be admitted. Indeed, Lord Macaulay simply echoed from his resounding dome the estimate of Sanskrit learning first sounded by the greatest Indian of his times, Ram Mohan Roy. Surely, the illustrious Bengali knew what he was about, when he indited his memorable Memorial to Lord Minto against the multiplication of Sanskrit seminaries at the expense of more useful education. And can it be denied that the English language which the British have taught us, or enabled us to learn, is a superior blessing than the revival of Sanskrit?

In the same perfervid style, we are told of "the Sanskrit language, and especially that portion of it in which is locked up the highest aspirations of the ancient Aryan hearts, viz., the Vedas, the Brāhmanas, the Upanishads, &c." Here, the Brāhmanas and the Upanishads would seem to be differentiated from the Vedas, though the translator must know that they form different parts of the Vedas. Or, can it be that he restricts the term Vedas to only the Sanhitas? That would be a pedantic nicety, which will not go down with the learned world. We may here also note that, in the next sentence, he speaks of "the Vedāngas, or the helps to the study of the Vedas." From which one might suppose that the latter phrase is a translation of the word *Vedānga*. This sort of carelessness should have been avoided in a learned work. Our more serious objection is to the thought that the highest aspirations of the Aryan heart are embodied in the Vedas and the Brāhmanas. The Upanishads are the noblest of all Vedic writings, and they are very superior, specially the short treatises collected by Ram Mohan Roy. Even the modern Allopanishad would be a noble work, were it not a palpable forgery. But the other descriptions of the Vedas, are very different in character. The Brāhmanas are mere ritual and the Sanhitas are mere hymns and usually not good as such. They are all addressed to the gods of Fire, Air, Earth and Water, and, with a few exceptions, the aspirations embodied in them are of the most commonplace order. Nearly all are rude and gross, and sometimes revolting. Panini is a great work and worth translating, but let us not deceive ourselves as to the value of our ancient records.

* The Ashtadhyayi of Panini. Translated into English by Srisa Chandra Vasu, B.A., Vakil, High Court, N.-W. P. Allahabad; Indian Press, 1891.

THE FIRST YEAR OF THE INDIAN MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT.

BENGAL.

No. 130, dated the 27th April 1891.

From---The Collector of Customs, Calcutta,

To---The Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces.

With reference to your docket No. 305 B., dated the 20th December 1890, forwarding a copy of instructions for the guidance of Customs officers in the working of the Indian Merchandise Marks Act, IV of 1889, issued by the Government of India, and calling for a yearly report, I have the honour to forward herewith a statement in the prescribed form showing the number of cases dealt with during the past official year 1890-91.

2. There were altogether 302 cases of detention, all of which were ordered without information having been given, the infringement of the Act being discovered in the examination of goods. Out of this number 252 cases consisted of unstamped or partially stamped piece-goods, 16 were false trade descriptions, and 34 were goods marked with the name of a British or British Indian trader made abroad and not showing the country of manufacture.

3. The piece-goods detained consisted of all descriptions---cotton, flax, silks, and woollens. In some cases the goods were not stamped at all; small penalties were imposed, and they were allowed to be stamped and then passed. In other cases the length was stamped in numerals only without the word "yards." These were passed after this word had been added without a penalty being imposed. Generally speaking, importers of piece-goods, which are the largest items in our list of imports, have complied with the requirements of the Act, and at its introduction I have not thought it advisable to impose heavy penalties, the less so that the obligation to make good the stamping involved much trouble and expense.

4. The goods in the 16 cases of false trade descriptions consisted of champagne, brandy, port, vermouth, sherry, butter, vermilion, soap, imitation gold thread, perfumery, porter, and cigars.

5. In certain of these cases re-shipment was allowed; in others the false trade description was allowed to be removed by obliteration or by the addition of the name of the country of manufacture as the case might be and the goods then passed. The only penalty imposed was on an importation of 84 cases of brandy. This was a glaring case of fraud, the liquor being of an inferior character, cheaper than Hennessy's brandy is sold, and the bottles bearing forged Hennessy labels. These goods, imported by a native dealer from Egypt, were confiscated. The value was declared to be Rs500. In the 34 cases where the goods bore the name of a trader in the United Kingdom or British India, the goods having been made or produced beyond the limits of these countries, the goods were all passed without a fine after the country of manufacture had been placed on the goods or the name erased. These articles consisted of port wine, binoculars, clocks, sherry, montilla, Pilsener beer, quinine, rum, brandy, and champagne.

6. In deciding cases that come before me I have, as far as possible, followed the practice obtaining in England under the Merchandise Marks Act in force in that country. When importers have erred through ignorance or want of knowledge of the law, I have not imposed penalties in most cases, but have thought it sufficient to allow them to mark their goods so as to bring them within the terms of the Act and at the same time to warn them. There was a little friction when the Act first came in, but not more than was to be anticipated. This has now disappeared, and I do not anticipate any further trouble.

7. The introduction of the Act has thrown additional work upon this office, especially in the Appraisers' Department, but it is now easier than it was at the beginning of the Act. Merchants and dealers are gradually becoming acquainted with its provisions, and I think they have generally tried to comply with them.

BOMBAY AND SIND.

No. 7388, dated the 27th October 1891.

From---The Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Revenue Department,

To---The Secretary to the Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department.

Adverting to my letter No. 5983, dated the 1st ultimo, I am directed to forward, for submission to the Government of India, the accompanying statement (Memorandum from the Commissioner of Customs, Salt, Opium and Abkari, No. 4035, dated 8th August 1891, with its accompaniments) furnished by the Commissioner in Sind showing the number of cases dealt with at the Karachi Custom House under the Indian Merchandise Marks Act, 1889, from April 1890 to March 1891, together with the reports and statements noted in the margin, submitted by the Collector of Land Revenue, Customs and Opium, Bombay, and the Commissioner of Customs, Salt, Opium and Abkari, regarding the working of that Act at the Bombay Custom House during the same period, and to state that the Commissioner in Sind has been requested to submit as soon as possible a short report explaining and commenting on the figures sup-

plied by him, which will be forwarded to the Government of India on receipt.

2. I am to add that recommendations similar to those contained in paragraphs 18 and 19 of Mr. Campbell's report were in 1889 laid before this Government, but that acting on the advice of the Solicitor to Government they did not then deem it necessary to take action upon them. In the circumstances now reported, however, His Excellency the Governor in Council has sanctioned these recommendations, and has directed the employment of the Solicitor to Government to prosecute in test cases of importance to the public. These cases will be selected by the Collector of Land Revenue, Customs and Opium, Bombay, who has been authorized to use his discretion in instructing the Solicitor to Government to prosecute, and has been directed to report to Government the result of such prosecutions.

No. 5753 C., dated the 31st July 1891.

From---The Acting Collector of Land Revenue, Customs and Opium, Bombay.

To---The Commissioner of Customs, Salt, Opium and Akbari, Bombay.

I have the honour to submit the first Annual Report on the Administration of the Indian Merchandise Marks Act, IV of 1889. The report, which is for the year ending March 31st, 1891, is submitted in accordance with the orders of the Government of India received by me with Government Resolution No. 8960 of 15th December 1890, Revenue Department.

2. The information specifically called for by the Government of India in the 4th paragraph of the Executive Instructions is contained in Appendix A. For the sake of comparison I have given the figures for each of the years 1889-90 and 1890-91. It will be seen that the number of detentions under section 18, clause (d) of the Sea Customs Act, was slightly larger in 1890-91 than in the preceding year, but that there was a marked decrease in the number of detentions under clauses (e) and (f), and also in the total number of detentions.

3. The increase in the number of detentions under clause (d) was the result of the orders contained in Government Resolution No. 243 of 11th January 1890. Till the receipt of that Resolution it was not held in practice that English words impressed on foreign-made goods constituted false trade descriptions when the words were unaccompanied by a definite indication of origin. After the orders of Government on this point had reached me, I took steps to acquaint the mercantile community with the change of practice that was necessitated, and having given them what I considered to be a fair notice, I began to enforce the new orders on May 1st, 1890. The decrease in the number of detentions under clauses (e) and (f) is due to the requirements of the Custom House being better understood by the mercantile public.

4. Appendix B shows the extent to which the various officers adjudicated on offences against the Merchandise Marks Act in the exercise of the powers that have been conferred upon them by section 182 of Act VIII of 1878. It also shows the amount of fines levied.

5. During the year under review only two appeals were preferred against the orders of the adjudicating officers. Both appeals were made to you against decisions recorded by me. In one case my order was upheld; in the other case it was reversed. In 1889-90 of eight appeals in only two was it found necessary to reverse the original order. The fact that only ten decisions have been appealed in two years shows that persons against whom orders are passed are usually satisfied as to the justness of the penalties imposed upon them.

6. Appendix C shows the number of packages detained under the Act during the past two years, and the manner in which they have been disposed of. The packages are those dealt with in the case appearing in Appendix A.

7. Appendix D shows the quantity of piece-goods detained under section 18, clause (f) of Act VIII of 1878. The large decrease in the number of pieces detained in 1890-91 compared with 1889-90 is due to the necessity of stamping the length on each piece having become commonly known. It is probable that ere long the import of piece-goods not having the length marked on them will practically cease.

8. This being the first time that an annual report on the working of the Merchandise Marks Act has been required, I have thought it advisable to prepare, for your information, summaries of a few of the more important cases. They are contained in Appendix E.

9. I will now make some remarks on the question how far the Merchandise Marks Act meets the end for which it is designed, i. e., the putting down of dishonest trading.

The Act is effective in so far as it renders it difficult and hazardous in most cases for importers to bring into this country goods that bear any marks for descriptions calculated to deceive the public as to the nature or value of the goods. Whether the Act puts any strong check upon dishonest trade practices within this country is less certain. It is easy for the importer to put false marks upon

his goods when once they have passed the Custom House. It is true he may be prosecuted and convicted under section 6 of the Act, as may a person who sells goods bearing a false description under section 7, but it will seldom or never be worth the while of a private person to institute prosecutions in such cases.

10. I regret to have to state that the importation of labels which are obviously intended to be put to dishonest uses is by no means uncommon. One consignment of labels was clearly intended to be applied to bottles of country-made lime-juice and glycerine so as to show that the contents were made in London. Another consignment was to be used to show that packets of candles were of Dutch make.

11. I enclose two cards that were intended for use in the retail sale of thread. When thread is sold wrapped round cards like these, the purchaser will naturally suppose that the thread has been imported on the cards and has been passed by the Custom House officers as of German make and of the length marked on the card. It is easy to see how the public may be cheated by the use of cards of this kind. To lessen the danger of fraud from this source I have ordered that future consignments should be marked "Cards made in Germany" instead of "made in Germany" merely. But by importing blank cards or by having cards printed in Bombay this restriction can be easily evaded.

12. Paper for printing and some other purposes is sold by weight and is generally imported in bundles weighing 14 to 72 lb. On weightment shortages of 1 lb to 2 lb per bundle have been found. Manufacturers have explained that these shortages are due to the wrappers being included in the specified weights. This plea has not been accepted, as, if the weight intended to be expressed by the stamping was gross weight, it should have been so specified on the packages. Since full weight has been required, we have, as a rule, found absolute accuracy of weightment. This shows that the public have been saved from a practice which was of the nature of fraud. It seems doubtful how long this satisfactory result will continue. One foreign manufacturer has taken to sending out his paper with spaces for the figure to indicate weight and number of sheets left blank. These goods we cannot stop, and as soon as they are passed the importer may add as much false weight as he deems advisable.

13. Objectionable practices have also been noted in the import trade in oilman's stores. Hams marked as weighing 18 lb would weigh only 16 lb, and bacon marked at 25 lb would weigh 22½ lb. Importers explained that dryage occurred after shipment. This explanation was not accepted. From the examinations that have been made of recent consignments it appears that the actual dryage in these articles is nominal. To evade the Act some importers have begun to bring in hams and bacon without any weight marked on their coverings.

14. Boxes of common washing bar-soap are generally stamped to contain 45 lb. When we began to test the weights we found an average shortage of 8 per cent. In this case too the importers urged that the commodity dried between time of shipment and time of delivery. We now find that the actual dryage is trifling. The hardihood with which the plea of dryage has been put forward to explain the fraudulent marking of various articles is peculiar. It has actually been claimed that 2 or 3 per cent. should be allowed for dryage in the case of hardware articles, such as brass and copper nails.

15. The manufacturers of the very inferior brands of wines and spirits are now careful to describe the liquor they sell in such a way that it cannot be detained. One firm has just imported from London 50 cases of brandy described as "Guillaumat et Cie: Cognac made in France." The net value of this brandy is given in the bill of entry as Rs 5½ per case of one dozen quarts. The Chemical Analyser cannot say whether this decoction is made of grape juice or not, so we have no means of stopping its importation. A great deal of inferior liquor sold as Champagne, Chateau Margaux, Lafitte, etc., is manufactured in Germany and shipped to this port. German-made liqueurs, valued at about Rs 12 per dozen, have come in and are sold under the names of Chartreuse and Benedictine. It is only when these liquors bear descriptions on the labels or capsules that they can be stopped at the Custom House.

16. It appears desirable that in the interest of the public Government should undertake prosecutions under sections 487 and 488 of the Indian Penal Code, and sections 6 and 7 of the Merchandise Marks Act. Unless this is done it is morally impossible to put any effectual check on the sale of goods under false descriptions. We find that the quantity of goods that are brought to this port bearing false descriptions is rapidly decreasing, and it is believed that few such goods manage to pass the Custom House. At the same time we find manufacturers are beginning to send unmarked goods to this country where they previously sent marked goods, and there is reason to fear that in many such instances descriptions, which the Custom House would treat as objectionable, are affixed after importation.

17. In conclusion, I will quote the remarks made by the Select Committee of the House of Commons which reported last year

on the working of the English Merchandise Marks Act, in so far as they relate to prosecutions:—

"The non-official witnesses examined before your Committee were unanimously of opinion that prosecutions under the Merchandise Marks Act should in future be undertaken by the State. Your Committee recommend that the Solicitor to the Board of Trade, or the Solicitor to the Customs, should prosecute in cases affecting the general interests of the country, or a section of the community, or of a trade, there being in such cases no sufficient motive to induce any individual to incur the expense, responsibility or trouble of a private prosecution. Your Committee consider that State prosecutions should not be undertaken for offences against private property, such as forging or improperly using trade marks or trade names. The prosecutions in these instances should be left to the person, firm, or corporation aggrieved."

18. I venture to hope that the facts brought to notice in this report, the importation of labels (paragraph 10), the importation of the thread cards of which specimens accompany, the importation of paper (paragraph 12) and hams (paragraph 13) without any statement of weight, will satisfy Government that the remarks of the Select Committee apply with equal force to Bombay. I am satisfied that since the devices of importing separate labels and of omitting details of description have been discovered, their practice will rapidly spread to the profit of fraud and the loss of honest trade and of the community. If existing arrangements are not altered, the labour of the Custom House will be vain; the provisions of the Merchandise Marks Act will be a dead letter; and the attempt to guard the community from fraud will fail. As I am impressed with the benefits that follow the enforcing of the provisions of the Act and also with the ease with which its provisions can be practically enforced, I would earnestly recommend that the action of the Custom House be supplemented by public prosecutions. The Custom House is in a position to keep the police informed what classes of goods and what dealers are likely to infringe the provisions of the Act after the goods have passed the Custom House. The Solicitor to Government might be instructed to prosecute in a few test cases affecting the interests of the community or of a trade. I believe the supply of Custom House information to the police, regular police supervision, and occasional convictions, would crush the practice of false labelling and false description which, as it spreads in Bombay, is making the Merchandise Marks Act of no avail.

19. These remarks apply in the first instance to imported articles. My information is that both as regards yarn and cloth the local mills, or certain of them, act in a way which lays them open to the penalties laid down in sections 6, 7, and 12 of the Merchandise Marks Act. It appears that in the interests both of the public and of honest traders prosecutions should be authorised to prevent local manufacturers committing breaches of the Act.

No. 4035, dated the 8th August 1891.

Memo. by the Acting Commissioner of Customs, Salt, Opium and Akbari, Bombay.

Forwarded to Government, with reference to Government Resolution in the Revenue Department, No. 8960, dated 15th December 1890.

2. Mr. Campbell's report shows that the difficulties which were experienced at first in working the Merchandise Marks Act, have been almost entirely overcome, now that its provisions are thoroughly understood by the mercantile community.

3. The undersigned is of opinion that the remarks made in paragraphs 9 to 19 of Mr. Campbell's report deserve careful consideration. It was to be expected that unscrupulous merchants both in this country and abroad would devise means for evading the Act and passing their goods through the barrier of the Customs Act, and it is clear that to some extent they have been successful. The weak point in the present arrangements for the prevention of dishonest trading is the fact that there is no machinery to supplement the action of the Custom House, and to take notice of fraudulent trade marks and trade descriptions which have been applied to goods after they have passed through the Custom House. If in England people will not take the trouble to come forward and prosecute cases of this sort, still less is it likely that they will do so in this country, and the provisions of the law as to false trade marks and false trade descriptions will remain a dead letter outside the Custom House unless Government is prepared to take action. The undersigned is not in favour of Government undertaking prosecution in cases of imitations of private trade marks; these may be safely left to the parties concerned, but there are many cases which concern the public where Government might intervene usefully.

4. Again, there is no machinery at present in existence for enforcing the provisions of the Act against local manufacturers, and Mr. Campbell points out that there is reason to suppose that they at present evade the law. If it is desirable to check dishonest trading in imported goods, it is equally desirable to check the same practices in the case of goods locally produced.

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ARE universally admitted to be worth A GUINEA A BOX. For Bilious and Nervous Disorders, such as Wind and Pain in the Stomach, Sick Headache, Giddiness, Fulness and Swelling after Meals, Dizziness and Drowsiness, Cold Chills, Flushings of Heat, Loss of Appetite, Shortness of Breath, Costiveness, Scurvey and Blotches on the Skin, Disturbed Sleep, Frightful Dreams, and all Nervous and Trembling Sensations, &c.

The first dose will give relief in twenty minutes. This is no fiction, for they have done it in countless cases.

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For females of all ages these Pills are invaluable. No female should be without them. There is not a medicine to be found to equal them for removing any obstruction or irregularity of the system. If taken according to the directions given with each box they will soon restore females of all ages to sound and robust health. This has been proved by thousands who have tried them, and found the benefits which are ensured by their use.

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CALCUTTA:

NOTICE.—MESSRS. NAYLOR SON GRIMES & Co. will forward, on receipt of letter, sample boxes of the Pills at the following rates:—9½d. size 8 annas per box. 1s 1½d. size 12 annas per box. 2s 9d. size 2 Rupees per box. These rates do not include the cost of postage, which will be added to the amount. Chemists and Storekeepers can obtain wholesale rates on application.

NOTICE.

The Chairman will, under rule 15 of the rules prescribed by the Local Government for the Election of Commissioners for Calcutta, hear claims and objections relating to the following Wards at the days and hours stated below:—

1892.	At 12 noon.	At 2-30 P.M.
	Ward Nos.	Ward Nos.
Monday, Feb. 8th	5, 12, 13 & 14	15, 16 & 17
Tuesday, " 9th	18, 19, 20 & 21	
Wednesday, " 10th	23, 24 & 25 ...	6
Thursday, " 11th	1	...
Friday, " 12th	2	...
Saturday, " 13th	7	...
Monday, " 15th	4	... 10
Tuesday, " 16th	3	...
Wednesday, " 17th		11
Thursday, " 18th	8	... 9
Friday, " 19th	22	...

Under the rule specified, all intending candidates and their agents as well as the public generally may attend at the Municipal Office and assist at the disposal of the claims. A list of the claims and objections made in each Ward will be posted up in the Municipal Office at least two days before the day of hearing.

JOHN COWIE,

Secretary to the Corporation.

MUNICIPAL OFFICE,
Calcutta, 5th February 1892. }

ARMY CLOTHING DEPARTMENT.

Alipore, the 20th January 1892.

Sealed tenders are invited for the supply of miscellaneous stores and materials including buttons, haversacks, canvas, sewing cotton, flannel, gaiters, pith-hats, puttees, thread, cloth blue local, khaki drill, webbing drab, &c., &c., more or less as may be required, for the year 1892-93.

2. Tenders will only be received on the printed forms which are obtainable at this office. Blanks in the printed form must be filled up correctly.

3. Each tender must be accompanied by a Bank of Bengal or Government Treasury deposit receipt in the name of the Superintendent for Rupees one hundred as earnest-money. Cash or notes will not be accepted in lieu.

4. The lowest tender will not necessarily be accepted, any tender may be accepted in whole or in part.

5. Any person whose tender may be accepted, will be required to furnish security in cash, Government Loan paper, Savings Bank deposits, or approved Bank deposit receipts, for the due fulfilment of his contract within one week from the date of acceptance of his tender, in default of which his earnest-money will be forfeited. The security will be calculated at 10 per cent. on the contract.

6. Any further information required may be obtained, and sealed patterns inspected at the Clothing Agency.

7. Tenders will be opened by undersigned at noon on Monday the 15th February 1892 in the presence of such persons as may desire to attend.

W. H. MACKESY, Colonel,
Superintendent, Army Clothing.

Congress Sketches: A Review

OF THE
SPEECHES AND THE SPEAKERS

AT THE
Fourth Indian National Congress
Held at Allahabad.

Reprinted with additions and alterations from
Reis & Rayyet

With a portrait of Mr. George Yule, President.

Sold by the publisher G. P. Varma, and
at the office of the Advocate, at Lucknow, and
at the office of "Reis & Rayyet"
for 8 Annas a copy, besides postage.

TO CONTRACTORS.

1. Sealed tenders will be received by the Superintendent upto 2nd March 1892, for the supply of Cloth, Coal, Coke, Cordage, Bees' wax, Timber, Tin ingot, and other stores (more or less) to the Small Arms Ammunition Factory Dum-Dum from the 1st April 1892, upto the 31st March 1893. The term "more" includes the supply of stores, if required, upto 25 per cent in excess of the original tender.

2. Printed forms of tenders for the supply of stores for which tenders are invited are obtainable from this office daily (Sundays and holidays excepted) on payment of one rupee.

3. Tenders should be accompanied by a deposit as earnest money, in Bank of Bengal receipt calculated at the rate of (5) five per cent on the stores tendered. This deposit will be returned on execution of the contract deed or rejection of the tenders.

4. Preference will be given to local manufacture.

5. Tenders will be opened at this office at 12 o'clock on the 3rd March 1892. Parties tendering are invited to attend.

6. The Inspector General of Ordnance does not bind himself to accept the lowest or any tender.

7. Further particulars as to conditions of tender will be found in I. O. Form 103, which will be furnished with the tender form.

J. G. STONE, Lieut.-Col., R. A.,

Superintendent.

SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION
FACTORY OFFICE,

Dum-Dum, 5th February, 1892.

"IT RECOMMENDS ITSELF."

All who suffer find sure relief from

LITTLE'S ORIENTAL BALM



The Greatest Pain Cure Extant.

It has driven out from the system

Acute Rheumatism and Rheumatic Gout

after years of semi-helplessness and suffering; while in ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS, LUMBAGO, SCIATICA, FACEACHE, SPRAINS, it is the surest and safest remedy for these complaints in their severest and most chronic form.

Its magic effect in affording instantaneous relief in

Neuralgia in the Head, Face and Limbs

Is almost too remarkable for CREDENCE.

Are you subject to HEADACHES and the tortures of TOOTHACHE? A single application will relieve you.

In Sore-throat its power has been so rapid and complete that it is universally recommended as

The Marvellous Sore Throat Cure.

Try this wonderful Medicine and let the result speak for itself.

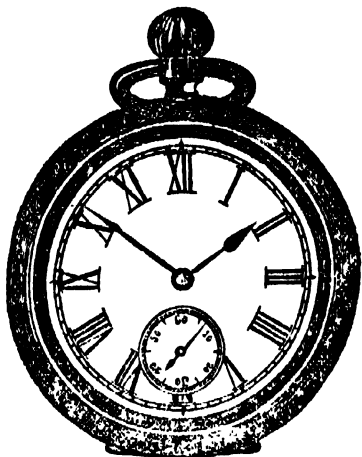
The Oriental Balm is used by the best Physicians in the world in their practice. It has been pronounced a blessing in thousands of homes. By its intrinsic virtue, it has achieved a wide-spread popularity which no similar preparation has ever before attained.

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A strong accurate Keyless open-face Watch in nickel silver case.

Runs 30 Hours with one winding, short wind, Regulated to a minute a month. Bold hands and figures, enameled dial, sunk second hand, set from outside. It has a jewelled visible compact escapement. Can be repaired by any watch-maker for a trifle. Is a thoroughly reliable Machine-made Watch, in velvet lined spring case.

Do. Do. Ladies' Wrist Watch. Price... 8 8
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Do. Hunter do. ... 13 8

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White Metal Albert Chains, standing acid. Of all Patterns ... 1 4
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We give our greatest attention to every kind of repairs, stone settings, Waltham and Waterbury including, as we always employ a staff of the most skilful workmen for our jobbing dept., our charges are based upon the very lowest calculations.

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Late Manager, Waterbury Watch Depot,
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Purify the Blood, correct all Disorders of the LIVER, STOMACH, KIDNEYS AND BOWELS, They invigorate and restore to health Debilitated Constitutions, and are invaluable in all Complaints incidental to Females of all ages. For children and the aged they are priceless.

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Is an infallible remedy for Bad Legs, Bad Breasts, Old Wounds, Sores and Ulcers. It is famous for Gout and Rheumatism. For disorders of the Chest it has no equal.

For Sore Throats, Bronchitis, Coughs, Colds,

Glandular Swellings and all Skin Diseases, it has no rival; and for contracted and stiff joints it acts like a charm.

Manufactured only at Professor HOLLOWAY'S Establishment
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110, College Street, Calcutta.
(Incorporated under Act VI of 1882.)

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CAPITAL.—Rs. 3,00,000, divided into 3,00,000 shares of Re. 1 each.

DIRECTORS.—Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee (Chairman), Principal Krishnakamal Bhattacharyya, Babu Haralal Ray (late Headmaster, Hindu School), Pandit Tarakumar Kaviratna, Babu Nilambar Mookerjee, M.A., B.L., late of Cashmere, and four others.

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Full details in the Prospectus, which contains letters of sympathy and support from the most eminent personages in the land. The following, among others, are our principal

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Maharaja Jotindro Mohun Tagore,
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Babu Satkari Banerji, Member, Burdwan Raj Committee,
Babu Rajendra Kumar Bose, Sub-Judge, Burdwan,
Munsi Golan Azduk, Pleader, Burdwan,
Babu Jagannmohan Bhattacharyya, Deputy Magistrate, Burdwan,
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NOTICE.

Wanted active and pushing Agents everywhere for the above Company. Cash security required Rs. 250, (each).

Rs. 6 WATCH.

Guaranteed two Years.

Pretty, small, accurate, strong, open-faced, keyless, short winding, nickel silver Undaunted watch, with hand setting mechanism, secondhand, enameled dial, jewelled, and bold figures for Rs. 6 per V. P. P. with an extra glass, spring, box and two years' guarantee. Easily repairable. Warranted to stand roughest use. Others sell at double our rates. Have no appearance of cheapness. Mr. S. Gooniah of District Munsiff's Court from Chicacole says :—"A watch maker valued it at Rs. 25." Mr. B. V. Chetty from Anantapur says :—"Many were deceived thinking that its price was Rs. 25." Mr. Mung H. Myah of Marine Workshop from Mandalay says :—"Has never been repaired during the whole period of three and a half years."

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Pretty Canadian Gold Chains, Lockets, Pencils, Tooth Picks, complete Shirt Buttons, Bracelets, Bangles, Earrings, Eardrops (all pairs), Scarf Pins, Scarf Rings, Necklets, Brooches, Hair Sprays, Spectacle Frames, Cigar Holders, Thimbles and Rings set with scientific Diamonds, Sphires, Rubies, Emeralds, &c., at Re. 1-8 per each V. P. P. Mr. G. Smith, Salt Inspector, Sanikutla, says :—"A German valued the diamond ring at Rs. 50 and ruby at Rs. 30." Nickel Silver Timepiece for Rs. 4; guaranteed 3 years.

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1892.

No. 512

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

LOVE!

BY THE AUTHOR OF "SILENT LOVE."

WE have been favored with the following original poem in the handwriting of the author of "Silent Love," an extremely sweet and tender poem, first published some six years ago, and which has since gone through many editions. The history of this poem was a remarkable one. The author, James Wilson, was a native of Paisley, and was born in the year 1749; he was the only son of his parents, who were of the middle rank of life. He received a good education in his native town, and then went to Glasgow College, to study the profession of physic. There he remained until the death of his father, after which he was withdrawn from college, and commenced business as an apothecary, in which he succeeded, and was enabled to realize a small independence, on which he retired, and lived with his mother until her death. His nephew, in the short biographical memoir prefixed to the poem of "Silent Love," goes on to state that—"he was long observed to look solitary; he had scarcely a companion; and it was thought that some disappointment in love was the cause; but, as he had no confidant, the matter was never revealed. He was then in his thirty-fifth year, and betook himself to travelling, and after many years he returned, and stayed with my mother in Causewayside-street. I was young at the time, and can only remember that he was my companion—had a good disposition—could sing well, and read much. He also wrote occasionally, but we never knew what; and at last he grew so morose, particularly when among strangers, that no one could elicit the thoughts of his mind. In the autumn of 1806 he fell into a speedy decline, and died on the 7th of March, 1807, leaving still the history of his love a sealed letter; and the name of his fair one is now a secret for ever."

It appears from the poem, which was brought to light long after his death, that he had, in the course of his life, entertained a secret passion for a young woman, which engrossed his whole being, and gave a color to his entire future life. It may have been a hopeless passion; it was a concealed one, for he does not seem ever to have revealed his love to the object herself. Strange the power of one thrilling glance from a human eye, that it should thus transfix another being, and enchain his thoughts for life! Yet such appears to have been the case here. This man loved tenderly, passionately, hopelessly—poured out his life in one long sigh—and went to the grave, taking his secret with him. The little poem, which his nephew has since given to the world, is an extremely graceful and touching production, and, though never destined for publication, it is worthy of the pen of Pope; having all his elegance, and much more than his feeling and passion. The following lines are inferior to it, but still they are curious and interesting; and we trust they will be found worthy of the perusal of our readers. From the date on the manuscript, the lines seem to have been written in the same year that the author died.—*Eliza Cook.*

In ancient time, when Homer sung,
His Grecian lyre to Love was strung;
Sweet Love! the soul-inspiring strain!
Which brings the greatest bliss or pain.
When Virgil tuned his Latin lyre,
It breathed the same celestial fire;
And when the English poet sings,
What other power can trill his strings?

'T is by Love's chain the world is hung—
The withering old—the glowing young—
The rich, the poor, and all incline
To kneel at Love's most sacred shrine!
The greatest genius earth can boast
Has on Love's troubled sea been tossed;
And as the mind and reason rise,
We read new bliss in woman's eyes!

Yet love is a most dangerous thing,
Even from the peasant to the king;
And, as all thoughtful poets sing,
Is safest in the marriage ring.
Love charms the heart, but blinds the eyes;
Love every patent truth denies;
Love, though it may believe in part,
No cautious word can reach the heart.

Love causes bliss, or causes fears—
A sun of smiles—a sea of tears—
A hopeful mind—a broken heart—
Sweet innocence or bastard art.
Love is no simple god to serve;
Those who enlist can seldom swerve;
Till, waking from their dream of joy,
They lead a life of cold alloy.

That love alone is safe from fears—
From broken bliss, and art, and tears,
Which through life's present veil can see
A glimmering of futurity—
Which values temper, truth, and health;
More than the fleeting power of wealth;
All other Loves will prove unkind,
And why?—because they have been blind!

—*Eliza Cook's Journal.*

A RECENT DEATH-BED.

"DRAW back the shrouding curtain—let me feel
The inspiring freshness of this radiant morn;
Slowly and surely does its influence steal,
Divinely healing—though so weak and worn,
My languid frame revives: I may not die
Beneath the splendour of yon balmy sky.

"Like thee to live, like thee to die, O Sun,
It was a boyish hope, and all in vain!—
With aims yet unfulfilled and course half run,
I, too, might murmur forth the poet's strain.
But, past the terrors of the darksome night,
My strengthened pulses bless the morning's light.

"I feel that I shall live. Within my heart,
With hopes renewed, its old ambitions wake;
Again amid the crowd I bear my part,
Foremost once more to toil for England's sake,
To strive, to struggle, and to link my fame
To the proud triumphs of my country's name.

"My mother's anxious watch may now be o'er.
Tell her the rays which light this faded brow,
Are answer to her prayer—for me no more
From those dear eyes the anxious tears shall flow."

* Schiller.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

Alas ! alas ! the dream was false as vain,
Faded the sun—and Death resumed his reign.

Cold on that noble heart the omen fell.
The dark clouds hurried o'er the changeful skies ;
He felt their shadows told his doom—the spell
Closed with its silent seal. He raised his eyes,
And with the glory of the opening day
One of earth's brightest spirits passed away.

NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THE Mourbhunj minor, who has seen the world, is already showing the effects of the training he has received under British auspices. He has apparently ceased to rely his hopes of the future on the Lord of the Universe who, in his visible symbol, holds court in Orissa. He has given Rs. 500 and a quantity of timber for a Brahmo mandir at Balasore.

THE papers announce that the millionaire of Rawalpindi, Sirdar Sujan Singh Bahadur, has "decided" to give Rs. 12,000 to public charities, in gratitude for the recovery from illness of a near relative. A very good decision, and worthy of a millionaire. We hope the details of the accomplished grant will be soon published.

THERE was a meeting at the Town Hall on Wednesday, the 17th, in memory of the late Pandit Ajodhyanath, of Allahabad. The Maharaja of Durbhunga presided and the Hon'ble Dr. Rashbehari Ghosh proposed the chief resolution regretting the death of the Pandit and bearing testimony to his courage, devotion and self-sacrifice in the discharge of his public duties. The attendance was not large. The only European present was Mr. A. O. Hume.

MR. Jamsetjee N. Tata, of Bombay, proposes to found a Charity for the higher education of Parsee youths. He is prepared to render to a certain number, monthly assistance of not exceeding Rs. 50 in India or £10 in England, Germany or elsewhere, for not less than three years. To avoid the offence of being charitable, the successful student who begins to earn an income of Rs. 150, is required to repay the sums advanced to him by instalments of at least one-fifth of his yearly income, with simple interest at 4 per cent. In the event of the scheme succeeding, all moneys repaid will form the nucleus of a permanent Fund for a similar extended purpose.

A charity of a similar kind has been many years in existence in Bengal, established by a Brahman of no colossal fortune, Baboo Pran Kristo Chowdhry, a former Mayor of Chandernagore.

UNDER orders of the Secretary of State, the Chittagong Hill Tracts have been reduced to the status of a sub-division, and placed from the 16th November in the immediate charge of an Assistant Commissioner under the supervision of Commissioner of the Chittagong Division.

THE Calcutta High Court holds five Criminal Sessions during a year. The Clerk of the Crown has announced the dates of the first three for the current year, namely, 22nd February, 2nd May and 11th July.

AN examination of the Provision Opium (Patna and Ghazee-pore Factories) of 1890-91, will be held at the new Opium Range, No. 14, Strand, on Monday, the 29th February, in the presence of such merchants, dealers, and others interested in opium as may be present.

THE Governor-General in Council has ordered that in the case of official parcels on which the postage is to be prepaid, the service postage stamps should be affixed by the senders to the receipts handed in at the Post Office with the parcels, and not to the parcels themselves.

WOMEN in England are proving themselves competitors of men in the hard struggle for winning bread. In the census of 1831, the only occupation assigned to the fair sex was domestic service. In the last census, that of 1891, women are recognized as having 330 ways of getting a livelihood.

THE Achurch-Charrington Company have departed not quite in peace. At the twelfth hour they commenced an after piece of a personal kind to be played out thereafter.

ON Saturday last, the *Statesman*, in noticing a performance of the Achurch-Charrington Company, at the Corinthian Theatre, on a previous night, remarked :—

"But what the public have a right to expect is that actors and actresses should know their parts when they come on the stage, and that they should be able to conduct themselves with decency in sight and hearing of an audience. The company unfortunately failed in both these respects on Thursday. Neither Mr. Charrington nor Miss Ford, to say nothing of minor performers, had carefully studied the words of their respective *roles*; the former was, indeed, so ill-prepared for the performance that, towards the end of the play, in one scene, he brought matters to an absolute standstill for fully three minutes, by forgetting what he had to say, and he did not much relieve the awkwardness of this novel situation by walking off the stage twice, and returning each time as speechless as he went away. The interview with the prompter—which, presumably, he went to seek—had not proved satisfactory. In the midst of all this confusion, a drop scene parted from its fastenings, and exposed to view a portion of the stage that should have been temporarily cut off from the spectators. To finish up, no sooner had the curtain fallen upon a mutilated and otherwise badly treated play, than a scuffle apparently ensued behind the scenes, and the surprised and indignant audience heard Miss Achurch cry out, in hysterical tones, 'I will not be insulted!' The public did not wait for the end of the quarrel."

On Monday following, there appeared in the *Indian Daily News* a speech from Mr. Charrington, in which the actor, addressing the ladies and gentlemen attending the last performance of the Company, remarked :—

"But happening this evening to take up a copy of today's *Statesman*, I was astonished at finding in it a gross, cowardly and clumsy libel, commenting on events which took place on Thursday night at the fall, and on the other side of this curtain, which I contend is entirely outside the province of dramatic criticism. I must apologize to you for ringing up the curtain rather late and bringing our entertainment to a close past the usual hours. The libel was so grossly insulting to Mrs. Charrington and myself that I was compelled personally to take notice of it, and started off immediately to the *Statesman* office. After considerable difficulty and heavily feeling the bearers, I obtained admission to what I presume was the Editor's sanctum. He did not say he was the editor, nor would he give any name when I asked him in return for my own, but at any rate there he was, the representative of the paper, and I demanded from him a full apology in to-morrow's paper for the false statement of facts that had appeared. He declined to enter into the matter at all, and replied that if it was a libel, I had my remedy at law. I rejoined that I was leaving Calcutta on the morrow, and that he knew it (applause), which rendered me wholly powerless in that direction. I proceeded to tell him that if I could not wring some attention out of him the consequences would be very disagreeable to himself, and they would not be legal. (Laughter.) He still declined to take notice of my complaint, told me to leave the office, and sent for assistance. Well, ladies and gentlemen, I spat in his face. (Laughter and loud applause.) Then, after giving him full opportunity for retaliation, of which he did not avail himself (Laughter) I hurried on to my duties at the theatre (applause), where, I am happy to tell you, I found Mrs. Charrington very much better in health, and I am sure the performance will tonight proceed with more spirit and less imperfection than hitherto. (Cheers and applause.)"

If anything could be more shocking than the conduct of a player in trespassing into an editor's room by bribing his servants' for the purpose of chastising him for honest criticism, it is the impudence of publicly bragging of it. We are surprised that the audience not only permitted the harangue but also cheered it.

After all, as the sequel will show, this dramatic star was not the hero in his own miserable little way that he boasted of being before his hearers. He entered the *sanctum* like a thief, with hostile intent, but in the presence of the enemy his courage failed him. At most, he could soil the floor.

On the appearance of the speech, the editor of the *Statesman* applied to the Chief Magistrate for a warrant against Mr. Charrington on charges of trespass, criminal intimidation and offering intentional insult, reserving an application against the *Indian Daily News*. The Editor's version of the occurrence as given by his attorney Mr. Orr while making the application and corroborated by Mr. Paul Knight himself in his examination in court, is :—

"On Saturday evening, shortly after 8 o'clock, whilst Mr. Knight was correcting a 'proof' at his desk, the door was violently burst open by a man who quite unannounced, rushed into the room declaring that he had been grossly libelled and demanding an apology. The individual was a perfect stranger to Mr. Knight, being unknown to him even by sight,—and Mr. Knight told him that his intrusion was most unwarrantable, that he strongly resented it, and that if he (the visitor) wished to see the Editor, he should have sent in his name in the ordinary way, when he would have been admitted and he should have been prepared to listen to him. The accused then said 'My name is Charrington: I have been grossly libelled by a paragraph that

appeared in this morning's *Statesman*, and I have come to demand a full apology and retraction in the next issue of your paper.' Having regard to the outrageous manner of his visit, Mr. Knight declined to listen to anything that he had to say, telling him so, and adding that if he felt aggrieved he had a remedy at law. He replied that he was leaving Calcutta next day and that the Editor knew it,—which however was not the fact. Then coming round the table he thumped himself down on a chair beside Mr. Knight, and again angrily repeated his demand for an apology and an assurance of a retraction in the next issue of the paper, adding that if he did not get satisfaction in that way he intended taking it in another (meaning that he would take the law into his own hands). Mr. Knight thereupon flatly declined to give him any such assurance, and requested him to instantly leave the room. Finding his threat had no effect, and plainly too much of a coward to commit the assault he had contemplated, the fellow got up and went to the door. He turned the handle, about to leave the room, as Mr. Knight (who had resumed work) thought, when he suddenly advanced a step or two, saying, 'Well, that's my answer,' and spat across the table on to the floor, and immediately bolted downstairs and off the *Statesman* premises."

Mr. Marsden was for a summons, but being told that it was not certain that Mr. Charrington will perform at Bombay and that he may leave British India, a warrant was issued qualified by an order for enlargement on entering into a personal recognizance of Rs. 1,000.

Mr. Orr insisted on an order for bail inasmuch as the accused was quite in a position to pay down the thousand rupees and have done with it, without either entering appearance or tarrying in India to take the consequences. Mr. Marsden, however, who is not for unnecessarily harassing people, stuck to the summons. On a subsequent application by Mr. Cranenburgh, the Magistrate fixed Tuesday, the 1st March, for Mr. Charrington's appearance.

On Wednesday, the 17th, the *Indian Daily News*, in a leader explained:—

"In conversation with the late Mr. Saunders of the *Englishman*, a gentleman once remarked that he thought the editor of a newspaper needs to have the hide of an rhinoceros. Mr. Saunders replied that he should not have the hide of one only, but of two. We regret that Mr. Knight, of the *Statesman*, has not yet become thus defensively armed. On Saturday the last night of the season of the company then occupying the Corinthian Theatre, the manager, Mr. Charrington, as it is not unusual on such occasions, made a few valedictory remarks, and thanked the audience for the very pleasant time the company had had in Calcutta and the support they had received during their stay. This was quite in order; but there was a fly in the ointment: and as Mr. Charrington rightly or wrongly felt himself aggrieved at certain remarks that had appeared in the *Statesman*, he related to the audience the steps he had taken to express his resentment. We cannot say that these remarks were in the best taste but they were publicly uttered, and were the subject of general conversation in the city on Sunday. Those who heard the speech were busy repeating it, and those who did not were anxious to know what was said, and the occasion of it. We gave the speech as reported to us, without a word of comment, and we are called upon 'to withdraw the statements you have made in the said report.' We do not see how we can withdraw statements that we never made, but which were made by Mr. Charrington in a speech delivered in a theatre. We certainly cannot vouch for the facts. But seeing that the statements which we published as a report, are objected to by Mr. Knight and painful to him, we regret that they should have been published. And we also regret that Mr. Knight should have shown himself unduly sensitive in his position, while he must have known that we could and would have given more prompt explanation or contradiction to any incorrect statement, than he himself has done, had he desired us to do so. It will be seen from the police report that Mr. Knight has taken proceedings against Mr. Charrington, and gives a different version of what took place in the *Statesman's* office from the account given by Mr. Charrington. Mr. Knight's position should claim credence for his statements, while the method adopted by Mr. Charrington to seek redress, or to avenge what he deemed the wrong done to him or his wife, is not likely to commend itself to society."

IN Paris, three doctors have cured a young lady of her stoutness, which impeded her movements, by extracting, under chloroform, 18 kilogrammes of fatty matter.

LONDON is described by Mr. Sydney Webb as "a colossal breeding and training ground of individual wills and intellects." In proof whereof he adduces the fact that as many as 400 children are born, 250 children are admitted to school, 200 begin their apprenticeships, 150 people are married and 200 die there every day.

MR. Justice Mathusawmi Iyer has rejoined his place in the Madras High Court. Dewan Bahadur Subramania Iyer, while acting for him, gave every satisfaction as a Judge.

WHO—unless indeed he be a Red Republican or Green Fenian—will not enjoy this smart treatment of Labby's latest exhibition?

"There is no nonsense about Mr. Labouchere. Even when he sinks to vulgarity his descent is thorough. This is what he has to

say of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, the new leader of the Liberal Unionists in the House of Commons:—

'The *Times* announces that Mr. Chamberlain is to be chosen the leader of the Liberal Unionists in the House of Commons. I rejoice at this. The Liberal Unionists are mainly Whigs, and that they should be led by a Radical renegade is only a fit punishment for them. Satan, according to Milton, preferred to reign in Hell rather than serve in Heaven. So it is with Mr. Chamberlain. He left us because we declined to recognise him as our leader. He has now achieved the object of his ambition. He is a leader. Unfortunately, however, for him, he has no following. In this respect he is even worse off than Satan.'

The above choice specimen of—if we be allowed the oxymoron—refined Billingsgate does great credit to Mr. Labouchere's head and heart, and is well calculated to enhance the worth and dignity of *Truth*.—The *Eastern Guardian*.

THE Hon'ble Sir Charles Paul K. C. I. E., goes on medical leave for twelve months from the 22nd March. Mr. J. T. Woodroffe, the senior barrister-at-law, will officiate as Advocate General for Bengal.

MR. Justice Tottenham goes on furlough. Mr. R. F. Rampini, Additional district and sessions Judge, 24-Pergunnahs and Hooghly, as on a former occasion, will officiate as a Judge of the Bengal High Court.

"A strange story is told by the Calcutta journal *Reis and Rayyet*. According to this authority a public servant, a native, who after serving in 'almost every subordinate grade, rose at last to the head of the establishment, becoming what is called Sheristadar or Registrar of a Subordinate Judge's Court, has been dismissed after nearly thirty years' service, in a very extraordinary manner."

So writes the *Times of India* noticing our article of the 30th January "An Administrative Blunder, or the Story of a Sacrifice." After a brief summary of the extraordinary case of persecution and injustice, in its leading features, the leading journal of Bombay thus concludes:—

"The Sheristadar then appealed to the Viceroy, but his petition, if we rightly understand the somewhat vague language of *Reis and Rayyet* on this point, has never been allowed to reach Lord Lansdowne at all. The whole story is an incomprehensible one, but at the same time it is one that, told in the calm language of *Reis and Rayyet*, and left uncontradicted and unexplained will do the Government infinitely more harm than the wild vapourings of journals of the *Bangabasi* type. Whatever be the facts the case demands inquiry, and for that reason we direct attention to it."

NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

SIR George Campbell, K.C.S.I., member for the Kirkcaldy District and late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, is dead.

THE Bow Street Magistrate has committed Mrs. Osborne for perjury and larceny.

To reduce the output of coal and to prevent reduction of wages of labor in England, the National Miners' Federation has decided upon general stoppage of work in the collieries in the middle of March.

THE House of Commons has adopted the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

An amendment by Mr. Sexton, that Parliament was incapable of legislating for Ireland and that the Land Purchase Act had failed, was rejected by a majority of twenty-one, after the Opposition had obtained an application of the closure in an attempt to snatch a victory in a thin house.

Mr. Macneill substituted his amendment relating to elective Indian Councils by another demanding equality for natives of India with Europeans in regard to public appointments. This too was withdrawn, the Under-Secretary of State for India explaining that pledges had not been broken in this respect, and that employment of Indians in public offices was on the increase according to the recommendations of the Public Service Commission.

THE House of Lords has passed the second reading of the Indian Councils and the Indian Officers Bills. They are the same as those passed in the previous session. The last is to enable officers of high rank to leave India without resigning their appointments. Lord Salisbury, having already accepted it, recommended the measure, say-

ing it was desirable to take advantage of the present short passage from India to England by enabling high officials to come and consult the Home Government. Earl Kimberley was of a different opinion. He thought, and justly we believe, the disadvantages outweighed the advantages. His Lordship approved of the Indian Councils Bill as a tentative measure. Its greatest recommendation to Lord Northbrook was its elasticity. Lord Salisbury deprecated the idea that the extra representation was to be mainly confined to municipal bodies. The *Times* considers it a scandal that the Bill is not yet law. While accepting it, that journal warns the Government against the free use of the provisions of the other measure.

IN spite of the Irish protest against English legislation for Ireland, Mr. Balfour introduced, on the 18th, amid the ridicule of the Liberals and both the Irish parties, the Irish Local Government Bill. It creates County and Baronial Councils to be elected triennially, the franchise including women, with power to the Irish Viceroy to suppress the Councils for corruption or oppression and replace the same by his own nominees.

THE French ministers have resigned, having been defeated in the Chamber of Deputies on a motion of confidence of their own inviting on the Bill dealing with Clerical and other Societies.

THE real trial of self-government in the great Pacific Empire has begun. The Parliamentary elections in Japan have been attended with serious rioting in many places. Several persons have been killed and many wounded.

THE last year closed in England in anxiety in the almost immediate prospect of war. Whatever might be the indifference of the general public or any portion of it, the warrior profession and specially the thinking part of it, felt that war was on the cards, and they forthwith brought it on the carpet, and went on kicking at it with spirit and kept it rolling. In the abandonment of this game, many of the experts contrived to lose their wits, and several of them found themselves rolling in the ground. One of those who kept their heads—the *Army and Navy Gazette*—without going the length of the alarmists, deliberately warned the public of the danger of undue and uninstructed confidence. The British feeling of security is, of course, founded on the insular situation of Great Britain and Ireland, coupled with the command of the sea. The geographical advantage is a permanent one, but the other is governed by circumstances. Our London contemporary observes:—

"In the early part of this century England was relatively more powerful at sea than she is to-day, and yet she was by no means beyond the reach of a *coup de main*. While Bonaparte was preparing his flatbottomed boats at Boulogne we had fifteen men-of-war cruising off the port to watch the movements of the invading army. If the great Corsican had had at his disposal a Sea Captain of even ordinary ability to execute his scheme he would certainly have had a very good chance of gaining the mastery of the Channel for forty-eight hours, which he demanded. Villeneuve having collected sixty ships and sailed for the Antilles, was to have swiftly returned by the North, rounded Scotland, and so come down on the petty squadron of observation off Boulogne with the united fleets of France and Spain. But he followed a course of his own, made for Cadiz, where he was blockaded, and the great manœuvre eventuated in Trafalgar."

SUCH designs, the *Gazette* assures us, are sure to fail in these days, inasmuch as the secret of movements even on the sea cannot be kept. But it seems that England must more than ever confine herself to the defensive. The *Gazette* confesses that

"It would be far more hazardous for us to engage in expeditions such as we were very partial to before the French Revolution, to North and South America, to the East and West Indies, to Spain, the Coast of France, etc., if our transports were not conveyed by enormous fleets, than it was before torpedo-catchers and torpedo-boats were invented; but, on the other hand, a Boulogne invasion would be now a laughable bugaboo."

That admission has a special suggestiveness for us. The luxury of frivolous expeditions may be abandoned, but is England in the event of war going to abandon her colonies and dependencies? Not certainly, without a struggle—a life and death struggle. She cannot abandon us without effacing herself. Hence she must be prepared for expeditions—necessary expeditions—to the East and the West, the North and the South, even if her transport were to be conveyed

by enormous fleets. She already enjoys ships, colonies and commerce. She must have enormous and irresistible fleets to protect her colonies and dependencies and her commerce. And here, *en passant*, we cannot help lamenting the abolition of the Indian Navy and the Indian docks. It was a great blunder to abolish the Indian Army. The abandonment of the Indian Navy and Marine was a stupendous mistake. We must build in the country again to protect it.

Just now, we are afraid England is not quite so prepared for war as we wish to see her—powerful on land and irresistible at sea. We therefore observe with uneasiness the impatience of the profession of arms for a conflict:—

"Our more enterprising generals 'are getting sick of waiting' for the coming war for which they have been longing with all the expectancy of 'Mariana in the moated grange,' but instead of 'wishing they were dead' they are looking out for 'command which will atone,' in some measure, for the loss of service distinctions. The years are passing swiftly. The young lions are becoming elderly and rheumatic. A little while and they will be among the 'superfluous veterans,' and all the studies, exercises, and trainings of their lives will be profitless! It must be a disturbing reflection to some of them that they were wrong when they proved to demonstration that 1889 could not pass without an outbreak of war—that they relied on it in 1890 as inevitable—and that they piled their bottom dollar on its explosion in 1891! What of the year that has just opened? No one can say that the armed peace will endure for a month. The incident of a day can fire the mighty train; but it may well be that the most warlike, confident, and eager master of many legions has no desire to 'let slip the dogs of war' in a chase of which he cannot predict the course or the result. As far as we can see, the only field on which a British general can play a great part is in a war in which Russia will be arrayed against England in India. Granting that our alliances with Germany, Austria, and Italy—alliances of common interests—demanded the co-operation of British troops in a war on the Continent of Europe, it is plain that we could never at once assume or obtain the position which we held in the time of Marlborough or Wellington. A British contingent even of two army corps—a greater force than we had on the Rhine or in the Peninsula, and in the Low Countries—would be smothered in the prodigious masses of troops with which our generals would be called to act. Nevertheless, if a Marlborough or a Wellington could be evolved from the British contingent, the sheer force of military genius would drive him to the front, and the fleet would be a preponderating factor in the calculation of our strength, and would secure adequate recognition of the claims of England in the field."

In India, we have experienced the evils of the ascendancy of the dashing Hussar spirit of fire-eaters like the lamented Sir George Pomeroy Colley.

THE following is a bad sign:—

"*Apropos* the announcement in the *World* that the Duke of Connaught is to succeed the Duke of Cambridge as Commander-in-Chief of the Army—an announcement, by the way, which rests on nothing better than rumour—a contemporary raises the question why should we not also have a Royal Prince at the head of the Navy?"

Yes, to be sure, why not? If, according to the well-known *mot*, a Russell as such is equal to the office of Archbishop of Canterbury or up to the command of the Channel Fleet, what miracle is above a Prince of the Blood? One would have thought that England had suffered enough from royal command or administration for any more patience. But the charm continues. Or else, we would not see respectable publicists hankering for royal mediocrities. At a time like the present, when all Europe is armed to the teeth, when the Powers, great and small, have made the greatest progress in arms, when even third-rate Powers boast of larger armies, and not inferior weapons, when states which thirty years ago scarcely counted a single sail now own ironclads and torpedos, England must more than ever cherish talent and bring out merit to the fore. There never was a time when she needed her Cochrans and Nelsons, her Wellesleys and Churchills more.

SINCE his disgrace, the author of *Greater Britain* has returned to public life more than ever as an authority on Foreign Affairs. He has been lately studying the relative strength of the different Powers. Of his most recent deliverances, we cull the purport of that which concerns us most:—

"Sir Charles Dilke says that the only two Powers in the world which can do us harm are France and Russia: France because her maritime enterprise would enable her in case of war to imperil our trade; and Russia, because by moving a few men in Central Asia she can force us to spend so much money upon Indian Military preparation as to jeopardise our hold on India. The chief danger is an eventual advance by Russia on the North-West portion of India, but he admits also that in the event of a coalition against us of France and Russia there is peril to our sea-borne trade. The French Naval Estimates show that during the year 1892 they will have thirty efficient armour-clads fit for immediate service against thirty-one of ours; while they will have actually in barracks more trained men than we have, with a

vast superiority in torpedo squadrons. Finally, he contends that, as matters stand, in the event of a single-handed war with France, we should be unable to hold the Mediterranean, could only mask the French fleets at Gibraltar, and might find ourselves forced to undertake dangerous expeditions for the relief of Malta, while Cyprus must be given up. And the Suez Canal and Red Sea sealed; at the same time France intends to continue to build ships in sufficient numbers to prevent us from carrying out our traditional policy of blockade."

A VERSION of Enoch Arden has been reproduced in life at Boston. A man named Hall has been missing for ten years. He was one of the survivors of the crew of a wrecked ship, but had not been seen since and was generally believed to have died. Mrs. Hall mourned his loss for a time and then took another mate. Three years ago, her first husband returned. He found her mated. Still, naturally enough,

Enoch yearn'd to see her face again;
'If I might look on her sweet face again
And know that she is happy!'

Indeed, he longed to be united to his wife but was loath to disturb the peace of the household. So he resolved

Not to tell her, never to let her know.

Thus he strove with himself and waited patiently in hopes of another turn in his fortune. Thus life dragged on for three years which seemed three ages, until the lord of the unsuspecting bigamist, his rival in the affection of his wife, died. At last, he regained his own. On New Year's Day, Hall remarried Mrs. Hall as a widow.

THE week in Calcutta has been marked by the absence of both the Viceroy and the Lieutenant Governor.

Lord Lansdowne reached Darjeeling on the 13th in fair but threatening weather, which broke out next night into a heavy storm of hail, sleet and snow. Next day there was a severe storm followed by hail, thunder and lightning. The day following, the hills were covered with several feet of snow. He refused an address from the municipality, as the visit was private. It was not, however, confined to Darjeeling, but included Suriel, Kalimpong, Philut, Tuglool. Lord Lansdowne was charmed with Darjeeling, as who is not who has visited it, and thoroughly enjoyed his trip. Lady Lansdowne left Calcutta yesterday for Cooch Behar whereto she will accompany her Lord.

SINCE Mr. Caine's filip, Lord Wenlock seems more than ever determined to do everything himself, as far as he can. His Governorship is a new broom, and young ambition thinks nothing of attacking the Augean Stable. But has it come to this? Has the Lord of Madras already entered in right earnest on a revolutionary rôle of economical reform, beginning with a clean sweep of the brood of Secretaries, Private and Public, of various species, Superiors and Subs, Principals and Ordinaries, Joints and Deputies and Assistants and Assistant-Deputies, Personal and Impersonal Assistants, and of different degrees, substantive, non-substantive and unsubstantial, officiating, acting, and not acting at all, which constitutes the Great Circumlocution Office down South? Or else, how comes the following letter to appear in the Madras papers?—

"Government House, Madras,
December 30th, 1891.

To Messrs. Hutchinson & Co.,
Gentlemen,—I beg to acknowledge, with many thanks, the receipt of your letter of the 11th inst, in which you announce your intention of bringing out next March a Company for the construction of Electric Tramways in Madras. I note with peculiar satisfaction the intention you therein express of endeavouring to place as many shares as possible in India, and also of largely employing native labour both in actual construction and also in supervision, as well as of obtaining as much material as you can of native manufacture. I sincerely wish you all success in your efforts in these directions. I am well aware that in these days of intense competition, when profits are cut down as low as possible, it is very difficult to allow philanthropic motives to be introduced into commercial enterprises, and if you can demonstrate that, while largely benefiting the people of this country, you can at the same time prove your works to be a success from a purely business and financial point of view, you will have done much for the industrial development of India. I need hardly say that I shall watch your progress here with the greatest interest, and earnestly hope that your efforts may be crowned with success. I shall have much pleasure in seeing Mr. Chalk, when he arrives out here, and will be glad to render him any assistance in my power.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) WENLOCK."

All that is very human, and even amiable for that, but it is scarcely Grand-Pashalik, to say nothing of Sultanlike. In any case, it is not diabolical, God be thanked! His Lordship has made a creditable advance since he danced with the congenial spirits on the heights of Ooty.

It will be remembered that, many years ago, the late Mr. Pogson, the Madras Astronomer, announced a meteorologico-astronomical Law of Famine. Accepted by Sir William Hunter, it was attacked in various quarters. But now Mr. Michie Smith supports it by his own observations, so far as the Coromandel Coast is concerned. According to Mr. Pogson, the weather was dependent upon certain spots in the sun which appeared in cycles, the rainfall being least at the time of the minimum spots and most copious when the spots reached their maximum. Mr. Smith has made some reassuring observations in the heavens. He lately discovered some great spots. He thought he noticed a great cyclone blowing in the great luminary. He laments the want of means at the Madras Observatory for measuring the speed of the storm. Nevertheless, he hazards the conjecture that the wind high up there was blowing at the rate of 100 to 200 miles per second. For the rest, although by the rotation of the sun these spots have been carried towards the edge, to be soon sent to the right about on the other side away from us, some fresh clusters have formed themselves.

THE Magistrates in and around Bellary are unwilling to try Mr. E. M. Baber, of the Revenue Survey Department, charged with criminal breach of trust as a public servant. Mr. Sewell, the District Magistrate of Bellary, applied to the High Court to be relieved of that duty, in that he was a personal friend of the accused. Their Lordships—the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Wilkinson—refused the application, saying that all the Magistrates of the neighbouring districts had also asked to be excused from trying the case, and that Mr. Sewell in trying it would do nothing more than his duty, but if he did not feel disposed to deal with the matter himself, he could commit the accused for trial to the Sessions Court. These neighbouring magistrates have seived their friend by thus creating a character for Mr. Baber, which will probably stand him in better stead than any formal deposition in court. Still their scruple is creditable to them. But we cannot understand the rationale of a man's committal to the sessions as the alternative of a Magistrate's indisposition to take up any case. It is a compromise unwarranted by the law. Strange that a bench of a High Court headed by a Chief Justice should issue such an instruction!

A CONTEMPORARY who is not very choice in its Correspondence, has distanced itself by giving insertion, doubtless unwittingly, to a most impudent puff of a person who has got himself elected one of the principal office-bearers of a neighbouring municipality. That municipality has, for some length of time, been the worst-conducted in the whole country—a description the full force of which will be understood by those only who know how wretched, in their personnel and proceedings, are many of these institutions. It has now reached its climax of absurdity in the election and elevation of the man in question. The Editor had no idea of the amusement which the particular issue of his paper was sure to cause not only in the town in the suburbs, where his hero is now a municipal magnate, but also at the factory-town where he earned his first laurels and made his unenviable fortune. Were a Joy Mitter appointed to the office in Calcutta held by Baboo Gopal Lal Mitter—which would be like installing a typical Bæotian in a similar office in old Athens, of which he happened to be a freeman—it would scarcely be a less appropriate appointment than that which is glorified in the columns of our contemporary. The man himself makes no secret of the absurdity. Before his recent elevation, he used to defend his election as a Commissioner by pointing to the dependence on others of the very office-bearers for conducting their correspondence, and saying, in the words of the proverbial Joy Mitter, that they were all asses, only he had been "caught,"—that is, had acquired notoriety as one. However true the assertion about writing and, for the most part, even thinking, there is some inaccuracy in that characterization. There is vanity discernible even in the rags of apparent self-depreciation. Chips of the same Bæotian oak the others are, no doubt, but he is a block by himself, a prodigiously big, heavy block. And this is the man who has so charmed our contemporary's correspondent by his great affluence that he has been persuaded to sing *psalms* in his patron's praise through the public press.

THE Pioneer Glass Manufacturing Company opened their works, last week, in Tittaghar, under the auspices of Lady Elliott. Baboo

Chundy Lall Singh, one of the directors, welcomed Lady Elliott and the other ladies and gentlemen. He congratulated the promoters and the shareholders on the success of the movement which was thoroughly a national one, and he pointed out that it was quite in unison with the spirit of our national customs that a lady should first bless a new undertaking. Baboo Nobin Chand Boral, another director, explained the scope and objects of the undertaking. Mr. Struthers thanked Lady Elliott for the ceremony of the afternoon, and considered it fortunate that in the absence of the Lieutenant-Governor, they had an efficient deputy in Lady Elliott who, from the ability, earnestness, gracious manner and tact with which she discharged any duty she undertook, might well be regarded as the Lieutenant-Governess of Bengal.

Sir Edward Buck replied on behalf of Lady Elliott. He wished every success to the Company, who, he hoped, unlike another pioneer Company of an older date in Upper India, would turn out bottles that would stand upright, and set a good example of industry without the support of Government.

The Company had made special arrangements for the guests and, of course, refreshments were provided.

A SINGLE Englishman in the desert is as good as a host—or maybe as bad. Mr. Wyllie, the manager of Mohrbhunj, clearly has not enough occupation for his energies in even the largest of the Orissa Tributary States, so he pokes his nose into those of his neighbours. At any rate, on Monday, at Bhadrak, he got up a lively scene for the delectation and distraction of the great visitor who has strayed to those parts. The Lieutenant-Governor was besieged by a lot of natives, supposed to be two parties of Tributary Ooriyas, one from the plains and another from the highlands, headed openly by the said Wyllie, clamouring for the virtual deposition of the Raja of Keonjhar. It was a good plan cleverly laid: two different and presumably hostile parties combining in a common object—worthy of the best days of Orissan history, when the Ooriyas were a nation and not the remnant of a famine-destroyed people, consisting of coolies, palki bearers, porters, valets, and pipe-layers, with a sprinkling of hill chiefs remote from civilization and in mortal dread of the whiteman and his native underlings. They were for the detention of the Chief, but, in the present aptitude of public opinion in England to sympathise with Indian Chiefs, the Government have to be particularly careful. In vain Sir Charles Elliott reasoned with them. The men were all the more loud against letting the Chief loose. For those who belonged to his territory had reason, now at all events, to fear the Raja's vengeance. The outcry against him was of the usual kind, and we hope of the usual value. All the assurance that the Lieutenant-Governor could give, was to consider the petition carefully and to exact guarantees against abuse in the event of the Raja's being permitted to return. The first promise Sir Charles Elliott is sure to keep. The fulfilment of the second is not all within his power—or any man's.

AT the last Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University, some of the question papers were tampered with. Before the examination commenced, several questions had oozed out, and were for sale at the Bankipore market. It is reported that the papers were extracted from the box in charge of Mr. Ewbank, Principal of the Patna College superintending the Examination at Patna, by seeing his bearer. The Senate has decided to hold another examination for the Patna Circle in Patna on the 4th April. The proposition to hold the re-examination at Calcutta was abandoned as being inconvenient and expensive to the examinees. One paper will be set for each day, the hour of examination being from 7 to 10 in the morning.

THERE was on Saturday last a fight between the Police and the Military at Alipore, close to the Lieutenant-Governor's palace, on the occasion of the Flower Show and Miss Tassel's balloon ascent and parachute descent at the Horticultural Society's Gardens. A number of soldiers of the 17th Bengal Infantry occupying the barracks near the Gardens wanted to clear the ground of the crowd that had gathered there for a clear view of the ascent. The crowd shewed no disposition to move out. The soldiers were firm, with the result that the Police interfered and arrested a Naik who was taken to the Thana. The Sepoys

demanded the release of their man, which being refused, a regular fight ensued. A military enquiry is being held.

THE following remarkable contribution by a friend deserves to be rescued from a back number of the last year's *Indian Spectator* :—

"A young lady residing with her family somewhere in Scotland was one day going down a flight of stairs, when she experienced a sudden and curious sensation in her eyes. She stopped and covered her eyes with her hand, and she then perceived sparks, emitting a brilliant light, flying in all directions. In less than a minute this passed away and left her eyes in their normal state. The family physician was, however, called in, but as the case did not present any symptoms with which he was familiar, he was only able to watch for further developments. These soon declared themselves. After a time when the attacks came on, sparks were no longer seen, but a bright, steady, diffused light, so that, when in a room at night in total darkness, she could see her way about as well as if it were day-light." The testimony on which this rests is that given by the medical man himself. Akin to this faculty must have been that possessed by a Mr. Duquid, an artist residing in Glasgow, who for many years was in the habit of painting in pitch darkness pictures in oil colours on cards and cavasses which had been previously marked."

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, February 20, 1892.

THE BENGAL RAGE FOR INSPECTION.

WE are afraid good Sir Charles Elliott has no idea of the mischief he has caused by whipping his lieutenants in all departments into preternatural locomotion. His recent order regarding tours of inspections, at once ill-considered and uncalled for, will by and by be a dead letter, if it is not sooner largely modified. Meanwhile, it is doing more harm than good, and it is certain that little or no practical good can come out of it. Just now, false alarms about visits of high officials and heads of departments, are weekly and daily circulated to the great detriment of efficient work, and the worry of the unfortunate workers. It is the old story of the shepherd boy and the wolf, only the lying note does not issue from a single source that it may be disregarded after a few trials. Thus a permanent panic prevails in some places. Each European who alights from a first-class railway carriage, or gets down from a steamer, or is seen in or about a Dak Bungalow, is taken to be either a Member of the Board of Revenue, the Inspector-General of Police, of Registration, of Jails, or of Civil Hospitals, or the Director of Land Records or of Public Instruction, or some assistant of this, that, or the other, and he is carefully watched until his real personality or official designation is ascertained. The other day, in one of the metropolitan districts, a member of a respectable European firm in Calcutta went on his own business, and a rumour was afloat that the Junior Member of the Board had come to inspect the Revenue offices. There was consternation in the civil station. The Amla were seen wending breathlessly towards cutchery early at 8 o'clock in the morning, with their Pagrees on, and officers driving at full gallop to be in office as early as possible and put things right for inspection. Such rumours are also circulated by the mischievous by way of practical jokes upon the poor clerks and their unfortunate officers. For weeks people give up their regular work in order to meet the inspecting officer, when, at last, the occasion of all the ado turns out to be a false report. Imagine how a man's mind is disturbed by such false alarms and how his attention is diverted to other useless matters of detail from his graver daily duties! In a word, no department has any rest or its officers any peace of mind to attend to their important and regular occupations properly.

Many magnates are quite incapable of touring in this peculiarly forced fashion, but the fiat has gone forth, and they must be out at any risk. Some might be seen lying seedy in the circuit house of Dak Bungalows. Others are suffering from fever, but still going on with their inspection work at any cost. And what is all this inspection—but filling up of certain forms, collecting of some figures, and repetition of dozens of questions from old reports? A single false alarm keeps a department in a state of constant and permanent sensation for at least one week. The Deputy Collectors, with the inspection reports in hand or in the pocket, might all be seen continually running from one room to another. Under such circumstances, what man can fulfil judicial or other important functions thoroughly and carefully? The announcement of the advent of the Head of the Government is, of course, a more prodigious disaster. The news of His Honor's approach is enough to keep a district in commotion for a month before his arrival. No endeavour is spared to put up a grand and bright appearance on everything, which can be done only superficially. Cases of all kinds are disposed of with indecent haste and in quite an arbitrary fashion, which cannot appear from the record or the elaborate order sheet now introduced. Justice suffers and the regular and urgent business of a whole month (such as is beyond the scope of H. H.'s inspection) falls into arrear. Bundles are quietly shelved and takeeds are intentionally mislaid in order to prepare for H. H.'s and his party's inspection. The inspection in fact is a sort of assault-at-arms, and when the unprepared offices are attacked by the highly paid regiment of inspecting volunteers under their great commander, the scene is most amusing. All of a sudden, the enemy is at once besieged and bombarded along the whole line, and fire is opened indiscriminately upon the unfortified positions. The shuddering Amla, the confused deputy, the outwitted Munsif, the to-and-fro-hurrying assistant superintendent, and the half-dead clerk, all struggle hard, and most of them exhibit really comical airs and postures, quite unintentionally—only to please the head of the Government and his staff. Then these unfortunate men, who had passed a sleepless and anxious night, and, most of them being Hindoos, had to run to office without taking any food whatever, are put to the test of rigid official cross-examination, and unless they pass through this ordeal well and safe, their fate is doomed. At least, in their own minds, they think so. Now, let us see who is this cross-examining counsel. He is neither the Advocate-General nor Mr. Woodroffe nor Mr. Jackson to be sure, but then he is the very ruler of the land who can make and unmake a man with one stroke of his pen. Unless an officer himself who has had experience of that sort of terrible ordeal by his own superiors, it is not possible for any one to realise the wretched and miserable position of his poor subordinates. We see from our own daily experience that most intelligent and well educated persons get quite funkcd, while in the witness box, under a heavy fire of cross-examination from some good shot of the legal army. A bad impression left upon the mind, of a great and strong man like Sir Charles Elliott, cannot pass away easily and quickly, and it is not to be expected that such impressions will be temporary. Many good officers may not prove quite equal to the test of this novel inspection in which Sir Charles Elliott takes

the principal part, making searching enquiries himself, and then they suffer for no particular fault of their own. Men who tremble before the District Officer or the Joint Magistrate in putting up a paper or telling a simple thing, men whose mother-tongue is not English, and who have but slender opportunities of speaking it, and who accordingly have no command over it even for practical purposes, cannot be expected to answer in it satisfactorily all questions put to them by a Governor who is master of details, who goes prepared entirely by the labours of others (because the materials are supplied by his secretaries) to inspect an office, and who is now greatly dreaded by all the native officers of all classes, particularly those who are directly under him.

We are sorry to hear the Subordinate Executive Service, which has held its own so long and proved its ability for all sorts of work, is the greatest sufferer under the present régime. It is whispered that the promotion of a number of officers of this service has been stopped, and the civil list also seems to give colour enough to the rumour, seeing that those officers who were once well spoken of, have been passed over at the last promotion. Their chief fault was the taking some, not unreasonably long, time in disposing of cases, or in displeasing some of their immediate superiors by their injudicious, though possibly just, decisions. Even explanations were not called for from the officers concerned, before they were punished as mentioned above. This state of things must be very discouraging to a class of public servants who are, in fact, the backbone of the administration in the Province.

RAJSHAHYE AND ITS CAPITAL.

RAJSHAHYE is one of the oldest, and is still one of the most interesting, Districts of Bengal. A glimpse of its present condition obtained from a reliable source, cannot be unwelcome to the intelligent reader. The official capital is at Rampore Beaulah. This station, once the headquarters of the Division, although somewhat dull, is not so bad from a sanitary point of view. On account of scanty rains, this season has unfortunately been unusually unhealthy, and people are for some months suffering much from malarious fever. The Municipality is poor, having only an income of nearly Rs. 30,000 annually. Its Chairman and Vice-chairman being a Hindu and a Mahomedan respectively, it has both the representative elements in its executive. It seems to do its work quietly and smoothly, and there does not appear to be much of the party feeling which has been the curse of the municipalities in so many of the districts of Bengal. This District has a very large Mahomedan population of the cultivating classes, which comes up to nearly from 75 to 80 per cent, but there are very few respectable and educated Mahomedans here. We are glad to learn that the Mahomedan students of the local College, although numerically small, are getting on very well with their studies, and some graduates have recently beat their Hindu brethren. The College building is a fine, ornamental structure, small but neat, and beautiful, one of which the Public Works Department may well be proud. Mr. Livingstone, the Principal, is a great blessing both to the College and the Medressah, the latter at present having only the junior classes.

There are only two respectable and wealthy Mahomedan families in this District, namely, those of Natore and Bagha. We are afraid that they are not in a very flourishing state. The people of this District appear generally to be very quiet, simple, and law-abiding.

The old town of Rampore Beaulah has been carried away by the Ganges, and its position can now be fixed on the other bank of the river. Almost all the brick houses in the native quarter of the town, seem to have been recently constructed on very low land, and there are a large number

of small filthy and offensive tanks, excavations, and dirty ditches by the sides of these houses, which are a great cause of the insanitation of the town and hot-beds of malarial and infectious diseases. The Municipality being poor is unable to fill them up.

There are nearly half a dozen so called and real Rajas and Ranees in the district, who hold large landed properties, some of which are under the Court of Wards, and others are managed by themselves. We have not been able to ascertain if there are in existence any heirs of the old Rajas of this part of the country, who reigned over it before the Mahomedan conquest, or even those of the predecessors of the present Natore Family. There are about half a dozen European officials, who reside in the European quarter of Rampore Beaulah, and about a dozen European planters and silk manufacturers, who are scattered all over the District. The native officials consider this place very dear, and it is a common saying among them that in Rajshahye the *gari* and the *bari* (conveyance and the house) take up a great part of their income. This place has a reputation of being a sporting District, the northern part having jungles, and these again so full of leopards that some of these unwelcome gentlemen patrol the streets and trespass into houses at night at the chief town. There is a leopard or tiger somewhere in the interior or near the station, which has, of late, been attracting much notice, as it has killed and wounded two dozen men or rather more. Many attempts to kill it have failed, and it has now found a place as a ghost in the imagination of the lower classes. It is said that its face is black, and that it travels from one place to another with the rapidity of a railway train. A reward of Rs. 50 has been offered by the magistrate for its destruction, but nobody has been able to kill it. There are a good many shikaris in these parts, and almost every well-to-do cultivator has a gun to protect his life and property, particularly his fields against the inroads of wild animals, of whom the wild boars and leopards are most offensive and troublesome. During the last year, 96 persons were killed by leopards in this District, but the number killed by snakes is still more large.

It is reported that Mr. Brojendro Kumar Seal is coming to Rajshahye in March as the District Judge, and that the higher authorities wish to see this District chiefly manned by native officers. There is already a native District Superintendent in Babu H. G. Mullick, and for a short time there was a native District Magistrate also in Mr. Augusty.

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION LAW OF CALCUTTA.

THE RIGHT OF VOTING OF INDIVIDUALS AND ASSOCIATIONS.

LAST week we noticed an application to the Chief Magistrate by a rate-payer in ward No. 7, Baboo Nobin Chand Boral—whom the Municipal Chairman had disqualified for the forthcoming election. He was late in producing the rate bills to prove that he had paid the rates as occupier which entitled him to be included in the voters' register. This week, the other stipendiary Magistrate was appealed to to order the inclusion of the name of an owner and occupier in Ward No. 1. From the reports in the morning papers, it seems that Baboo Moni Lal Banerji is now the sole heir of his father and his uncle who jointly owned and occupied the premises No. 33, Bagbazar-street. The house is assessed at Rs. 250 and stands in the books of the Corporation in the name of the uncle. The rates for the third quarter remained unpaid. Moni Lal had applied on the 21st January to have his name registered and he was provisionally registered as owner and occupier. On objection of an intending candidate for the commissionship of that ward, the Chairman subsequently held that inasmuch as Monilal was not the registered owner and had not paid the 3rd quarter's rates, he was not entitled to vote under section 13 of the Act. The Magistrate was of the same opinion with the Chairman, the Nawab holding that, on the strict reading of the law, the Chairman had taken a right view of section 13 of the Act and he the magistrate did not wish to disturb his decision.

We confess we do not understand the facts of the case and therefore the right application of the law. If the premises be the property of a Hindu joint family—in other words—if Monilal has co-sharers in the same property, the owners and occupiers of that property cannot claim the privilege which Manilal preferred. Section 13 seems to exclude a Hindu joint-family, a company, firm, or other asso-

ciation of persons from the privilege of voting, unless owning any land or house or occupying a house, assessed at Rs. 300 and upwards. They are not privileged, like single individuals, to vote at an election if they own and occupy any land or house assessed at not less than Rs. 150 and at less than Rs. 300. We think it is a misapplication of section 13 to disqualify other than such joint owners and occupiers. The section runs thus:—

"In sections nine, ten, eleven and twelve the word 'person' includes a Hindu joint-family, a company, firm or other association of persons who may be registered as the owners of any house or land, or as the occupiers of any house under clauses (b) and (c) of section eight or may be stated in any license to be the holders thereof. Votes under clauses (a) and (e) of section eight can only be claimed by a single individual paying the rates or taxes in his own name."

It seems to us that the section is intended to explain when and how far an association of persons is enabled to take part in the elections—under what circumstances it is qualified or disqualified. The concluding sentence—on which the decisions of both the Chairman and the Magistrate in the present case are apparently based—is introduced to point out that an association of persons cannot take advantage of the clauses (a) and (e) but that they are intended only for single individuals. "Paying the rates or taxes in his own name" must be taken to be in opposition to joint payment in joint names, or for joint owners.

If, however, Manilal be the sole owner of the premises and occupies it, it is difficult to understand why he should be pronounced disqualified because his name is not registered or he failed to pay the 3rd quarter's rates.

He had, we believe, applied for registration of his own name in the books of the Corporation and for registration of his votes for the coming election. If the Commissioners had accepted him, provisionally though it be, as the owner and occupier of the premises, there is no justification for the Chairman to throw him overboard. There is no fixed time for any application for registration of a name. Such an application may be made at any time. Nor are the Commissioners competent to refuse it, unless there is sufficient reason—which refusal again must be in writing. We do not see that there was any such refusal in the present case. After having provisionally admitted Manilal's name, there is no reason why he should be thrown out on a plea, however valid, taken subsequently. The qualifications for a voter in the Act are based on sex, age, residence or payment of rates, and ownership or occupation of land or houses assessed at certain sums. The qualifying sections do not fix any period for payment of rates. Non-payment of rates or taxes in proper time is no disqualification under the Act.

We are afraid both the decisions in the present case have been arrived at without any reference to the other sections of the Act. Particular stress seems to have been laid on one section which we have attempted to shew does not apply.

GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT OF PRIVATE STATES BILL.

Supreme Legislative Council. February 12, 1891.

The Hon'ble Sir Philip Hutchins moved for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy of a rate on private estates under the management of Government to meet the cost of superior supervision and management. He said:—

"In this country Government is landlord paramount and to a certain extent patriarchal. It intervenes for the protection of private estates in a variety of contingencies, and in order to protect them assumes their management. This is perhaps best understood in connection with the action of the Court of Wards, the popularity of which is both well deserved and universal; but encumbered estates have often been saved from the hammer by the intervention of Government, either after effecting an arrangement with the creditors, or under the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, when a decree-holder presses for a sale. The laws for the recovery

Holloway's Ointment and Pills.—Dangerous Chest Complaints.—The enumeration of these diseases is scarcely necessary, as, unfortunately, most Englishmen know them to their cost. Coughs, common colds, influenza, bronchitis, asthma, pleurisy, inflammation of the lungs, and even consumption in its early stages, are best treated by rubbing Holloway's Ointment upon the chest and upon the back between the shoulders. It penetrates internally, checks the cold shiverings, relieves the overgorged lungs, gradually removes the oppression from the chest, and restores the obstructed respiration, hitherto so distressingly disagreeable and highly dangerous. In treating this class of diseases, Holloway's Pills should always be taken while using his Ointment; they purify the blood, promote perspiration, and allay dangerous irritations.

of revenue also favour the attachment and management of estates which fall into arrears rather than the sale either of the whole or a substantial part of them.

"But all such management costs money and occupies to a greater or less extent valuable time of public officers who are the paid servants of the taxpayers. In some cases the immediate administration of the estate is entrusted to a special paid manager under the Collector, but there must still be a good deal of supervision by the Collector himself, and probably by yet higher officers; and such supervision entails also considerable contingent expenditure. In many cases too even the direct management is undertaken by an officer in the position of a tahildar.

"The fundamental principle of the Bill which I now seek to introduce is that all such management is for the benefit of the private estate and should be paid for out of its income and not out of the pocket of the general tax-payer. The mere enunciation of the principle shows its fairness: the unfairness is to charge the public for services rendered to individuals. There is indeed another legal principle that no trustee should be allowed to make money for himself out of his trust, but even under the most jealous system of equity every trustee is permitted to charge for the services of his establishment, and that is all that I propose to do.

"There is only one case in regard to which I can foresee the possibility of objection, and that is the case of estates attached for arrears of revenue. It might be said that in this instance the attachment is for the benefit of Government, or, in other words, for the benefit of the general tax-payer, and that Government or the tax-payer should bear the expense. But, as I have already indicated, if the realization of the revenue is considered alone, it will be best secured by a summary sale of the estate. The grounds for preferring a temporary sequestration are a lenient consideration for the defaulter and his family, and a reluctance to proceed to extremities where milder measures are likely to prove efficacious. Even in this instance therefore the management is really undertaken for the benefit of the defaulting proprietor or others interested in the preservation of the estate.

"Assuming then that all the cost of management, so far as it can be estimated, ought to be thrown on the estate, I will now explain how my Bill secures this object. By section 3 I authorise a Local Government to impose a rate on all private estates under the management of its officers. The rate is in no case to exceed 4 per cent. of the income, which, having regard to the commission payable to private agents or to receivers appointed by the Courts, is certainly not an excessive maximum. But it is further provided that the actual rate shall be calculated from time to time so as just to cover, as nearly as may be, (1) the real cost of public establishments employed on, or in connection with, the management, and (2) the incidental expenditure on contingencies. Power is reserved to reduce or remit the rate in special cases, as where special managers are employed and only control and supervision supplied by public officers. Section 4 relates to charges for audit and legal advice, and allows Local Governments the option of prescribing special fees for such services or including them in the general rate. Where they are rendered by what are known as whole-time officers the latter alternative will probably be chosen, but there has been a practical difficulty in the way of laying this down as a universal rule.

"Section 6 validates charges of the nature of those now to be authorized which have been levied in the past. For in several provinces a general rate has already been levied on estates under the Court of Wards and credited to the public exchequer to meet the estimated cost of supervision and management by Government officers. I do not for a moment say that such a charge is even now illegal under the laws applicable to the particular provinces, but it is desirable to place its propriety beyond question.

"The other provisions of the Bill are merely incidental, except perhaps section 8. This constitutes the Local Government the sole judge of the value of the work entailed on its establishments, and will prevent the amount of the rate being questioned in a Civil Court, so long of course as it is within the very moderate maximum of 4 per cent."

The Motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sir Philip Hutchins also introduced the Bill.

The Hon'ble Sir Philip Hutchins also moved that the Bill and Statement of Objects and Reasons be published in the Gazette of India in English, and in the local official Gazettes in English and in such other languages as the Local Governments think fit.

The Motion was put and agreed to.

The Council adjourned to Friday, the 4th March, 1892.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

In several provinces a general rate is already levied on estates under the Court of Wards, and is credited to Government to meet the estimated cost of supervision and management by Government officers. It is desirable to place the legality of these rates beyond doubt, and at the same time to limit their amount. It has been decided that other Local Governments should be empowered to levy similar rates, and that the rates should be leviable on all estates

under Government management, and not merely on those under the Court of Wards.

Power has been given to the Local Governments to reduce or remit the rate in special cases. This provision is designed especially to meet cases in which Government officials are relieved of the supervision and management by the employment of special general managers.

Under section 4 of the Bill it is open to Local Governments either to charge special fees for legal advice and audit of accounts, where these services are rendered by Government officials, or to debit the contribution for these services to the general rate.

PHIL. P. HUTCHINS.

The 6th February, 1892.

S. HARVEY JAMES,
Secretary to the Government of India.

ATTEMPTS MADE IN BOMBAY TO EVADE THE INDIAN MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT, 1889. DURING 1890-91.

Summaries of a few of the important cases under the Act.

(1) Messrs. ——— imported eight cases of coloured satins per S. S. *Singapore* from France in July 1889. The satins were found to have been made up into rolls after the Chinese fashion and wrapped in paper similar to that which is used for wrapping China silks. To make the deception complete, each roll bore some writing in Chinese characters, as well as a stamp in an oval with the word "Longchong" in English. I held that there could be no possible doubt that the Chinese label was introduced with a view to make purchasers believe that the goods were of China manufacture, the intention of the importers being to pass off cheap European goods as more costly Chinese goods. A fine of Rs. 500 was imposed upon the importers, and the goods bearing a false trade description were confiscated, subject to redemption on payment of a further penalty of Rs. 500. Both fines were paid and the goods passed into town after the removal of the objectionable labels. The importers appealed to you against my decision, but you informed them that you saw no reason to reverse or modify the orders passed in the case. Messrs. ——— were not the only importers of French goods got up in imitation of Chinese goods. On my order being passed other importers of similar goods at once telegraphed to the manufacturers to stop further shipments. Goods of this description have not since been imported.

(2) Four cases of soap were imported by Messrs. ——— per S. S. *Maria Theresa* from Trieste in June 1889. It was found on examination that the boxes in which the soap was packed bore a false label in exact imitation of the registered trade mark of the well-known soapmakers, Messrs. A. F. Pears. The only alteration introduced was that, instead of A. F. Pears, the name Lyon and Adams, probably a fictitious firm, was introduced into the label. In another case of five packages of soap belonging to a native dealer imported in June 1889, for which the bill of entry was put in by a leading exchange bank, the small boxes of soap were found to bear counterfeit labels in imitation of Messrs. A. F. Pears' trade mark. In each case I imposed on the importers a fine of Rs. 500 and confiscated the goods subject to redemption on payment of further penalties of Rs. 500. In neither case were the goods redeemed. In the case of the exchange bank Government ordered the refund of the substantive penalty of Rs. 500, on the ground that, as they had no knowledge that the goods to which their bill of entry related bore a counterfeit trade mark, the bank could not be held to be concerned in any offence within the meaning of section 167, clause 8 of the Sea Customs Act. In the other case an appeal to you was rejected.

(3) Messrs. ——— & Co. imported from Trieste a case of shawls which bore a certain mark and a figure. There was no doubt that both the mark and the figure (714) were stitched on the shawls in imitation of similar marks always seen on Indian shawls with the object of inducing the public to believe the shawls were of Indian make. Attached to the shawls were printed paper labels showing they were made in Austria. But as these labels could be easily detached, they were held not to justify the false trade description stitched into the shawls. The importers were fined Rs. 100 and the shawls were ordered to be confiscated. Penalty in lieu of confiscation was fixed at Rs. 400, provided the stitched marks were removed. The importers unsuccessfully appealed against Mr. Winchester's order first to you and then to Government. The fine of Rs. 100 was paid. The shawls were not redeemed and were sold as confiscated goods. Before delivery to the purchasers, the objectionable marks were removed. The shawls were invoiced at 11s. 2d. per piece. A similar shawl of Indian manufacture costs Rs. 50 to Rs. 75.

(4) Of four cases of German broad cloth imported by Messrs. ——— & Co., each piece had in large gold letters the words "Extra fine broad cloth. No. 60000:" on the reverse were the words "made in Germany." Besides being on the reverse, the words "made in Germany" were exceedingly indistinct and could be rubbed out with a wet finger. The cloth was confiscated.

Redemption was allowed on payment of a penalty of Rs. 200, provided either the false English indication of origin was removed, or the name of the country of origin was stamped in the same manner as the other words. On a representation from Messrs. ——— & Co., I declined to modify my order on the ground that the fact that a stamp "made in Germany" was impressed on the back of the cloth showed that the exporters were aware of the requirements of the Act, but had attempted to evade them by making an impression which could easily be rubbed out.

(5) Messrs. ——— imported from Hamburg two cases of euphoniums, value Rs. 318. As these musical instruments were of German manufacture and bore the words "Euphoniums, Regulator, Patent" which indicated British manufacture in the absence of any indication of German origin, they were confiscated. An option was given of redeeming them on payment of a fine of Rs. 20 conditional upon a statement of origin being properly stamped upon them. Re-shipment was allowed as an alternative to confiscation but was not availed of.

(6) Mr. ——— imported from Boulogne among other goods thirty dozen pocket books with calendars inside them headed "Calendar for 1891." In the absence of an indication of French manufacture the heading was held an indirect indication of British origin. A fine of Rs. 10 was imposed on the importers and the pocket books were declared confiscated, redemption being allowed on payment of a fine of Rs. 50, provided the country of origin was stamped on the books. An option of re-shipment was allowed in lieu of confiscation, but it was not availed of.

(7) Mr. ——— imported per S.S. *May Field* from Antwerp, a consignment of steel bars and bundles of steel stamped with a "goldmohur" brand in English without a definite indication of origin in that language as required by the Act. M. Monteath, then Collector, imposed a fine of Rs. 100 and confiscated the goods with an option of redemption for Rs. 500, provided the country of origin was added after each stamp of "gold mohur" or that stamp was removed. The penalties were instantly paid, but a representation was made to the Collector asking him to reconsider his orders and remit the penalties. The Collector, considering that the action of the manufacturers in this case was not such as entitled them to special consideration, regretted his inability to do so. He subsequently decided that the aforesaid fines should cover a number of consignments of steel bars of "gold mohur" brand already on their way.

(8) A case of woollen shawls was imported by Messrs. ——— per S. S. *Clyde* bearing two labels, on one of which appeared the name of "Mayer Bernhardt & Co, Hamburg," in English with an indication of origin "manufactured in Germany" in the same language. The name of "Mayer Bernhardt & Co.," with the omission of Hamburg, also appeared in Gujrathi and Baldodh characters without any indication of origin in those languages. On the other label were printed in two Indian languages descriptive expressions which in sense were the same as the English "all wool guaranteed." As all these expressions, with the exception of the first one, required a definite indication of origin to accompany them, the importers were fined in the sum of Rs 20 and the goods confiscated, with an option of redemption on payment of Rs 100 in lieu of confiscation, provided the labels were destroyed or on each label there was printed in all the characters used a distinct statement of origin. In this case the goods were passed on the removal of the objectionable labels.

(9) There were some importations of silver and gold lametta per S. S. *Singapore* from Marseilles. The reels in two cases bore an impression of the initials of F. C. Grammont. The letters E. C. G. were considered contrary to section 18, clause (e) of the Act. The importers were each fined Rs. 10, and the goods were confiscated, with an option of redemption on payment of a further penalty of Rs. 10. On representation that the stamping would entail excessive delay and trouble, the reels were allowed to be cleared without the name of the country of origin being stamped on them.

(10) Messrs. ——— imported per S. S. *Peninsular* from Boulogne two cases containing purses. In one case the purses had the word "Jubilee" printed on them in gold letters in English without any indication of origin in the same language. The other purses bore the Queen's head with the words "Victoria Regina Jubilee" without any indication of the country of origin. Mr. Monteath, then Collector, inflicted a fine of Rs. 20 and confiscated the purses with an option of redemption on payment of a further sum of Rs. 200, provided the country of origin was stamped on them. Re-shipment was offered as an alternative to confiscation.

(11) A consignment of five cases of steel files was imported by Messrs. ——— per S. S. *Singapore* from Marseilles. The wrappers of these files had three separate labels attached, one below the other. The first label purported to be a caution to the buyers in French and English against inferior imitations. The second distinctly showed "The Iron Steel and File Works Co., Limited, at Saut-du-Tarn, France" in the French and English languages with the registered trade mark. On the third label appeared in French and English the expression "Societe anonyme du Saut du

Tarn"—"Refined cast steel flat pointed bastard files" So far as the labels went there was nothing which could be said to be in contravention of the Act. The files themselves bore on one side the registered trade mark and on the other in French "L. Talbot & Cie, Saut-du-Tarn" and just below this on the same level appeared the words "warranted cast steel." As "L. Talbot & Cie, Saut-du-Tarn" was not a definite indication of origin, a substantial fine of Rs. 20 was imposed by the Collector and the files were confiscated with an option of redemption on payment of a penalty of Rs. 100, provided an indication of origin was clearly stamped on them. As an alternative to confiscation re-shipment to the port of export was allowed. In this case Mr. Monteath noted, "the labels are, of course, unexceptionable, but as stated in other cases the important point where articles are ordinarily sold singly and bear marks is the mark on the articles themselves. Now, if one could read it, the stamp on the file "L. Talbot & Cie, Saut-du-Tarn" is no doubt a fair indication of origin, but I doubt if any body who had not seen the label could read it, and the stamp L. T. & Cie is still more illegible. On the other hand, the words "warranted cast steel" are very fairly legible. I have no hesitation, therefore, in holding that the files themselves contain a false indication of origin.

(12) In a consignment of two cases of cotton thread per S.S. *Kangra* from Antwerp the labels stated that the reels contained 200 yards each. On examination 14 of the 16 reels did not come up to 200 yards. After granting the one per cent allowance provided by Government of India's Notification No. 1118, dated the 13th August 1889, the average deficiency came to 8½ per cent. I imposed a fine of Rs. 25 and confiscated the goods with an option of redemption on payment of a further sum of Rs. 50, provided the false description was removed or a true description substituted. Subsequently, on representation, re-shipment to the place of export was allowed.

(13) Messrs. ——— imported a consignment of 13 cases of needles. The numerical quantity shown on the brown paper wrapper of each packet was "M" (mille). Counting showed in four packets deficiencies of 300, 300, 200, and 400 needles. The Collector imposed a penalty of Rs. 100 and the needles were passed on removal of the objectionable labels. Another consignment of five cases of needles was imported by ——— per S.S. *Melpomene* from Trieste. The labels on the tins containing the needles showed their number to be 10,000. Twenty-nine of these tins were examined and found on an average 400 needles short. The Collector ordered a fine of Rs. 5 to be imposed and the tins confiscated with an option of redemption for Rs. 500 or export to the place of shipment. Subsequently on payment of the substantive penalty, the needles were re-shipped to Trieste. Another consignment of five cases of needles was imported by the same firm per S.S. *Peninsular* from London. The bundles of needles, which were of German manufacture, had labels stamped on them, setting forth that they contained 10,000 needles. When opened and counted each bundle was found to contain only 9,500 or 500 short. A fine of Rs. 100 was imposed and the goods were confiscated with an option of redemption on payment of Rs. 100. The needles were finally allowed to be re-shipped to Hamburg in lieu of confiscation or payment of the redemption penalty.

(14) Messrs. ——— imported per S.S. *Imperator* from Trieste jewellery packed in fancy cases marked inside "warranted sterling silver." The indication of origin was printed on small paper labels on the outside of the cases. An order was passed confiscating the goods with an option of redemption on payment of Rs. 100 provided the country of origin was properly marked. As an alternative to confiscation, re-shipment was allowed.

(15) Messrs. ——— imported per S.S. *Malwa* from London two cases of Albert chains labelled "warranted best nickel silver." As nickel is not silver, the description seemed calculated to mislead the public. The chains were confiscated and a fine of Rs. 20 imposed. On reference the Commissioner held nickel silver was too well known a name to be likely to deceive. The penalties were accordingly remitted.

16. One case containing Albert chains was imported per S. S. *Bengal* from London by Messrs. ———. Attached to the chains small labels bore the words "aluminium gold." Aluminium is a recognised trade term for a particular metal. The question arose whether knowing that no gold enters into the composition of aluminium the Custom House were justified in allowing the chains to pass. As the question seemed doubtful, the chains were passed without penalty. The importer was warned to advise his consignors in England in future either to omit the word "gold" or to substitute "metal" for "gold."

J. M. CAMPBELL,
Collector of Land Revenue, Customs and Opium.

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The Hon'ble P. P. Hutchins,
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with

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on the Administration of the Act.

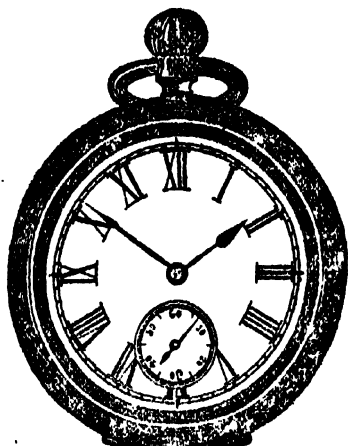
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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1892.

No. 513

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

DO I FORGET THEE?

BY THOMAS JOHN OUSELEY.

Go, in the summer when the morning breaketh,
And all-around is lulled midst placid light;
When the sweet tiny field-flower awaketh,
And softly sighs its perfume exquisite.
Behold the lark—up to the clear sky winging,
Trilling aloud his luscious free-born notes;
From his bright speckled breast the dew-drops flinging,
Away, away, till lost to sight, he floats.
Doth not the field-flower love the coming morning,
Unclosing every leaf to drink the light?
Doth not the lark's eye swell to meet the dawning,
His wings spread strong, to reach his airy height?
If flower and bird change not, why question me—
Do I forget thee?

Go, in the noon-tide, when the sun is gleaming,
To the deep forest—watch the panting deer
Under the trees umbrageous, watchful dreaming,
Timidly starting at each sound they hear;
List to the thrush and the blackbird singing,
Whilst the calm breathing wind just rocks the leaves,
The emerald wood with melody is ringing,
As light with shade and music interweaves.
Do not the shy deer court the boughs o'ershading,
Their wide hot nostrils snuff the welcome bowers?
The songsters of the grove are serenading,
Each to its mate the joyful tidings pours:
If such as these change not, why question me—
Do I forget thee?

Go, in the evening—watch the streamlet flowing,
O'er pebbly banks, through green and velvet meads;
The sportive fish, in gold and silver glowing,
Plash in their crystal home as day recedes;
And mark the sun-flower, when the west is streaming
With rainbow clouds of light, as Sol retires,
Turneth its face to catch his last smile beaming,
Then bowing to its grave, the earth, expires.
Do not the sportive fish, when day's descending,
Leap to the streamlet's bosom in their play?
Doth not the sun-flower, faithful in its tending,
Linger to catch the last departing ray?
Beloved, if these change not, why question me—
Do I forget thee?

THE RAILWAY.

THE silent glen, the sunless stream,
To wandering boyhood dear,
And treasured still in many a dream,
They are no longer here;

A huge red mound of earth is thrown
Across the glen so wild and lone,
The stream so cold and clear;
And lightning speed, and thundering sound,
Pass hourly o'er the unsightly mound.

Nor this alone—for many a mile,
Along that iron way,
No verdant banks or hedgerows smile
In summer's glory gay;
Thro' chasms that yawn as though the earth
Were rent in some strange mountain-birth,
Whose depth excludes the day,
We're borne away, at headlong pace,
To win from time the wearying race!

The wayside inn, the homelike air,
No longer tempts a guest
To taste its unpretending fare,
Or seek its welcome rest.
The prancing team—the merry horn—
The cool fresh road at early morn—
The coachman's ready jest;
All, all to distant dream-land gone,
While shrieking trains are hurrying on.

Yet greet we them with thankful hearts,
And eyes that own no tear,
'T is nothing now, the space which parts
The distant from the dear;
The wing that to her cherished nest
Bears home the bird's exulting breast,
Has found its rival here.
With speed like hers we too can haste,
The bliss of meeting hearts to taste.

For me, I gaze along the line
To watch the approaching train,
And deem it still, 'twixt me and mine,
A rude, but welcome chain
To bind us in a world, whose ties
Each passing hour to sever tries,
But here may try in vain;
To bring us near home many an art
Stern fate employs to keep apart.

C. R.

Holloway's Pills.—Impurities of the Blood.—To ensure health it is absolutely necessary that the fluids and solids of the human body should be kept free from those impurities which are continually getting admission into the system by erroneous living, unwholesome atmosphere, or disordered stomach. The only safe and certain way to expel all impurities is to take Holloway's Pills, which have the power of cleansing the blood from all noxious matters, and at the same time removing any irregularities which their presence may have already produced in any organ. Holloway's Pills expel all humours which taint or impoverish the blood, which they purify and invigorate, and give general tone. They are applicable to all alike—young or old, robust or delicate.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

AMONG the deaths reported by the last mail, not the least noteworthy is that of a remarkable native of the British Isles. His life is well fitted to point a moral or adorn a tale. Of humble race and origin obscure, Tom, as he was called, succeeded, by dint of genius, aided by luck, to be one of the lions of the day. He was undoubtedly an interesting personality. Invested by Nature with the freedom of the City and the whole Metropolis, Citizen Tom never condescended to pay any taxes or rates. He was an inhabitant of the Government Place of London. He was of course a great politician. Residing in Downing Street, as tenant in fee of quarters right opposite to the official residence of the Prime Minister, he was known as well as appreciated by administrators, diplomats, generals and admirals, poets and men of science, artists and literary men. With statesmen he was specially intimate. Living day and night, for near a decade and a half, at the very centre of affairs, in the company of those who had had the making of England in their hands, with the leaders of both parties, he enjoyed the most magnificent opportunities for understanding public questions. But for a slight congenital physical deficiency, Sir Tom could have entered Parliament and undertaken the formation of a ministry. He died—as befitted the familiar of rulers and heroes—fighting. Attacked by the hereditary enemy, he met the aggression with a stout resistance, till he fell overpowered by odds.

Videre Canes; primusque Melampus,
Pamphagus et Dorceus, velox cum fratre Lycisca,
Ichnobatesque sagax, et villis Asbolus atris,
Nebrophonosque valens, et trux cum Lælapæ Theron,
Labros et Agriodos, et acutæ vocis Hylactor,
Quosque referte mora est. Ea turba, cupidine prædæ,
Quâ via difficilis, quâque est via nulla, sequuntur.
Heu famulos fugit, Ipse suos: clamare libebat,
Actæon *Ego sum*; dominum cognoscite vestrum;
Vellet abesse quidem, sed adest.

Brave Tom's fame never travelled to the East, and our stay-at-home readers may wonder at all this fuss about an unknown character. Accordingly, by way of authority, we subjoin one of the English notices selecting the most matter-of-fact of them:—

"For the past fourteen years a cat well known in the neighbourhood as 'Tom,' had taken up its abode in the sentry box opposite the Premier's official residence in Downing Street. He was a general favourite, and had been frequently noticed and petted by the late Lord Beaconsfield, Mr. Gladstone, the late Mr. W. H. Smith, Lord Salisbury, and the late Earl of Iddesleigh. On January 22, to the general grief of the inhabitants in the vicinity, it was set upon by two bull terriers, and after a brave fight was killed."

We hope Tom's bones have received honourable burial from his numerous ministerial friends. The place should be that very Downing Street, under the eaves of the sentry-box. Nor need they be at a loss or a suitable inscription. Who more worthy of the bad Latin and good sentiment of *Siste viator! Heroem calcas!*?

THE true cure for snake-bite is in demand in the same proportion as the bite is dreaded. Various are the remedies suggested and sometimes claimed as infallible. Meanwhile, the mortality continues unabated. The latest claimant of discovery in the line is Dr. Calmettes, a French physician now residing at Saigon, in Cochin China. This gentleman has informed M. Rochard, who has now reported it to the French Academy of Medicine, in Paris, that the subcutaneous injection of chloride of gold before apoplectic symptoms supervene, is a sure and infallible remedy against the venom of the bite of the deadly *cobra di capello*. The Doctor made several experiments, and all the results were of the most satisfactory character.

Such is the report of the Paris correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*.

A SHILLING book without a title, says the *Printers' Register*, is one of the latest productions of the Leadenhall Press. Its attraction—or at least, interest—is enhanced by an offer of a prize of £100 to the one or more who succeed in guessing the title.

THEY have in San Francisco prepared a make-ready liquid to be used as a substitute for tissue paper. The preparation dries hard like India-rubber in a few seconds and is intended to bring out periods, even

parts of letters, small lines, &c., where the pasting of thin or tissue paper is especially troublesome.

IN the Christmas number of the *New England Magazine*, Mr. W. B. Harte contributes a paper on Canadian journalists and journalism. He describes the newspapers in the Dominion generally as "a curious mixture of English and American methods," and, except in one or two instances, "destitute of all pretensions to literary merit."

THE following lines occur in the opening address of the *Dublin Daily Independent*, the new Parnellite organ:—

"Deprived of a journal now discredited beyond recovery by the most ungrateful and the meanest act of political and turncoat treachery in newspaper annals, and chafing under the grossest misrepresentations from the pen of the organ of scurrility and deadly treason to the unity of the Irish race and the martyred leader, our countrymen have awaited with eagerness the hour when a national mouthpiece would be at their service, one which they could in literal truthfulness call their own, and when they would, in capital and country, be no longer compelled to sit worse than dumb while their principles were travestied, their motives malignantly aspersed, and the programme and policy carried to the gate of victory by Charles Stewart Parnell, distorted and abandoned."

That is not writing so much as speaking—pouring a torrent of Irish eloquence. It certainly comes of the stumping habit.

ACCORDING to custom, the parishioners of the German village of Oldenburg deposited all their savings, their valuables and their bank-books, with their pastor. Herr Müller, in his vanity and ambition, speculated with the deposits, and, losing again and again, was driven to forging a cheque in the name of one of his depositors. At last, he decamped. He spent some days as a cattle-dealer, at a hotel in a neighbouring town. There at the table d'hôte one day, the fugitive parson being the talk, the cattle-dealer was naturally the loudest in indignation at such infamous conduct. He, however, soon quietly slipped out of the table and left the hotel. Not many hours afterwards, a detective came to the hotel, in search of Padre Müller. To the surprise of the guests, they recognised in the photograph he showed them their moral friend, the cattle dealer. As he had not had a long start, Müller was soon overtaken, and is now on his trial.

THE advance of knowledge in our day has not, as it was once the fashion to think, all made against traditional Faiths. While recent discoveries in Egyptian and Turkish archaeology are supporting the historical credit of the Bible narratives, the energy and courage with which science is inquiring into obscure phenomena, are not only rescuing the Hindu Rishis from unjust detraction, but also arming the advocates of the Hindu Revival. For instance, we read in the English papers by the last mail of a modern Kumbhukarna:—

"A most peculiar case of prolonged sleep is at present occupying the attention of medical circles in Germany. A miner named Johann, Latus is at present an inmate of the hospital at Myslowitz, in Silesia where he was admitted four months and a half ago, and since then all efforts to wake him have been fruitless. Dr. Albers, the doctor attending him, is of opinion that the apparent sleep is really a state of catalepsy, though medical science has on record no previous case of such a prolonged nature. He has arrived at this conclusion on account of all the limbs being absolutely rigid. The appearance of the man, however, betrays no sign of this. The body lies quite still, the breathing is regular, and there is a healthy colour in the cheeks. In the last few days the body has become much less rigid, and the patient has even made some slight movement, without, however, the eyes opening or the condition of apparent sleep being in any way disturbed. In the four and a half months that the sleep has lasted the hair has increased in length, but the beard has remained stationary. Nourishment to the extent of two to three litres of milk is administered daily by a tube inserted into the throat."

Thus, quietly is Valmiki vindicated.

MR. Monmohun Ghose, of the Calcutta bar, is recruiting his health after his late illness, by shooting excursions into the Dignaghar jungles, in his own district of Kishnaghar. The Chief Justice had been there and had marked a leopard which was unsuccessfully fired at by him. Mr. Ghose has, according to a correspondent in the *Statesman*, now killed that animal, and sent it by a special messenger to Sir Comer Petheram.

THE *Bengal Times*, we see, takes the same view with us of the taste of the interviewer of the Madras paper, who, in return for our distinguished Austrian visitor General A. Von Kodolitsch's frank opinion in favour of the Indian Army, and specially of the Cavalry, which he said was

up to the standard of any of the Continental Powers, say, the French and Russians, pressed him for a declaration whether the Indian Irregulars could hold their own against the famous Austrian Cavalry. Our contemporary, in its unvarnished way, says—"What cads Madras papers must have on their staffs!"

NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE Labour question in Europe once more presses for immediate solution—this time on the continent. In Vienna, there is distress among thousands of the unemployed. The proprietors of a Socialist journal have taken them under their protection and are doling out bread daily to the starving.

In Berlin, on the 25th, several thousands, under the leadership of a noted Socialist, marched to the Imperial Palace demanding bread. It was no quiet march. There was a conflict with the Police—a conflict with swords on the one hand and sticks on the other. Several persons were injured and a number arrested. The rising was simultaneous in several parts of the city. Bands of the unemployed paraded the streets and looted the bakers' and butchers' shops. Troops were ordered to be ready, but not called. Next day, the Police dispersed fresh threatening mass meetings held in the centre of the city.

THE Labour demonstration was immediately preceded the day before by a stirring speech by the Emperor William at a banquet at Brandenburg. His Majesty deplored the attacks made on the Government and on the social reform agitation, and advised all malcontents to leave Germany for the good of the Fatherland, if not for their own. He looked to God for brighter days for Germany who, he was confident, would continue the ally of the Imperial House.

THE opposition against the Education Bill is now more than confirmed. The Emperor's speech at Brandenburg has united the whole of the Opposition against the measure and the Government.

In the Lower House of the Prussian Landtag, Count von Caprivi, on the 29th January, said:—

"The Government fully approved of the Education Bill, and regarded the fusion of the Freisinnige and National Liberals as a declaration of war by the latter against the Government. The Chancellor declared, however, that the Ministry was quite ready to dispense with the support of the National Liberals. The National Liberals, he said, wanted now to emphasize their Liberalism, as they did not seek to become National Conservatives. 'To allay their anxieties on one point,' exclaimed Count von Caprivi, 'I now declare that Prussia will vote in the Federal Council against the return of the Jesuits. The question before us is not one of Protestantism against Catholicism, but of Christianity against Atheism.' (At these words of the Chancellor's such a storm of protest broke forth from the Left that for several minutes he was unable to continue.) 'There is a spirit abroad which makes itself daily more and more felt, and which is peculiarly visible in the schools of Berlin—the spirit of Atheism.' (Protests from the Left.) With a purely moral education not founded on Christian principles we would have but little success with the children of the people. We have before us a struggle with the spirit of unbelief which is not necessarily identical with the social democracy, in face of this grave danger we desire, at least, to erect a barrier. Do not, I pray you, by agitation excite the masses, who are not capable of judging on this question. In face of this danger Germans will learn to live together in peace.' At the conclusion of the speech the House broke into an uproar of cheers and counter cheers, which lasted several minutes. The excitement was so intense that the words of the next speaker in support of the Bill were quite inaudible. Baron Zedlitz (Free Conservative) then said his party would work together for a compromise in the spirit of peace.

The sitting of Jan. 30 was less tumultuous than that of the 29th, and Chancellor Caprivi, who spoke twice, withdrew a great deal of what he had said that caused the excitement the day before, for the Left seem to have generally thought that he was calling them Atheists. Repeating his assertion that in the last resort the question was not one between Protestants and Catholics, but between Christianity and Atheism, he said he did not use these words with reference to the National Liberals or the Liberalists, but only to express his conviction that the question was not a superficial one."

THE anarchists of Paris are busy preparing for their Mayday demonstrations. A large quantity of dynamite has been abstracted from the Municipal quarries for use in other European capitals. A portion has already been despatched to Spain to avenge the recent execution of anarchists at Xeres. The police are keeping a close watch at the Spanish Embassy in Paris.

AN attempt on the life of M. Vulcovitch, the Bulgarian Agent, on the 25th, is reported from Constantinople. He was stabbed and seriously wounded by a hand still unknown. The Agent has since died.

M. ROUVIER who undertook to form a new French Ministry, M. de Freycinet having declined the task, has failed too owing to the hostility of the Radicals.

MARSHAL AHMED EYOUB conveys to Egypt the Sultan's firman, investing Prince Abbas as Khedive.

THE Indian Councils Bill has passed in the House of Lords and is in its second stage in the House of Commons. Mr. Macneill, Member for Donegal South, will move an amendment that no reform is acceptable to the people of India without the addition of the elective principle. Mere bunkum.

THE Indian Officers' Bill has passed through the Committee of the Lords. At the instance of Lord Northbrook, Lord Cross has agreed that the Bill will not apply to the Viceroy. The House divided on the amendment to exempt the Commander-in-Chief, which was rejected by a majority of seven. It was necessary, said Lord Salisbury, that in the event of the British and Indian armies being obliged to co-operate, the presence of the Indian Commander-in-Chief was essential for a previous personal consultation. All true, but who will prevent abuse?

AT a meeting of the Anti-Opium members of Parliament, held on the 23rd, under the presidency of Sir J. Pease, it was resolved not to introduce any special resolution in the House this session, but to seize every occasion to raise the question.

ADMIRAL Commerell has succeeded the late Sir Provo Wallis in the command of the Fleet.

IN the House of Commons, on the 26th, Mr. Balfour, on notice, moved a resolution for the expulsion of Mr. DeCobain the member for Belfast East, inasmuch as he had fled from justice, which was adopted.

MR. Samuel Smith's motion for the disestablishment of the church in Wales, has been lost by a majority of forty-seven.

THE post-prandium eloquence of the German Emperor, on the 24th at Brandenburg, reported by telegraph, calls for a passing word. Like other foibles, sanctimoniousness and pharisaism too descend with blood. This young Prince is a chip of the Hohenzollern block and a grandson of his grandsire. He already speaks patronisingly of the Deity. We dare say he literally believes in the saying that Providence is the friend of the master of the strongest battalions. Otherwise, he could scarcely so glibly class God as an ally of his family.

HER Majesty has been fortunate in her very misfortunes. Through all her reverses she has been sustained by the spontaneous sympathy of the nation—of, indeed, all the nations and races under her wide and widely dispersed Dominions. She has been deeply impressed on this occasion and she has been naturally reminded of previous ones. The following, addressed through her Principal Secretary of State in the Home Department and published by that officer as a Special Supplement of the *London Gazette*, is the Queen's response to the demonstrations of sympathy by the people:—

"Osborne, Jan. 26, 1892.

"I must once again give expression to my deep sense of the loyalty and affectionate sympathy evinced by my subjects in every part of my Empire on an occasion more sad and tragical than any but one which has befallen me and mine, as well as the Nation. The overwhelming misfortune of my dearly loved Grandson having been thus suddenly cut off in the flower of his age, full of promise for the future, amiable and gentle, and endearing himself to all, renders it hard for his sorely-stricken Parents, his dear young Bride, and his fond Grandmother to bow in submission to the inscrutable decrees of Providence.

"The sympathy of millions, which has been so touchingly and visibly expressed, is deeply gratifying at such a time, and I wish, both in my own name and that of my children, to express, from my heart, my warm gratitude to all."

"These testimonies of sympathy with us, and appreciation of my dear Grandson, whom I loved as a son, and whose devotion to me was as great as that of a Son, will be a help and consolation to me and mine in our affliction.

"My bereavements during the last thirty years of my reign have indeed been heavy. Though the labours, anxieties, and responsibilities inseparable from my position have been great, yet it is my earnest prayer that God may continue to give me health and strength to work for the good and happiness of my dear country and Empire while life lasts.

"VICTORIA, R. 1."

That is queenly, and yet true womanly.

One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.

It will be seen how a heart-rending bereavement sends the Queen back to our common humanity. Eschewing the stiff forms of expression imposed by etiquette, Her Majesty takes refuge in the first person singular. Thus, for the first time, she has the full advantage of her native tongue—that English language of which she is the mistress in every sense—and uses all its resources, whether Teutonic, Celtic, or classical, with thorough effect.

PREPARATORY to the General Election, the Marquis of Ripon, in his loyalty to the Grand Old Man and his zeal for the Cause, is stumping the country in the Liberal interest. He has lately been to Edinburgh. The handful of Indians studying at the Scotch capital, took advantage of the opportunity to ply the noble visitor with an address. In replying to it, his Lordship spoke with diplomatic reserve and moderation. As reported,

"Lord Ripon said that he did not desire to see the establishment of household suffrage throughout India, but what he did wish was that there should be infused into the Legislative Councils a reasonable proportion of the representative element which would enable educated Natives to make their voice heard in the government of the country."

That is a disappointment to our friends of the Congress. Certainly, an Under-Secretary from his place in the House could not have been more evasive or vague. Not the most sanguine among us could ever suppose even the good Marquis, Catholic Jacobin Lord and plutocrat as he is, capable of advocating a revolution in India, beginning all at once with household suffrage. But they certainly expected his Lordship to express in distinct terms his adhesion to the elective principle, and his readiness to secure them a large proportion of the boon.

GREAT Britain offered 12,000,000*l.* for the Portuguese territory south of Mozambique. Senhor Ferreira Almeida proposed in the Chamber of Deputies that a *plebiscite* of the administrative corporations of the kingdom be held on the question of the sale of the Portuguese colonies of Guinea, Whydah, Kabenda, Mozambique, Macao and Timor, and demanded urgency for his proposal, but this was unanimously rejected. Poor Lusitania is proud even in her rags.

THE appeal of the Englishman John Samuel Cooper, sentenced by the Court of St. Etienne, for espionage, to fifteen months' imprisonment and a fine of 3,000 frs., has not only failed but entailed on him a higher sentence. The Fourth Chamber of the Court of Appeal at Lyons, has enhanced the order for imprisonment to two years while confirming that for fine. Since Sir J. Fitz-James Stephen gallicized the British Law in India, the British Indian Courts enjoy the same cruel privilege with the French Courts of aggravating original sentences.

THE Austrian Chamber of Peers is engaged on a Bill granting indemnity to victims of miscarriage of justice. The House is unreservedly of opinion that the State ought to be compelled to afford ample compensation for judicial errors. Just as a railway company is answerable for an accident on its line, the Chamber believes that the State must be held responsible for a miscarriage of justice in criminal affairs. The Lower House has already adopted a similar measure.

Such a safe-guard is very much needed in India. The magistrates are protected by law but the victims of misapplied law have no remedy. Nor is there any disposition in Government to compensate, in however small a degree, for flagrant cases of hardship and persecution. Witness the rejection by the Bengal Government of the petition of Baboo Anand Chunder Roy, of the Dacca bar, for payment of his expenses in the Dacca bribery case. The matter, however, ought not to rest there. It must be pushed up. Anyhow, there must be a check on reckless persecution of the innocent under color of law.

IN noticing our article of last week "The Municipal Election Law of Calcutta. The Right of Voting of Individuals and Associations," the *Statesman*, says:—

"It might be a nice point, whether provisional registration was registration within the meaning of the law; and we should be inclined to think it was not."

There need not be any doubt in the matter. The law itself, while providing for provisional registration of the name of a person, says, "when his name is so provisionally registered he shall enjoy all the privileges and incur all the liabilities attaching to the owner of any house or land under this Act so long as no other person claims to be registered as owner."

At Faridpur, they annually hold an Exhibition and Mela. The objects are: (1) to improve agriculture and to spread technical education; (2) to improve commerce; and (3) to cultivate social good feeling by arranging for a public gathering. The collections in 1899 amounted to Rs. 2,366, and in 1890, they were 2,183. The expenditure on prizes were Rs. 308 and Rs. 250 respectively for the two years. The balance was spent on jattras and nautches. Such is the account of a correspondent in the *Statesman*, who protests against the expenditure on amusements of money collected for improvement of agriculture as a breach of faith with the public. By his own shewing, though, public entertainment is one of the objects of the Exhibition. The pious scribe adjures the Mela Committee and local Zemindars to make "good use of the money contributed by the starving population of this district." Would "the starving population" contribute their quota of the fund, if there were no jattras or nautches—the singing and dancing to which this Quaker objects? The poor and the rich equally require amusements. It is only the senseless reformer who sees nothing good in jattras and other popular diversions. Those who think that money might be more usefully expended on more desirable, useful and lasting objects, do not know their own mind, far less the mind of the country on whose behalf they claim to speak.

THE case in which Mr. Earnest M. Baber, Deputy Superintendent of the Revenue Survey, and his cash-keeper, Bhagavatulu Suryanarayana Row, are charged with criminal breach of trust as public servants and abetment, closed at Bellary, on the 23rd instant, when the two accused were committed by the District Magistrate, Mr. R. Sewell, "for trial at the Madras Sessions. Mr. Baber reserved his defence, while the other accused contended that no case was proved against him.

There was no regular investigation, for the magistrate was unwilling to try his friend the Deputy Superintendent and had permission of the High Court to commit the case to the Sessions.

It appears from the evidence of Mr. H. O. C. Cardozo, the Superintendent of the Revenue Survey, that Mr. Baber is an impecunious official drawing a salary of Rs. 750 a month. He confessed to him that "I have done wrong—grievous wrong, and feel that it is right that I should be punished for the criminal offences I have committed. I make this full confession and throw myself on the mercy of Government, and trust that it will consider my long service of 24 years, and think of my unhappy wife and two children."

The defence of Mr. Baber in the Sessions Court will probably be insanity. We read in Mr. Cardozo's evidence:—

"Then I reported Mr. Baber to Government as untrustworthy. This was on January 13th. I said I thought that Mr. Baber was not of sound mind, and I had heard that there was insanity in his family. I am still of that opinion. The frauds were so easy of detection, and so certain to be detected, that I cannot conceive a man of sound mind resorting to them."

Mr. Baber had contemplated self-destruction and had armed himself for it. Mr. Cardozo deposed:—

"On the 30th, I took a statement from the Cash-keeper; while I was doing so, Mr. Baber came in. He began apologising for certain entries he had written. On his first arrival I had been stiff in my manner, but after his apologies I became more cordial and shook hands, and talked to him kindly and advised him to make a clean breast of everything. He was extremely agitated, cried and said 'you have saved me from taking my life.' I tried to calm him in various ways. When he got calm he said he was prepared to write everything. He begged to go home and tell his wife and then come back. I allowed him to go away. A few minutes later, Dr. Spencer came to me, asked whether I knew that Mr. Baber had the previous day bought a revolver and cartridges. We agreed to go to Mr. Baber's house and disarm him. We did so. Mr. Baber gave them up to us without objection, as also a rifle and cartridge. I also took away his razors as I was afraid he might commit suicide. Later on, in the afternoon, when I went to the office I found Mr. Baber with a con-

cession written out. This I will put in when it arrives from Government. I have received a telegram saying they are being returned and ordering a prosecution. Meanwhile I put in a copy which I declare to be correct. In it Mr. Baber admits deliberate frauds and a series of them, in that he took money out of Government cash-chest for private purposes on several occasions, and misappropriated the sums so taken."

The Chief Magistrate "acknowledged to have abetted Mr. Baber's misappropriation of Government money and to have falsified the accounts."

A CASE of deep interest to bankers and depositors has lately been concluded at Calcutta, with a conclusion, we are glad to be able to add, fully satisfactory to the public in general. The facts are few and plain. Radhajeetun Moustaphy sued, in the Original Side of the High Court, the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, for Rs. 21,165, claiming the sum as balance of his deposit account. The Bank admitted its liability for Rs. 5,165 only and accounted for the balance Rs. 16,000 as paid to his account to his son-in-law on a cheque drawn by himself in favor of the son-in-law. To this portion of the defendant's allegation, the plaintiff demurred saying that on or about the 18th October, 1890, he signed a cheque written out by the son-in-law and dated the 16th December for Rs. 6,000, and that he did so under a threat of a dagger held over his head, that on the 24th following he stopped the payment of the cheque by his Calcutta agent, Uma Narain Sen and subsequently on the 6th November by a letter, that on the 7th November, he was informed by the Bank that he had been debited in his pass-book with a sum of Rs. 16,000 paid on the 24th October on his cheque to his son-in-law. The plaintiff contended that payment had been made after stoppage and the cheque altered by the son-in-law—the date to the 24th October and the amount in words and figures to Rs. 16,000 with initials not the plaintiff's. The Bank's pleas were that payment was made in due course, that payment was not stopped, and that if the cheque were altered, the plaintiff by his negligence and delay gave free scope to the son-in-law to deal with the cheque as he thought best. Mr. Justice Trevelyan gave judgment to the following effect:—

"I think there are in reality four questions before me.

1. Has the alteration in the date been proved to have been initialled by the plaintiff or is such proof unnecessary?

2. Is the Bank exempted from liability under the terms of Section 89 of the Negotiable Instruments Act?

[That section provides that when a cheque has been materially altered but does not appear to have been so altered, payment thereof by a banker liable to pay and paying the same according to the apparent tenor thereof at the time of payment and otherwise in due course, shall discharge such banker from all liability thereon, and such payment shall not be questioned by reason of the instrument having been altered.]

3. Has the Bank been guilty of negligence in paying the money?

4. Has the plaintiff contributed to the loss of the money?

It is not possible altogether to separate the consideration of these four questions. As to the first point I do not consider that it has been proved that the plaintiff initialled the alteration [evidence on the point examined.] Besides there being no evidence as to the initials being his, there is no evidence that they were placed there by his authority or with his consent. I must, therefore, find as a fact that the alteration in the date has not been initialled by the plaintiff, and was not made by his authority or in any way with his consent. I do not agree with Mr. Jackson's reading of Section 89 of the Act. It is clear from the cases that by the English law where a bill appears to have been altered or there are marks of erasure on it, the party seeking to enforce the instrument is bound to give evidence that it is not voided thereby. I am of opinion that the law is the same here, and I cannot see why the Bank should be entitled to debit the plaintiff's account with the amount paid by them. On this ground alone the plaintiff would be entitled to a decree, but I think it is necessary to make some further observations on the case. There is no doubt that 6,000 was altered to 16,000, and that the son-in-law's name was added after the cheque had been signed by the drawer, and there is not a particle of evidence on which I can infer that any of the alterations in the cheque were made with the plaintiff's consent. I do not, however, believe the plaintiff's story that the cheque was extorted at the point of the dagger. Other persons came in before he signed, so that he could have been in no personal danger, and his conduct afterwards was not that of a person who had been in bodily fear, for he never communicated with the police

or took any other steps. I do not believe that the plaintiff's letters D. and E. are consistent with his story of a previous verbal stoppage of the cheque. Uma Narain Sen's story sounds improbable and his relations with the plaintiff are such that I cannot attach much weight to his evidence unless it is corroborated. I may assume that if Mr. Lindsay had been previously communicated with in the manner described by Uma Narain Sen he would have made the necessary entries in the books of the Bank. On the evidence, so far as I can make out the enquiries made before paying the cheque were not as to the alterations, but only as to the respectability of the presenter. The last question is whether the plaintiff has contributed to the loss of the money. I am not prepared to say that he has, but that he wrote to the Bank as soon as he discovered the alteration. As far as this cheque is concerned, there will be a decree in the plaintiff's favour for the sum of Rs. 21,165 with interest and costs."

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, February 27, 1892.

THE INSPECTION FAD.

WE read with much interest a very good article in the *Indian Daily News* on the tour Resolution of Sir Charles Elliott. The veteran editor has made some sensible and practical remarks on the subject. It is all very well that a ruler should see the country over which he rules and acquaint himself with the details of the administration. Other Lieutenant-Governors also did something in the same direction in their own ways and according to their respective powers and abilities, and it must be admitted that they also knew their business and managed to obtain some knowledge about their own important charge. It is no doubt desirably expedient that important local questions and administrative problems should be discussed and decided on the spot, with the assistance of the head of the department and the parties concerned. At the same time, it is quite obvious that a Lieutenant-Governor can ill spare much of his most valuable time in inspecting petty details, such as registers of cases, fines, road cess, towjee and certificate, &c., and ask his highly paid secretaries to do the same sort of work. Can they inspect these offices more effectually and minutely, than district officers, canoongoes, &c., or the special officers of the department? Are they better acquainted with their details, their weak points, and their intricacies than these officers? Is it possible for them to inspect thoroughly and satisfactorily such voluminous records—the work of days and weeks—in a few hours? All these questions must be answered in the negative, by all experienced and sensible persons acquainted with the working of these departments. It is easy enough to criticize the work of others, to perceive its inadequacy, to discern its *lacuna*. Still easier for a superior to find fault with his subordinates if he incline to do so. Materials for the elaboration of a minute can be gathered in a few hours, nay, minutes, but to make a thorough and effective inspection requires much time and patience. Are these inspections worth the cost at which they are bought? If a district officer or his experienced deputy is allowed an opportunity to inspect the higher offices, he can find more faults in less time in those offices than it takes the Governor or his staff to overhaul *these*. What does the outside public know of the magnitude of the heavy ordinary and miscellaneous and multifarious work which nowadays devolves upon the subordinate native agency, and the stringent conditions under which they are called upon to perform their laborious and responsible duties?

The pressure on every department has increased tenfold within the last ten years and the more so within the last one year, so much so, indeed, that it is simply impossible for any human being to perform his share honestly. The District officers know full well what is the real state of things, and at what an illegitimate, not to say sinful, demand on their health and energy the present out-turn of work is exacted from the officers of all classes. If the rules laid down are strictly obeyed, it is impossible to get on one day with the current work, not to speak of the Begar—the novel and out-of-the-way burden which has increased out of all proportions.

It goes without saying that, in most districts, officers stay at court or in the office till 8 or 9 O'clock in the evening, sometimes till 10 O'clock at night, in order to discharge witnesses and dispose of cases or transact other work. Nor must it be supposed therefrom that they come late. Most of them commence work at 7 or 8 in the morning at their houses and leave it at court at 9 in the evening. That is, if ever they leave it, for they are doomed to dream it, as dream they must such absorbing occupation in their disturbed sleep. Microscopic prying into the performances of such galley-slaves is worse than madness—it is mere cruelty. How, under continuous labor from morn to noon, from noon to dewy eve, in a frame of mind and state of health better imagined than described, these unfortunate servants of the state are at all able to examine witnesses without the aid of a prosecutor and write out their decisions, is a marvel. But still they do it, and you can imagine at whose cost. If the quality of such work is found to be bad, none need be surprised. Officers saddled with all sorts of revenue, executive and miscellaneous duties, are at the same time judges, and they are again required to obey the stringent orders laid down in the recent circulars. Not even Treasury officers, Excise officers, are exempted from the burden of judicial work, although there are orders of the higher authorities to give them reasonable relief from it. It is under such circumstances that these inspections are being made by His Honor and his whole staff of Secretaries, besides the Commissioners, and yet it is expected that the work should be faultless—that no mistakes should be detected. The Governor has every power to enforce strict inspection by the District officers and the Divisional Commissioners and other officers, instead of taking so much personal trouble. In that way, the work would be much better and cheaply done and orders more strictly obeyed. If there is laxity in the supervision, as is thought, Sir Charles Elliott can make his orders obeyed and see that the district officers, Commissioners and special officers do their work of supervision and inspection more regularly and strictly. A Lieutenant-Governor has certainly power to make his orders obeyed by his officers.

There cannot be any just comparison between the quantity and quality of judicial work done by Deputy Magistrates and Covenanted Assistant or Joint-Magistrates. It is unjust to judge their capacity for such work by the result. The latter are never saddled with any kind of responsible and difficult revenue, executive, and miscellaneous burthen, nor are they, as a rule, placed in charge of the Treasury, Road-cess, certificates, land registration and other heavy departments, and so they can give their undivided attention to their judicial duties. The

Deputy Magistrate, who is groaning under the heavy pressure of revenue and other functions, has to direct his attention to a dozen things and is interrupted in his judicial work every 5 or 6 minutes. Besides, he has, in most cases, to go through a larger amount of judicial business. If, under such disadvantages, the work of some is not equal to the work required of them, they are not to be blamed for it, but the system which handicaps them. In no civilized country, judges perform such miscellaneous and troublesome duties. With all this disadvantage, the Deputy-Magistrates are still doing well, and those who are required only to administer justice, (though they are a very few) have held their own up to this time with the Barrister, Covenanted and Statutory Civilian Magistrates, in the disposal of even the most difficult cases. If actually the Lieutenant-Governor wants to see the judicial work done promptly and thoroughly, he will not do any good by being hard on a valuable set of officers. Let him at least experimentally appoint one or two Deputy Magistrates (who have experience of, as well as taste for, judicial work) in each district, and give them only civil work, with that independence which Judges enjoy, and then he will see that they acquit themselves most creditably. Unless this is done, any number of circular orders will go for nothing, and the judicial work will not be done efficiently. This trial will cost nothing, only an executive order will do, and six months' trial will demonstrate the truth. In the same way, make some special revenue and executive Deputy-Collectors, like rent Munsifs, in each district, and we will never hear of embezzlements and defalcations of public money. This is the plain truth. They have made a good beginning in the Central Provinces. The system is sure to succeed. The suggestion made in this article is very simple and requires no expenditure or change of system at all. It is only based on the principle of a proper distribution of work.

LITERARY MANIPULATION AND MISAPPROPRIATION.

It is a pleasure to see one's self useful. Nothing gives a journalist greater satisfaction than to find himself quoted or followed by his brethren of the quill. We, for one, have, under God's blessing, often that satisfaction. But we confess we scarcely ever remember such a proof of appreciation of our humble labours as we have just received from a most respectable quarter in the South. The *People's Friend* is an excellent journal, whose vigour and independence have in these columns been repeatedly acknowledged. It is conducted not only with ability in the leaders and the occasional Notes, but also with attention to the smallest details, such as the selection of telegrams and extracts, the compression of news, the accuracy of the money-market intelligence, &c. Approbation from Sir Hubert Stanley is praise indeed, to be sure. Even implied patronage from such a quarter is comfort enough. Opening our Madras contemporary's issue of the 17th instant, we were not a little struck by a singular phenomenon of appreciation.

The best part—the professedly original part—of the paper, is virtually drawn from our journal. Beyond a single vague reference to "a Calcutta paper," there is no allusion to us. This is no new experience with us, our awkward name being usually shunned by our contemporaries, so we do not complain, content to see our labours valued. Although the name *Reis and Rayyet* does not occur once in our Southern brother's columns, we notice with pleasure that, out of the nineteen Editorial Notes in the *People's Friend* of the 17th February, as many as ten are echoes of, or are founded upon, our issue of the 6th February. This sort of ignoring of a distant brother whose services are so largely availed of, may be sharp, but is not always safe. The Nemesis

of ingratitude is sure to overtake the astute wight notwithstanding his too-cleverness-by-half. The writer has taken a good deal of pains to palm off as his own another's information, by compressing it or translating into his own language. But, in trying to avoid the rock of plagiarism, he has stranded himself on the shoal of inaccuracy and nonsense. Thus our article headed "Death of Æsculapius" has been reduced into a short paragraph announcing the death at Delhi of a worthy of Southren creation, called "Hakeem Mahomed Khan," author of an unknown *Ilay-ul-Amraz*, which "is considered a standard work among Hindu Hakeems, and is very widely studied." Hindu Hakeems are rare birds, whose standard works, if they at all depend upon any books, instead of picking up prescriptions from kind living physicians, cannot be of much account. The name given to the book is an obvious misnomer. Finally, there was no Hakeem Mahomed Khan at Delhi to speak of.

We pity the readers in the South who are supplied with this sort of information and who are expected to profit by it. They will doubtless take pains to treasure in their memory the glory of the famous Hakeem Mahomed Khan of famous Delhi town. We can hardly be expected to pity the Editor who, in appropriating our original information—the first and fullest notice of the great Delhi physician appearing in *Reis and Rayet*—did not think it proper to thank us.

A still more shameful blunder occurs in another Editorial Note, which seeks to embody the substance of one of Mr. Skrine's letters on Vandalism in Upper India. "The Taj Mahal, that beautiful work of art in Delhi, has never been free from the hand of vandals," commences our contemporary, and complains

"how the fine marble is destroyed by apparently idle and illiterate soldiers, who are allowed to do what they like in the building in the absence of a proper curator. We think Government should do something to preserve one of the handsomest institutions in the whole of India."

The sentiment is unexceptionable, only the "facts" are astonishing. We suppose in the South the statement about the situation of the Taj may pass. Under any circumstances, the complaint in our columns, founded on Mr. Skrine's last letter to the *Pioneer*, referred specifically to the great Hall of Audience in Delhi and the Vandalism of the soldiery there.

We have no harsh feeling in the matter, the more so as we are accustomed to this sort of thing. We simply mention the matter in the way of business. We are bound to say that our Madras contemporary is by no means singular. This sort of sharp journalism is too much in vogue. We see our wit and wisdom (such as they are), our jokes and our original news, cribbed on all sides by contemporaries who stare at us with a fixed stare, as who should almost cry "stop thief!" There are no papers so systematically looted from as the *Pioneer* and the *Civil and Military Gazette*. A great many papers live in this way. From the practice of such papers, the word *note* has come to mean an unacknowledged "conveyance" from another source.

Nor does the evil exist in India only. "Dogberry," of the *City Press*, writes:—

"Under the heading of 'A Cool Piece of Plagiarism,' a morning newspaper recently exposed a case of piracy by another journal. But this is no solitary instance. In connection with the *City Press* I have ample evidence of the wholesale manner in which my paragraphs are pirated without the least acknowledgment. This practice will be exposed shortly if it is persisted in. If these attentions took the form of imitations I should feel flattered that my efforts to be readable had been so successful, but it is the piracy of my wares *en bloc* which I object to. Paragraphs in this column are purloined by London and other correspondents, and in some cases my paragraphs, like the children stolen by gipsies, are undressed and so disfigured that I scarcely know my child again in the garments in which it is trotted round the provinces. One of the most glaring and worst cases of indiscriminate 'appropriation' was an account of the career of Mr. Spurgeon, which appeared in the columns of the *City Press*. This matter was published by the *Jersey Observer*, whose editor had the impudence to set it up as a leading article, and a copy of the newspaper in question was forwarded to Mr. Spurgeon as evidence of the interest the paper had in his work."

THE DRESS QUESTION.

SIR Charles Elliott's prescription of a sort of black uniform for "blackmen," has caused an amusing sensation among the ministerial officers. This recipe bears apparent marks of that impatience and haste by which his treatment is usually characterized. It disavows the intention

of prescribing any uniform for the Amla class, but all the same it has fixed a uniform for all. Even then it were some consolation, had that been a proper outfit. But it is, in fact, not quite suited generally to their position and means. Perhaps His Honor does not know what it would cost a suit of that kind and how ugly most of the lower classes of Amla would look in it. The selfish and exacting tailors, and the shrewd and businesslike Marwari and other cloth merchants, are not unaware of this order, and they have not failed to take advantage of it. Prices of black stuffs, such as alpaca, parametta and serge, have run up and the tailors have also increased their charges, to the great misfortune of these ill-paid class of public servants. Then they would each require two sets of clothes for the summer and the winter seasons, and the aggregate value of both (if a decent suit is required) would not be less than Rs. 40, or it may be a little more or less in some cases. The prices of these cloths have gone up in the local market and some poor officers are in great difficulty. There is no doubt that the head ministerial officers can afford the expense of this uniform and they should carry out the order without any grumbling. This will suit them and they would look more respectable and decent in it. But in the case of under-clerks, mohurrers and other officers of lower grades drawing very small pay, the order ought to be changed. Otherwise it would prove a great hardship to them. The principle is very good and there was great necessity for such an order, as things were going from bad to worse. I think in their case it would be quite sufficient for all purposes, if they are strictly ordered to wear chapkan or achkan of some decent cloth with pajamas and pagrees, care being taken that they are always clean. Ekharas and woollen shawls, during summer and winter respectively, would surely add to the importance and decency of their suit. This is I think all what is wanted. The old Amla used to have decent dhotis with long balabar chapkan and old fashioned pagrees of their own handiwork, and there is no reason to find fault with this outfit. The gazetted officers should also be directed to attend public offices and courts generally in decent and neat dress and not only on the occasion of His Honor's visits, when they may be seen going about begging and borrowing chogas and pagrees from friends, as they do not dare approach the Lieutenant-Governor in their nondescript English coats. It is expected that officers who draw a decent pay should at least devote a portion on this most important item of expenditure. I have seen offenders in this respect whose pay is sufficiently large. There are many among this class of men who have only two suits of clothes with which they commence service plus a shamla or pagree which lasts till they retire on pension. These two suits last as long as seven or eight years—a considerable time after they cease to be fit for decent use. This is attributed to the extreme regard for economy of the men. A Sub-Judge was summoned to attend a durbar in some station when the Prince of Wales visited it. The notice was very short and he was in a funk what to do, as his two or three old suits of clothes were all declared by me to have worn out and to be unfit for putting on on such an occasion. I managed to get him a suit very quickly prepared under special arrangement, according to my choice. Thus he got over the difficulty and thanked me very much.

I know it from my own experience that on many occasions in travelling and at public gatherings and places of amusement, that amount of attention and respect is not paid to some native officers to which they are entitled by virtue of their position. It is a general complaint among most of them that Railway employes, policemen, and Police officers and others are not always courteous to them. The complaint is true in a great measure, but the fault does not always lie with the men and officers of the Railway or the Police. In some cases, at any rate, the dresses of these respectable officers do not command any respect, but create contempt in the minds of those with whom they come in contact on such occasions. After they have been once insulted, it is vain to exact their right to respect and consideration. If you dress yourself decently and like a gentleman, you surely command respect of people of every class. No one can but respect a well-dressed person even if he is of a low position in life. On such occasions as I have described, no one enquires about your grade or title, nor are they engrossed on your forehead.

Dress has a wonderful effect upon a looker-on and on the public in general, and therefore all civilized nations are very particular about their dress. Take for instance an Arab or Moghal mendicant or loafer, and you will always find him in a respectable-looking attire and therefore always protected against the ill-treatment of the durwans of wealthy native gentlemen with whom they have to deal. In the case of a respectable and educated person, it is essentially necessary that he should dress well and in such a way as to benefit his position and income. If a man knows to dress, he can dress decently and even economically. The combined impression of dress and features is most marvellous, and many people in high positions cannot forget their first impression and adhere to it to the last.

When our youngmen are so mad after so-called Western civilization and boast so much of their English education, they ought to show practically that they have at least learnt to dress and to eat in a civilized manner, either according to the standard of Eastern or to that of Western civilization.

There are some officers who long very much to dress in English costume, but they are at the same time afraid of offending some old class English officials, who do not like native officers dressed as Europeans. These men in fact have no fixed dress nor is their dress based on any principle. They make a mixture of both native and European elements and look most ludicrous in it. If they had only the moral courage to appear in pure and proper European garb, I think they would have conveyed a better impression even upon those to please whom is their first care. I do not think sensible European officers like that sort of mixture which is good for nothing.

AN OBSERVER.

THE BENGALI PATRIOTS' MEETING FOR BEHAR.

IN the interests of "the rayyets of Hajeeopore, who had urged the Indian Association to use its influence to avert the carrying out of the proposed Cadastral Survey in Behar," that Association held, on Tuesday last, in the Town Hall of this city, a public meeting to protest against that Survey. Mr. Lal Mohun Ghose, barrister-at-law, not arriving in time, the chair was taken by another oratorical gun, Baboo Kally Churn Banerjee. The speaking was, for the most part, confined to the Secretary, Baboo Surendranath Banerjee. Mr. Ghose also spoke. The meeting recorded "its respectful but firm protest against the proposed Cadastral Survey in Behar, as being disastrous to the interests of the peasantry in that part of the country, inasmuch as the Cadastral Survey would tend to impoverish the people by fostering litigation, and, by the imposition of fresh burdens upon them, create discord between Zemindars and rayyets, and, in general, cause great harassment to the people, by the planting in their midst of a set of petty officials, at whose mercy they would be placed, even in regard to the record of their rights."

That is a singular statement, seeming something and being something else. The Resolution sounds at a distance like an angry blast, but on closer auscultation the storm subsides in a gentle hiss. At first sight, our friends manage to startle the public with the bugbear of the Cadastral Survey. But that is for a moment. Soon the apparition fades into thin air. So far as we could judge, they met to protest against a serious if not a shocking measure of ruin and discord, which could not fail to impoverish the people and cause a lamentable breach between landlord and tenant, and, above all, leave the people at the mercy of the worst description of petty officials. Did they make such a protest? They made-believe, to be sure. They complain of a measure which was rather in an evil direction. Their objection to the Survey is confessedly founded on a fear that it would tend to impoverish the people by fostering litigation, and, in some other mysterious way, tend to create discord between Zemindars and rayyets, and generally, by the planting in their midst of a set of petty officials, tend to cause great harassment to the people. That is rather a poor complaint, which scarcely justifies so much ado. Surely it were more to the purpose to attribute without reservation or hesitation serious consequences to the proposed Survey, instead of merely a tendency in the direction of those consequences. The poor peasantry of Hajeeopore, if they have any existence beyond the imagination, may well complain of the advocating Association whittling down their grievance.

That ludicrous result may be due to imperspicuity of language. But another difficulty seems to show imperspicacity. We wonder how the speakers on the Resolution made out that the Survey, besides tending to impoverish the people by fostering litigation, "would also, "by the imposition of fresh burdens upon them, create"—or even tend to create—"discord between Zemindars and rayyets." The Cadastral Survey is not exactly a taxation Act. As regards the cost, it will be provided and levied by Government and there will be little room for misunderstanding. It will certainly not open any door to cesses and exactions.

The Association's response to the requisition of the Hajeeopore husbandmen, stamps it as a professional organ for agitation. The promoters seem to have felt that a meeting held under such circumstances had no proper bottom. Babu Surendranath Banerjee, therefore, tried to strengthen their position by letting the public, apologetically though, into confidence.

The Baboo's sympathy for Behar, as he himself suggested, was the outcome of the National Congress. "The National Congress," said he, "would have been started in vain if such sympathy was an impossibility." The next bond of union between Bengal and Behar, according to Baboo Banerjee, and "the strongest point in his contention, was that the Bengal Tenancy Act applies to Behar as well as to Bengal, and if it is found that it is good under the conditions of that Act to introduce the survey into Behar, it will not be long before very plausible argument will be found to justify the extension of the Cadastral Survey to Bengal." This foresight is commendable, but the question is—Is the Cadastral Survey ordered for Behar under the Bengal Tenancy Act? He was not disposed to place much reliance on the assurance that the Survey would not be extended to Bengal. "It was unnecessary to detail the long record of broken pledges and promises unfulfilled which could be urged against the Government of this Country"—the present Government always excepted. "He did not intend any disrespect to the present ruler of Bengal. Personally he had the highest respect for Sir Charles Elliott, and was happy to bear testimony to the great energy, personal official supervision, and obvious sincerity in his desires to promote the welfare of the people which had hitherto distinguished his administration."

Mr. Ghose laid stress on the inopportune of the Survey while scarcity threatens the Province and on the "evils of letting loose upon the people hordes of those harpies known as *ameens*, to whose blood-sucking demands the peasantry would have to submit." He was unwilling that *damnyas* and even members of his own profession would profit by the litigation which is sure to follow the Survey operations to the injury of both the landlord and the tenant.

The Chairman was not satisfied that the Government scheme "contained all the elements of a great boon." Like a politician and lawyer he justly contended that "it must be conclusively proved that the boon is a necessity, and that those upon whom it is conferred may have no occasion to cry out 'save us from such philanthropy.'"

All that is good. But this sort of meeting by men ready for any agitation, is not likely to carry any weight—unless at a distance.

STORES.

No. 1 (Financial), dated 7th January 1892.

From—The Secretary of State for India, to the Govt. of India.

I have considered in Council your letter, dated the 28th of July 1891, transmitting the returns of expenditure in India on stores for the year 1888-89.

2. I observe with pleasure that the proportion of stores manufactured in India continues to increase, but it appears that in some cases articles made in Europe have been treated as if they had been made in India. Care should be taken that all stores included in the column "Stores manufactured in India and substituted for Imported Stores" are *bonâ fide* manufactured in India, as otherwise these annual returns will not serve any useful purpose.

3. According to the return furnished by the Indo-European Telegraph Department, guttapercha cable was purchased in India for Rs. 99,998, and it is estimated that it would have cost Rs. 1,89,709 had it been procured through this office. This discrepancy is so great that I request that copies of the specifications to which these cables were made may be sent home as they may be of service to the Store Department.

4. A report (dated 3rd December 1891) by the Director General of Stores on some of the purchases made in India is enclosed, and the necessary communications on the points raised therein should be made by you to the Departments concerned.

5. In my despatch dated the 6th of November 1890, No. 27 (Financial--Stores), I conveyed my approval of your decision that European stores should not be purchased in India merely to avoid the lapse of a grant, and I trust that this ruling will be strictly and generally applied.

Report by Director General of Stores, dated 3rd December 1891.

With reference to the annexed India Finance and Commerce letter, No. 200 of 28th July 1891, forwarding returns showing the expenditure on stores for the year 1888-89, the tabulated statement in paragraph 2 shows a satisfactory reduction in the value of imported stores purchased in India, the decrease being steady during the last three years and very considerable in the year in question. Omitting malt liquor, there is, as pointed out in the same paragraph, a growing increase in the amount expended on stores manufactured in India and substituted for imported stores.

The total expenditure on stores in 1888-89 is considerably less than in 1887-88, so that the extended use of native products is greater than might at first appear. The proportion which the expenditure on local products bears to the total expenditure of the last three years is as under :--

	Total Expenditure.	Expenditure on local products.	Percentage.
1886-87	4,40,62,716	67,71,757	About 15
1887-88	3,80,55,201	82,17,380	" 22
1888-89	3,08,97,065	81,37,988	" 26

The additional information referred to in paragraph 3 of the India letter and now furnished for the first time has added to the value of the returns. It is noticed, however, that the information is not given in all the returns.

With reference to paragraphs 4 and 5, it is satisfactory to note that the Governments of Bengal and the Punjab have been addressed by the Government of India relative to large local purchases of imported stores and cautioned accordingly.

Turning to the abstract the items which call for remark appear to be the following :--

Cannas, Chemicals, Drugs and Medicines, Cotton, Linen, and Silk goods, India Rubber goods, Paper and Pasteboard, Printing and Lithographic materials, Stationery and other stores not specified.---All show a reduction in the value of imported stores supplied by this office (column 2) and purchased in India (column 3), and an increase in the utilization of stores produced locally (column 4).

Cordage and Rope.---The value in columns 2 and 3 is largely increased whilst that in column 4 is reduced. India is prolific in suitable fibres for cordage and rope, and has several steam factories. It is thought, therefore, that local manufactures might supplant imported cordage and rope to a greater extent than is shown.

Leather and Manufactures of leather, and Wood, Articles of.---Show an increase of over 100 per cent. in the value of imported stores purchased in India.

Machinery and Tools and Plant.---Show a considerable diminution in the value of imported stores purchased in India, and, apparently therefore, a closer adherence to the regulations.

METALS---

Brass.---The value of imported brass purchased in India in 1888-89 was more than four times that of 1887-88.

Iron.---The value of importations, still high, has steadily decreased during the three years shown in the abstract. It is noted, however, that the value of the local products also shows a decrease on the year 1887-88.

The following remarks apply to the individual returns :

No. 5, Hyderabad.---This Department purchased locally pipes of European manufacture to the value of Rs. 22,887, and furnishes no explanation.

No. 8, Bengal.---It is thought that many of the items on pages 12 to 30 should have been entered in Part 2 instead of Part 3, as some of them are evidently not made in India and the great majority are similar to supplies obtained from makers of scientific and educational instruments in Europe. If it should happen that these should belong to Part 2, it would be of interest to know, for comparison, how the English rates were obtained. If taken from maker's catalogues, it should be borne in mind that these prices are subject to discount, as is the case when such purchases are made by this office.

The same return shows in Part II the purchase of a Carter's Disintegrator, Printing, Sewing, and Weighing Machinery, and 7,000 yards of serge, but affords no explanation. Large purchases of iron are also shown in the same part.

No. 10, Madras.---Shows under Part III the purchase of iron safes to the value of Rs. 12,345. It is presumed that these were of *bona fide* local make; but it may be well to observe that several of the large English makers have active agents in India.

No. 13, Bombay Mint.---A considerable loss has been incurred by the purchase in India of coke at Rs. 4-1-7 and Rs. 4-5 per ton as against the estimated cost (Rs. 30-6-1 per ton) if obtained through this office.

No. 15, Mathematical Instrument Department.---This Department furnishes no explanation of numerous purchases in India of

European stores at prices in excess of those paid by this office. It seems desirable that explanation of such departures from the regulations should be furnished in future.

Nos. 22 to 35, Military and Marine Departments.---The returns of Military and Marine Expenditure are dealt with separately.

No. 37, Indo-European Telegraph Department.---Shows that gutta-percha cable of the estimated cost of Rs. 1,89,709, if obtained through this office, was made in India for Rs. 99,998. It is considered desirable that copies of the specifications to which these cables were made should be sent home, as it is thought that they may be of service.

No. 39, Madras Public Works Department.---This Department purchased iron and steel at an estimated loss of Rs. 3,880. As pointed out in my report of 8th November 1890, it would be advisable to obtain future supplies through the Secretary of State. It also purchased two portable steam engines at an estimated loss of Rs. 1,100, but affords no explanation.

No. 40, Rajputana Public Works Department.---Shows the purchase of eight conservancy carts of European make. It is thought that carts of local make might have been substituted. It is understood that they might be procured in Bombay and in Cawnpore or its neighbourhood.

No. 44, Hyderabad Public Works Department.---The value of European stores purchased in India exceeds the combined value of the stores supplied by this office and those made in India. Large purchases of European pipes and metals are shown.

No. 49, Central Provinces Public Works Department.---The letter (No. 103--8278, dated 22nd November 1889) from the Secretary to Chief Commissioner attached to this return, states that iron pipes to the value of Rs. 4,156, shown in the column of stores made in India, were purchased locally, as Messrs. Macfarlane & Co.'s agent was at hand to give advice and assistance, and as there would have been difficulty in sending home the necessary explanatory drawings. Apart from the question whether this explanation can be considered as entirely satisfactory, it would appear that the pipes should have been shown in the column referring to local purchase of European stores, the Messrs. Macfarlane & Co. referred to being apparently a Glasgow firm.

No. 51, Military Works Department.---Large local purchases of European stores which are explained as being necessary to meet urgent requirements and avoid lapse of grants.

Some of the railway returns show considerable local purchases of European stores which, however, are, except in the case of the North-Western Railway, explained. The attention of the Manager of this railway might be drawn to the omission.

Looking at the returns generally it is found that the reasons given for local purchases of European stores are urgency and a desire to avoid lapse of grants. With regard to the former of these reasons, it is thought that demands by telegram, where necessary, might considerably obviate the necessity for such purchases. With regard to the desire to avoid lapse of grants, it will be seen from the enclosures to India Finance and Commerce letter No. 234 of 5th August 1890, annexed, that the Government of India has ruled that this is not an adequate reason for infringing the regulations.

CHARGES AGAINST MR. P. C. WHEELER, C. S.

RESOLUTION NO. 37611--458B OF 1892.

Appointment Department.

Dated Allahabad, the 9th February 1892.

READ---

(1) Letter from the Officiating Registrar, High Court of Judicature for the North-Western Provinces, No. 29, dated 7th January 1892, to the address of the Chief Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces and Oudh with enclosures.

(2) Letter No 139, dated 12th January 1892 from the Chief Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces and Oudh to the Secretary, Government of India, Home Department.

(3) Letter No 147, dated 26th January 1892, from the Secretary to Government of India, Home Department to the Chief Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

Observations.--On 23rd December 1891, the High Court of Judicature Allahabad, pronounced judgment in the case of Queen Empress *versus* Debi Proshad. The case came before the Court on appeal by Debi Proshad, a Sub-inspector of Police, who had been convicted on 21st October 1891 by the Sessions Judge of Jaunpore of offences under sections 167 and 218 Indian Penal Code and had been sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment on each conviction.

2. In disposing of the appeal the Honorable Judges (the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Straight) remarked on the absence from the record of any judgment of the Sessions Court observing that the Officiating Sessions Judge (Mr. Percy Cotterill Wheeler) had stated that he did in fact write a judgment of considerable length, that he did in fact deliver the judgment in open Court, but that he had taken it back to his house and that in some unaccountable way it had, with the exception of the first sheet, been lost. The Chief Justice proceeded: "I am bound to say and I say it with

considerable pain because it involves a severe criticism on the procedure and statement of the Sessions Judge that I do not believe that any judgment was read out or delivered by the Sessions Judge on the 21st October, nor do I believe that the Sessions Judge even wrote the judgment as he stated he did."

In these remarks Mr. Justice Straight concurred.

3. The judgment of the High Court was reported in the newspaper press of the following day and in this way on Christmas Day came to the notice of Mr. P. C. Wheeler. On the same day Mr. Wheeler wrote and telegraphed to Government denying with indignation the truth of the imputation made against him announcing his intention to file an affidavit and appealing to the Lieutenant-Governor instantly to appoint a Commission to inquire into the truth of the charge.

4. On receipt of this letter, and before taking it into further consideration, the Lieutenant-Governor communicated it to the Hon'ble Court, with a request that the Court would inform him of the circumstances which led the Hon'ble the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Straight to record the remarks referred to by Mr. Wheeler.

5. The reply of the Hon'ble Court is the letter quoted at the head of this resolution. With that letter were forwarded to Government among other papers copies of the judgment of the High Court of 23rd December and of the report by Mr. Justice Straight giving the result of his inspection of the office of the Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Jaunpore. It was stated that the Hon'ble Judges unanimously agreed in all the opinions expressed by Mr. Justice Straight in his report.

6. On a careful consideration of these papers and after such further investigation as seemed necessary the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner is of opinion that in the terms of Act XXXVII of 1850, a formal and public inquiry should be made into the truth of the imputations of misbehaviour contained in the judgment of the High Court and in the inspection report of Mr. Justice Straight. In no other way can an opportunity be given to Mr. Wheeler to disprove, if possible, the charges made against him. It is necessary in the present case, as the inquiry will be regulated by the above Act, that the prosecution be conducted by and on behalf of Government.

7. The following appear to be the facts connected with the imputations made :—

Debi Proshad was committed to Mr. Wheeler's Court on 11th March 1891. His trial commenced on 5th May and was completed on 27th July. On the 21st October he was convicted and sentenced. On the same day and before the rising of the Court an application was made by the prisoner for a copy of the judgment and an order was passed that it should be given.

On 13th November application was made to the High Court on behalf of the prisoner by Durga Churn Bannerji, his Vakil, that the prisoner should be admitted to bail pending the decision of the appeal. This application was supported by an affidavit of Durga Proshad, brother of Debi Proshad, to the effect that copy of the judgment had not been obtained and that he had been informed by Lala Raj Kishore, Pleader, that the Judge had stated in Court on 10th November that the judgment was not complete.

On this Mr. Justice Knox passed an order dated 13th November that the accused should be admitted to bail and the Judge was directed if he had not already done so to grant a copy of the judgment immediately. Again on 23rd November on the application of Debi Proshad supported by an affidavit that he had been unable to obtain copy of the judgment, the Chief Justice admitted the appeal and ordered that the Sessions Judge should report forthwith why copy of the judgment had not been delivered and the cause or causes of the delay.

On 16th December Mr. Justice Straight at the request of the Judges of the High Court visited Jaunpore and up to that date neither had a copy of the judgment been given to the applicant nor had any explanation been offered as to the cause of the delay.

In the course of the interview between Mr. Justice Straight and Mr. Wheeler the latter stated that he had written the judgment before delivery and that at the time of delivery he had signed and dated the judgment in open Court.

He stated that he had, after doing so, taken the judgment back to his house and that though he had made diligent search he had been unable to find it.

He offered no explanation to Mr. Justice Straight's inquiry as to why having dated signed and delivered his judgment he took it back to his house when the official to whom it would ordinarily be handed was present in Court.

8. A further imputation of misbehaviour is contained in Mr. Justice Straight's report, namely, that "when an application was made to Mr. Wheeler to execute a decree against himself he dealt with it in a way that he could not have done had the decree been against a stranger."

The facts connected with this imputation appear to be as follows :—

On the 25th May 1891 the Subordinate Judge of Mirut, on the application of the decree-holder, the Bank of Upper India, transfer-

red to Jaunpore for execution a decree against Mr. P. C. Wheeler for Rs. 6,755-12-0. The papers referred to in section 224 Civil Procedure Code were made over to the decree-holder's agent who himself went to Jaunpore and on or about 9th June, presented an application for execution of the decree to Mr. Wheeler as District Judge in open Court. With this application the papers referred to in section 224 Civil Procedure Code, were presented and the relief asked was attachment of half the salary of the judgment-debtor. On receipt of the application for execution Mr. Wheeler informed his Peshkar that the necessary orders would be subsequently issued and took the application together with the papers specified in section 224 Civil Procedure Code to his house. Mr. Wheeler then placed himself in communication with the decree-holder with the object of settling the decree out of Court. He failed to cause the papers received under section 224 Civil Procedure Code to be filed and to cause a note of the application for the execution of the decree to be made in the prescribed register. Moreover he removed the application and the papers specified in section 224 Civil Procedure Code so that they are not now to be found in the Judge's Office and no order has been passed on the application.

9. In accordance with section 2, Act XXXVII of 1850 the substance of the above imputations has been drawn into the following distinct articles of charge :—

(1) That when on 21st October 1891, Mr. Wheeler convicted and sentenced Debi Proshad to imprisonment in the case of Queen Empress v Debi Proshad he had not written a judgment in that case as prescribed by the Code of Criminal Procedure.

(2) That Mr. Wheeler falsely stated to the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Straight on 16th December 1891 that he had written a judgment in the case of Queen Empress v Debi Proshad prior to convicting and sentencing the accused.

(3) That when, on 21st October 1891, Mr. Wheeler convicted and sentenced Debi Proshad to imprisonment in the case of Queen Empress v Debi Proshad, he did not deliver sign and date any judgment as prescribed by the Code of Criminal Procedure.

(4) That Mr. Wheeler falsely stated to the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Straight on 16th December 1891 that he did deliver sign and date a judgment in the case of Queen Empress v Debi Proshad when he convicted and sentenced the accused on 21st October 1891.

(5) That on or about 9th June 1891, Mr. Wheeler did not follow the procedure prescribed [by section 38 of the Civil Courts Act of 1877, or] by Section 245 Code of Civil Procedure in the matter of an application presented to him in his capacity of District Judge by the agent of the decreeholder for the execution of a decree held by the Bank of Upper India against P. C. Wheeler; that he passed no order regarding this application up to the time that he made over the office of District Judge of Jaunpore to his successor; that he did not cause the papers referred to in Section 224 Code of Civil Procedure which were presented to him with the above application to be filed as required by Section 225 Code of Civil Procedure; and further, that he improperly removed from the Court the above documents, viz., the application for execution of decree and the papers referred to in Section 224 Code of Civil Procedure.

10. The Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner is pleased to order under Section 2, Act XXXVII of 1850 that a formal and public inquiry be made into the truth of the above charges.

11. The Lieutenant Governor and Chief Commissioner is further pleased under Section 3, Act XXXVII of 1850, to commit the inquiry to a Commission composed of the following members :—

Mr. W. Kaye, Member of the Board of Revenue. Mr. M. S. Howell, Additional Judicial Commissioner, Oudh.

12. Mr. Kaye is the senior Civilian in these Provinces employed under this Government otherwise than in the Judicial line. In lieu of Mr. Howell, the Lieutenant-Governor had intended to nominate Mr. W. R. Burkitt, Judicial Commissioner of Oudh, the senior Judicial authority in that Province, but has not done so because the proceedings out of which the present charges against Mr. Wheeler have arisen had come before Mr. Burkitt judicially when Judge of Jaunpore.

13. The Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner is further pleased, under Section 4, Act XXXVII of 1850, to nominate Mr. A. H. S. Reid, Barrister-at-law, as the person to conduct the prosecution before the Commission on behalf of Government. Mr. Reid will be assisted and advised by the Legal Remembrancer to Government.

Order.—Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded for information and guidance to Mr. W. Kaye and Mr. M. S. Howell, Members of the Commission, and to Mr. A. H. S. Reid and also to the Legal Remembrancer.

Ordered, further, that a copy be forwarded to Mr. P. C. Wheeler for information.

Ordered, also, that a copy be forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Department, and that this Resolution be published in the Government Gazette.

By order, &c.,
J. D. LATOUCHE,
Offg. Chief Secretary.

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The Hon'ble P. P. Hutchins,
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with

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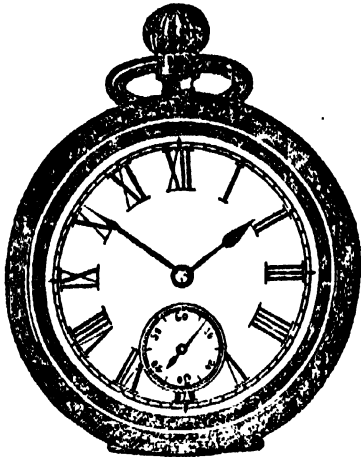
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AND

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Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1892.

No. 514

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

SONNET

ON CHARLES LAMB LEADING HIS SISTER TO THE ASYLUM.

By the Rev. C. V. Legrice.

An angel's wing is wavering o'er their head,
While they, the brother and the sister, walk,
Nor dare, as heedless of its fanning, talk
Of woes which are not buried with the dead.

Hand clasped in hand they move; adown their cheek,
From the full heart-spring, tears o'erflowing gush;
Close and more close they clasp, as if to speak
Would wake the sorrows which they seek to hush.

Down to the mansion slow their footsteps bend,
Where blank despair is soothed by mercy's spell,
Pausing in momentary prayer to send
Ere the cheered sister passes to her cell,
Sure in the hope that yet there will be given
Calm and sweet hours of peace—foretastes of heaven.

A SUN-SET SONG.

When hope and joy have made me blest,
When she I love, in some lone dell,
Hiding her head upon my breast,
Half whispering, owns she loves me well,
Then, as I go, I'll gaze upon the west,
And watch the glowing sun go down to rest;
A lover lingering on the western groves,
Full loth to leave the earthly nymph he loves.

When prison walls enclose me quite,
And long duress my fate appears;
When changeless day succeeds long night,
A dreary lengthening chain of years;
Then, warder, let me gaze upon the west,
And watch the troubled sun go down to rest;
A sad-eyed king, with frowning guards borne on,
Defeated, wounded, and his kingdom gone.

When life's dark sands have run so low,
That men may count what few remain;
When my rapt soul is fain to go,
And when to breathe is toil and pain:
Turn me once more, O turn me to the west,
And let me see the sun go down to rest;
A weary wanderer, homeward bound at last,
But softly, sadly, smiling on the past.

NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THE new Khedive Abbas inaugurated his accession by remission of the unexpired terms of the punishment of five exiles banished for their share in Arabi's rebellion. But the leader of that rebellion—Arabi himself—must pine in exile. His enlargement is perhaps above His Highness. We hope the conscience of England will awake to the grievous wrong before it is too late.

THE largest iron-clad in the world—the *Rurik*—has just been completed in the Russian naval dockyards. She will shortly be launched, and two more ironclads—one of 8,800 tons and the other of 10,960 tons will be put on the stocks. The dockyard of the Black Sea is engaged on three powerful ironclads—the *Twelve Apostles*, 12,480 tons; the *St. George*, 10,280 tons; and the *Three Saints*, tonnage unspecified. They are evidently intended to preach peace—by demonstrating a preparedness against war.

WILLIAM E. ROBINSON, "the British lion's tail-twister," otherwise known as "Richelieu Robinson," one of the most violent anti-British politicians in the United States, has gone to the majority. He was born in county Tyrone in 1814, and emigrated when twenty-two. Although not remarkable for modesty or moderation, he was a man of culture and eloquence. In the Congress, he directed his powers against the mother-country.

THE Millennium cannot be far off. We are already a happy family of mutual admirers in happy times. There is an obituary notice of a pleader of a court of requests somewhere, whose many merits the editor, emulating the modesty of the deceased, forbears to blazon forth.

Our old friend Mr. Kangali Charan Halder has earned *hudos* by proposing and carrying a resolution granting the Secretary and Assessor of the Corporation over the water a house-allowance of Rs. 50 a month and, above all, by another motion raising the municipal grant to the local general hospital from Rs. 2,400 to Rs. 3,600 a year.

THE following has an interest in this country at the present moment with the starting of the Indian Property Association:—

"The Earl of Courtown, chairman of the Property Defence Association, writes that the sum expended by the association during the last seven years was 140,800*l.*, and the receipts 143,070*l.* The latter included 58,950*l.* from the London Mansion House Fund and 16,000*l.* from the Irish Defence Union of London. Lord Courtown adds that it is said by the League that they would make the Government of Ireland impossible unless their demands are granted, and beyond question the law, so far as it relates to land, was to a great extent paralysed. The Property Defence Association was formed to perform that which the State found itself unable to perform, and it rendered services to individuals by which property was made more secure, and the State was relieved of a duty which during a time of extreme difficulty it was unable to discharge. Yet this had not saved them from a charge of 'apathy, indifference, and want of courage'; but they should be as indifferent to the unjust sneers of professed friends as to the insults of enemies. There was still work to be done, and, with God's help, it would be done."

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

WE give below the prospectus of the Indian Property Association :—

1. It is proposed to constitute on a permanent basis an Association in India, analogous to the Property Defence League, established in England.

2. There has been a growing tendency in recent legislation both in England and in India, to disregard the state obligation of vested interests and to substitute for the long established sanctions of the rights of property, fanciful theories, which, though founded on benevolent intentions are directly subversive of the recognized principles of political economy.

3. In India, the mischief occasioned by legislation of this disturbing character, is accentuated by the fact that the Government of the country is *for the people*, but not *by the people*, so that where an enactment presses harshly and works injustice, the knowledge that it is imposed upon them without their consent, is apt to create a very much strong feeling of dissatisfaction and unrest than in a like case in England, where legislation is only possible with the consent of the governed.

4. One of the primary objects of this Association therefore will be to render every possible legal assistance to the Government by endeavouring to keep it thoroughly well informed as to the possible consequences of intended legislation and to focus and collect public opinion upon all important measures calculated in any way to affect the rights of property, or to prove in any way oppressive or harassing to the community at large or to any section of it.

5. The Association will also, so far as it lies in its power, apply its best energies in co-operating with other existing associations for the removal of oppressive and unsuitable taxation like the Income tax and whilst justly recognising the absolute necessity for taxation on such a scale as will enable the Government of India to carry on the administration securely and permanently, the Association will strive to induce the Government to adopt a system of taxation more in harmony with the necessities and sympathies of the community.

6. The Association will in a special manner watch jealously and vigilantly all legislation likely to impose further burthens upon the landed interests, and when necessary will adopt such constitutional measures both in India and in England, as will render an active opposition successful.

7. For this purpose it is proposed to establish a Permanent Agency in England and a Permanent staff in India.

8. The Association will be open to all members of the community irrespective of nationality and will be governed by an Executive Council in Calcutta.

9. It is proposed to follow the precedent of the Anglo-Indian Defence Association and to register the Association and also to collect donations and subscriptions and so form like the Anglo-Indian Association a trust fund which will produce a permanent income to meet for all times the requirements of the Association.

10. Persons desiring to join the Association are requested to send in their names with the amount of their proposed donation and monthly subscriptions to his Highness the Maharajah Bahadur of Durbhunga."

The Executive Committee, we find, consist of Sir Romesh Chunder Mitter, the Hon. Dr. Rash Behari Ghosh, Messrs. A. B. Miller, C. B. Gregson, D. Cruickshank, Rai Bahadar Shib Chunder Banerjee and Baboo Saligram Singh.

The society was started at No. 4, Clive Row, on 8th February, under the presidentship of the Maharaja of Durbhunga. The present association is distinguished from the existing ones, both in Bengal and Behar, by the fusion in it of the Indian and Anglo-Indian elements.

THERE is mourning among the Hyderabad nobles, on account of the death of the mother of Sir Asman Jah—the Prime Minister. The lady had attained the enviable age of 94 years.

SIR Dennis Fitzpatrick assumes the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab this day with the following private staff: Mr. W. S. Davis, of the Frontier Police, Private Secretary; Lieutenant M. A. C. Crowe, R.A., of No. 4, Mountain Battery, P. F. F., Aid-de-Camp.

FOR sharply criticizing, in the *Kreuz Zeitung*, the new commercial treaties, Count Limburg-Sturum was tried at Berlin before the Disciplinary Administrative Court for Insubordinate Officials, *in camera*, found guilty and sentenced to be dismissed the public service, and to the loss of his pension and of the right to the diplomatic title of Minister. There is an appeal to the Ministry of State. The Count conducted his own defence.

The *Cologne Gazette* is now being prosecuted for its caustic remarks on the Bradenburg-banquet speech of the Emperor.

THE Government in England is prosecuting Mr. Horatio Bottomley and Sir Henry Aaron Isaacs, formerly Lord Mayor of London, on the charge of defrauding the Hansard Union of thirty thousand pounds.

The prosecution appears to be the outcome of the action heard before Mr. Justice Denman and a special jury—*Hansard v. Lethbridge and others*.

"Mr. Henry Hansard sued certain directors of the Hansard Publish-

ing Union to recover £18,000, a balance said to be due in respect of the sale of the plaintiff's business and business premises in Parker Street, Holborn, to the company. The gentlemen sued were Sir Roper Lethbridge, Mr. C. K. Paul, Mr. A. P. Sinnott, Mr. H. J. Manning, Mr. Horatio Bottomley, and Sir R. H. Collins, who was sued as executor of the late Mr. Coleridge J. Kennard. The principal point raised for the defence was that the agreement for taking over the property had not been completed, inasmuch as it was not signed by Sir H. Isaacs, the then Lord Mayor, and therefore it had not become binding upon the defendants. Mr. Justice Denman said that the case was one of a somewhat unusual character. According to the general law, there was no doubt that when a document was prepared the nature of which was that certain persons should act as guarantors, certain money should be forthcoming, and that they should sign as such; then it was part of the bargain that if the name of some one guarantor was left out, either by accident or design, that document became worthless as against the rest of them. It would be unjust that those who had signed the document should become personally liable upon it, when those who had not signed escaped all liability. It would be unjust that parties should be bound by a bargain such as they never intended to enter into. It would be possible that by consent of the others certain of the signatures might be dispensed with, but such a state of things as that must be made out by evidence. The jury also would be careful how they consented to modify a written document upon parol evidence, and establish a state of facts like that. The plaintiff would be bound to establish that the name of Sir Henry Isaacs was omitted with the consent of the defendants. To make this out he must show that Mr. Bottomley did on October 22nd enter into such an agreement, and, further, that when he did it he had authority to bind the defendants by it. The jury, after considering the matter for a few minutes, gave a verdict for the plaintiff for £18,754 7s., being the amount of principal and interest. Mr. Justice Denman said that he would stay execution for a week against all the defendants but Mr. Bottomley upon security being given to the satisfaction of the master, with a view to an appeal. It was added that execution would be stayed against each individual defendant, except Mr. Bottomley, who should give security to the amount of £2,000. Some questions of law were raised later, when discussion took place as to how the judgment should be entered in reference to Sir R. H. Collins. Mr. Justice Denman, in the end, said that he should enter the judgment for the plaintiff as against Sir R. H. Collins, as executor to Mr. Coleridge Kennard, for £17,607, the amount of property admitted to be in his hands as executor, and if any question should arise as to what that amount really was, that could be disposed of by Mr. Justice Kekewich, who had the administration suit before him. As to costs, there would be judgment against Sir R. H. Collins personally. As to this particular defendant, his lordship added that execution would be stayed until the whole matter was before Mr. Justice Kekewich in the administration suit. Judgment accordingly. The appeal was heard a few days subsequently, before the Master of the Rolls and Lords Justices Kay and Lopes, when Mr. Reid, Q. C., on behalf of the defendants, submitted that, inasmuch as a nice question of liability was raised, the defendants were entitled to a stay of execution until the hearing of the application for a new trial without any levies being imposed upon them. Mr. Channell, Q. C., on the other side, maintained that the defendants ought to be put under some terms, otherwise the unfortunate plaintiff might lose the whole of his money. The defendants should have taken care to ascertain whether the guarantee had been signed by Sir H. Isaacs before they took over the plaintiff's business. Lord Justice Kay: The plaintiff is put in the awkward position that he cannot recover against the company who got his business, and if he cannot recover on this guarantee he will lose all the purchase money. The Master of the Rolls, in giving judgment, said that although the Court only interfered with the discretion of a learned judge in strong cases, the defendants were entitled to a stay of execution without any terms being imposed upon them, as they appeared to have made out a strong *prima facie* case against their liability. Execution therefore would be stayed without terms."

The Lethbridge of the cause-title is, we believe, Sir Roper Lethbridge, who with his savings and perquisites of an Indian educational magnate purchased a share in Hansard's business.

THE Reserved Forests in the Puri and Angul Forest Divisions are closed against hunting and shooting from the 7th March to the 15th June, except with the written permission of the Conservator of Forests or the Local Government.

THE Governor-General in Council has ordered that every applicant for leave to file a specification of an invention shall cause to be delivered, or sent, with the specification, not fewer than five copies thereof, the fifth copy being intended for the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

SECTIONS 1, 6, 7 and 8 of the Excise (Malt Liquors) Act XIII of 1890, apply to the Sonthal Parganas from the 1st March, 1892. The order is dated the 27th February and appears in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 2nd March. The order is therefore not retrospective only but sudden, without any preliminary warning.

THE Toll Collectors of the Nadia Rivers have been empowered to act also as Joint Supervisors within their respective jurisdictions. The

Lieutenant-Governor also finds it expedient to appoint Mr. R. Bushby and Mr. G. Robertson, Engineer and Shipwright-Surveyors at the Port of Calcutta, to be Surveyors of Inland Steam-Vessels at Goalundo, Kushitea, Narainganj, and Khulna.

By the London and North-Western Railway and hard by the Chalk Farm tunnel, stood two Normandy poplars, in a garden belonging to a gentleman named Gill. The trees shielded him from the smoke and deadened the noise of passing trains. The railway company wanted to remove these poplars, for they interfered with their traffic. The gentleman was willing to accommodate the company by lopping off branches that were in their way, while preserving the trees as a screen against the smoke. This would not satisfy the Company, who cut down the trees and deposited £50 in court. Subsequently they raised the compensation to £100. On application of the owner, the Queen's Bench Division assessed the damages at £300.

NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE demonstrations of unemployed Berlin continued on the 26th and 27th February. The Emperor, in demonstration of his confidence in his people's loyalty, rode through the streets, unattended, to calm the spirit of unrest abroad, and was cheered by the crowds. We wonder whether any *claqueurs* were about. On the 28th, the city was quiet.

THE Imperialism of Germany is for the moment directed against the Press. There is much discontent in Berlin on account of the prosecution of the *Cologne Gazette*, for a caustic critique on a speech of the Emperor. The dissatisfaction has been heightened by the seizure by the Police of a number of papers in the office.

M. BOURGEOIS, a Radical, too failing, Senator Boubet, a Republican, has formed the new French Cabinet, with M. de Freycinet, M. Ribot, M. Rouvier, and others.

THERE is a crisis in Greece. M. Delyannis being unable to cope with the existing financial difficulties, the King has dismissed his Ministry, and for the obstinate support of a large majority and their threat to retain their posts, the Chamber has been prorogued prior to dissolution.

THE resolution of the National Miners' Federation for temporary stoppage of work in the collieries to exhaust the present stock, has produced more than its desired effect. Already, coal is selling high in the London market and a number of steamers are delayed in the docks. The London *Daily News* suspects in the movement an attempt at a combination between masters and men for the formation of a colossal coal ring. The Durham Miners, unconnected with the National Miners' Federation, have determined to go on strike on the 12th against any reduction of wages.

THE Bimetallic League, at a meeting held at Manchester on the 2nd instant, were of opinion that the interests of the Empire demand the establishment of a stable par exchange between gold and silver, and that it was the duty of Government and Parliament to secure this immediately through an agreement with the leading commercial nations.

THE House of Commons rejected by a majority of fifty-five, on its second reading, a Bill introduced by Mr. Kelly to reinstate Irish evicted tenants.

IN opening the proceedings against Mr. Bottomley and Sir Henry Isaacs, in the Bow Street Police Court on the 2nd, the prosecuting counsel declared that the public had lost over a million through the Hansard frauds.

THE late Lord Lytton has left a will enjoining the construction of a history of his Viceroyalty of India from the documents in his family.

BOTH the Government of India and the Secretary of State agree with the recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief in India, to place the

forces in Burma under a Commander-in-Chief. But Lord Cross, as stated in the House of Commons, is not prepared as yet to propose a change and does not consider piece-meal legislation desirable.

NOTWITHSTANDING the birth of the Indian Property Association, the Cadastral Survey of Behar is to be proceeded with. On the 3rd March, in the House of Commons, the Under-Secretary of State for India informed the House that the Secretary of State for India considers it necessary in the interests of the rayyets.

MR. Venning, Commissioner of the Nagpur Division, proceeded to Chanda, on the borders of the Central Provinces and the Nizami's dominion, away from the railway, to try, among others, two prisoners for murder. One of these stood charged with killing a man with an axe. On the closing of the case, the Judge deferred sentence—to be attacked by the same axe. The prisoner took up the deadly weapon which lay on a table close by, rushed up to the Judge and struck him on the head, inflicting a severe scalp wound. But for the punkah pole against which the raised axe struck, the strike would have been fatal. Mr. Venning fell. A second blow was prevented by the Deputy Commissioner—Colonel Thomas, who rushed up, seized the assailant and disarmed him. The gallant Colonel had in his turn a blow on his back with the flat part of the axe.

LORD Lansdowne returned to Calcutta on Tuesday. He had a right royal reception at Cooch Behar, the Maharaja going into lavish expenditure to entertain his august guest. Sir Charles Elliott had preceded him here from Orissa on the previous Friday.

THE Lieutenant-Governor held a full-dress Durbar at Belvedere yesterday "for the investiture of certain gentlemen, on whom titles have been conferred by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India." There were 24 of these "gentlemen" to receive their titles, namely,—

Maharaja Sir Jotindro Mohun Tagore Bahadur, K.C.S.I., of Calcutta.
Maharaja Sir Narendra Krishna Bahadur, K.C.I.E., of the Sobha Bazar Raj family.
Maharaja Durga Charn Laha, C.I.E., of Calcutta.
Raja Gobind Lal Roy Bahadur, of Tajhat in Rangpur.
Raja Janaki Bulluv Sen, of Dimala in Rangpur.
Raja Ranajit Sinha, of Nashipur in Murshidabad.
Raja Rameshwar Prasad Narayan Singh, of Maksudpur in Gaya.
Raja Sreenath Roy, of Bhagyakul in Dacca.
Nawab Saiyid Amir Husain, C.I.E., Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta.
Raja Suresh Chandra Panî, of Pakour in the Sonthal Pergunnahs.
Shams-ul-Ulama Maulavi Jelaluddin, of Patna.
Shams-ul-Ulama Maulavi Ahmad, of Calcutta.
Saiyid Ali Muhammad Shâd Khan Bahadur, of Patna.
Rai Tara Prasad Mookerjee Bahadur, of Revilganj in Saran.
Rai Calica Doss Dutt Bahadur, Dewan of Kuch Bihar.
Rai Lal Madhub Mookerjee Bahadur, of Calcutta.
Rai Raj Kumar Sarvadhikari Bahadur, of Calcutta.
Maulavi Sheikh Aulad Ali Khan Bahadur, of Gaya.
Rai Abhoy Charan Mitter Bahadur, Transport Contractor in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.
Rai Ramgotty Mookerjee Bahadur, Manager of the Nalhati State Railway.
Maulavi Saiyid Muhammad Abu Saleh Khan Bahadur, of Gaya.
Rai Ishan Chandra Mitter Bahadur, of Hooghly.
Rai Iswar Chandra Sil Bahadoor, of Dacca.
Rai Bankim Chandra Chatterjee Bahadur, of Calcutta.
The Durbar was followed by a Garden Party.

LATER in the evening, Calcutta was entertained at the Town Hall by the Mahomedan Literary Society, to their 28th annual conversazione.

MR. Christopher Nickels, of the Pasewa factory in the Jaunpur district, was more fortunate in his second trial in the Allahabad Sessions Court. In the first, the jury were divided and the presiding Judge—Mr. Justice Straight—not agreeing with the verdict of not guilty of the majority, ordered a second trial. In the present, the jury were unanimously for acquittal and the Chief Justice, against the tenor

of his charge to the jury, had no option but to discharge the accused. The case, as put by the Crown, was that the prisoner had several factories in Jaunpur and that he resented the setting up of another at Sohni near to his own by a native of Benares, Jagat Narain, and, taking advantage of the ill-feeling between Jagat Narain and his tenants on account of enhancement suits, brought about a riot with the object of getting the native's factory destroyed. The defence was that there was no reason for the prisoner wishing to destroy the factory. The Chief Justice remarked that "a jury would be well advised if when dealing with questions of fact, they considered the probabilities of every circumstance that was put before them. Was there anything improbable in the prisoner objecting to this new factory? That it would interfere with the prisoner's factories was beyond doubt. The next matter to note was that in October, Jagat Narain had a considerable amount of indigo ready for manufacture, and this would be just the time that an enemy would select to strike a blow." The Chief Justice concluded with the observation that "if the jury were fairly and reasonably satisfied that the prisoner did incite that riot of 3rd October, they must say so and convict him. If they had a fair and honest doubt as reasonable men, they would of course give the prisoner the benefit of that doubt."

The jury deliberated for about twenty minutes and gave their verdict of not guilty.

If an indigo-planter has escaped, a Civilian is in trouble in connection with that case. The Police sub-inspector who reported on the riot, was sentenced by Judge Wheeler to imprisonment. He now himself is on trial. The Government order for an enquiry under Act XXXVII of 1850, we published last week. The investigation commenced at the Board of Revenue Office, Allahabad, Mr. Arthur Strachey defending.

WILD animals transported to the midst of human hives, must pine for the solitude and freedom of the desert of their birth. The very comforts of the menagerie must be irksome to them, enjoyed as they have to be under the impertinent observation of Peeping Toms of the most aggravating kind by thousands *per diem*.

That fierce light which beats upon a throne, is joy compared to that which beats upon the prisoners in a menagerie from the eyes of the gaping mob. Of course, subjected to novel conditions of life, the poor creatures are liable to strange diseases unknown to them in a state of nature. The *Vossische Zeitung* writes that

"lionesses, tigresses, and female leopards of the Paris menagerie are subject to 'nerves,' and frequently have to be treated with large doses of bromkalium to calm them. The elephant suffers from toothache, and one of its teeth had to be stuffed. The sagacious creature endured the operation of filing and boring with great patience, only rapidly waving its trunk when the pain was violent. When all was over, it showed its gratitude by caressing M. Sauverre with the finger-like extremity of its proboscis. There is also a hippopotamus which suffers from a kind of chilblain, left by last winter's frost, and rendered worse by the present cold weather. The wounded places are rubbed with vaseline, and the enormous creature shows its relief by uttering comfortable grunts."

We hope there is adequate provision in the Calcutta Zoological Gardens and in other public menageries in India, for treating the diseases of the animals.

THERE are 53 large railway bridges in India—that is, the cost of which is not less than Rs. 6,00,000, or the spans not less than 50 feet. The largest number, namely, 12, have been constructed by the North Western Railway Company. Their greatest feat is the Alexandra Bridge over the Chenab, between Wazirabad and Kathala, the length of which is 9,088 ft., yet unsurpassed by any one in India. It was opened on the 22nd of January 1876. Next to this, is the Sutledge Bridge at Ludhiana, constructed also by this company, 5193 ft. long and opened in January, 1870. The third is the Jhelum Bridge, 4875 ft. in length, also their work and opened towards the end of 1876. The fourth is the Soane Bridge of the East Indian Railway Company, the length being 4726 ft. and opened on the 22nd December 1862.

There are 36 important railway tunnels in India, that is measuring more than 660 ft. in length or costing over 1½ lac of rupees. The largest number of tunnels have been opened by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, *viz.*, 13, but though the North Western

have done only eleven, yet their Khojak near Shelabagh surpasses all in length, which is 12,862 ft. The second is also their work, the Karez Tunnel near Dirgi, Pishin section, 2034 ft. The third is the Thull Ghat Tunnel No. 2, near Kasara, 1625 ft. of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway Company. The fourth the Saranda near Gailkern, 1588 ft. is on the Bengal Nagpur Railway.

THE trial of Frank and Rosalie Schneider, husband and wife, on eight distinct charges of murder, outrage and robbery, committed upon three servant girls, between May 26 and July 7, 1891, concluded in Vienna, on January 29. The husband was found guilty on all the charges and the wife of only one murder. The Judge sentenced both to death, providing the execution of the woman first.

The speeches for the defence occupied about twenty minutes each. Each counsel for the defence threw the blame of the crimes on the client of the other. The Emperor is not for capital punishment, and there has been no dangling of lovely woman, or unlovely, from the grim tree, in Vienna, since 1808. In that year, the daughter of a shoe-maker was sent to her last account on the gallows, for brutal murder of her husband. She is described as a fiend, but she was certainly no fright. A woman of rare beauty, she had set her heart upon a soldier, but was compelled to take to husband a rich merchant. The claims of the soul being denied, she threw man-made legitimacy and the blessing of the Church overboard. Like Eloisa, she cried,

Not Cæsar's empress would I deign to prove ;

No, make me mistress to the man I love.

The end of it all was that, within a year of the marriage, she despatched her lord, to be united to her "sodger laddie." At her trial, she could only whine—

I asked no more but a sodger laddie,

MR. Charles J. Rodgers, of the Punjab, who was in Calcutta a couple of years ago to inspect and catalogue the coins in the Indian Museum, is the greatest numismatologist in India. He is an enthusiast in his subject, and a rusty little piece of copper or silver with a half effaced inscription would set him dancing in delight. During the month he was here on his errand at the Museum, he ransacked the bazar, and his magic presence produced the most curious old specimens of old world currency or coinage. His cabinet of coins, the collection of twenty years, has now been purchased by the Punjab Government. It contains many rare specimens not in the British Museum. Such are those of Gondapharres, Abdagases, and Orihagnes. Such are several of the numerous coins of the ancient Kings of Kashmir and Kangra. Such is a valuable coin of the anonymous coiner who is called in his coinage "The Great Saviour." This coin is understood to bear a name on its Pali side. Another coin of equal rarity is a Rupee bearing on one side the name Agilises in Greek and on the other Ages in Pali. The Mitras before Christ, are well represented in silver, the Parthian monarchs in copper, the early Mahomedan kings of Kashmir in gold, silver and copper, the silver being square, the copper round. Mr. Rodgers' collection is usually rich in the symbolic coinage of ancient India—coins, that is, with only symbols inscribed thereon but no names, which are supposed to have been current before the first Greek connection with this land.

IN October last, Halia Mahadia and another, his son, were brought up before Mr. Keshaw Vishnue, first class Magistrate of Pannwell, for causing grievous hurt to Vithu Mahadu, whom they got out and beat a blow breaking one of the ribs. The hospital assistant, in his deposition, attributed the fracture of the bone to the blow. The Magistrate, however, was not satisfied that grievous hurt was intended to be caused or was known to be caused as a probable result, and that there was nothing in the case to presume the intentions of the accused. He, therefore, convicted the father and son of the minor offence of hurt and sentenced them each to a fine of Rs. 25, with the alternative of one month's imprisonment. The proceedings of the Magistrate came, last week, in review before Justices Jardine and Telang of the Bombay High Court. That court held that the father had intended to cause the consequence which resulted from his act, that the sentence passed on him was inadequate. But at that distance of time, the Judges refrained from enhancing the punishment.

THE privilege granted by Lord Lansdowne to the Calcutta University graduates, electing two Fellows, has been extended to the Bombay University. But there, they are not satisfied that the M. A.'s, M. D.'s and M. C. E.'s only are to select the Fellows. They want the L. L. B.'s to be included among the privileged. The Bombay Graduates contend that while in Calcutta, the M. A.'s number close upon a thousand, in Bombay their number is not more than a hundred, and that L. L. B.'s are in no way inferior to M. A.'s. Rather, they "may be said to be possessing higher academical training, as they have under the rules of the University to study for two years after taking their B. A. degree, while one can pass his M. A. only in a year after his B. A."

STARVING Succì, the Italian who has been exhibiting his powers of endurance, has at length found it no joke to play with Nature. His last engagement was at the Westminster Aquarium to fast for fifty-two days.

"At half past twelve on January 29—the forty-fourth day—Giovanni Succì brought his attempt to fast for fifty-two days at the Westminster Aquarium to an abrupt termination. During the previous few days he had suffered from violent sickness and constant irritation of the stomach, and after a broken night's rest, the Italian, who appeared very ill and weak, decided to bring his attempt to an end. He found on being weighed that he had lost an additional 18 ounces, which brought up his total waste to 38lb. 8oz. After some little indecision in the matter, Succì sent for Mr. Josiah Ritchie, the managing director of the Aquarium, and announced his intention of stopping. Dr. Trevor was present immediately afterwards, and he agreed that it would be unwise in Succì's critical condition to prolong the experiment. Accordingly some fruit was sent for, and at half-past twelve the fast came to an end, after having lasted 43 days 18 hours 45 minutes."

There was no disgrace in failing under such circumstances. Succì had accomplished wonder enough in fasting for more than forty-three clear days, baffling science. His submission at last to necessity only proves his good faith and negatives the suspicion of trickery, such as even Haridas, the buried Fakèr of Ranjeet Singh, was not above.

MR. Labouchere has been rebuking the thoughtless among his countrymen who have made the most ridiculous demonstrations of loyalty, on the occasion of the death of the Duke of Clarence. Sorrow for the loss he can understand. Sympathy with the Royal Family is proper. But personal loyalty in the connection, is to him an incomprehensible sentiment. In the following passage in *Truth*, he certainly puts a good face on the matter:—

"A Royal Family is, indeed, an inherent weakness in a Monarchical system. Monarchy would be better without its relations. Of the Duke of Clarence, little was personally known. If he had great talents, he never had an opportunity to show them. Had he come to the Throne, he might have been a good King or a bad one. Nothing could be predicated except by those who personally knew him. I do not say this by way of blame, but rather by way of praise. No evil was known of him, and this in itself is no slight praise in view of the fierce light that beats about a Throne, for it has not been always so with Royal Princes. Here is the epitaph that was written of Frederick, Prince of Wales:—

Here lies Prince Fred,
Who was alive, and is dead;
Had it been his father,
I had much rather;
Had it been his brother,
Sooner than any other;
Had it been his sister,
There's no one would have missed her;
Had it been his whole generation,
Best of all for the nation;
But since it's only Fred,
There's no more to be said."

Just so!

IN the following, Mr. Labouchere shows extraordinary mercy to royalty:—

"No one can for a moment suppose that any human being not arrayed in court plush could have felt any personal loyalty to either George I. or George II., both of whom, without being bad Kings, were about as offensive and objectionable personages as can well be conceived."

"Without being bad Kings"? To our mind, the two Georges were bad enough in all conscience. In the first place, they were foreigners and remained so to the last. It was a humiliation to the British to be ruled over by inveterate Germans, who were not even respectable specimens of their race, which had not yet acquired sufficient polish, whose greatness, intellectual and political, was scarcely yet in the womb. The insular pride of the English was pricked at every point and at every step. Nor did these interlopers care to honour it by an affectation of Anglicism. Their efforts to express themselves in the speech

of their insular subjects, were the occasions of perpetual merriment to their Ministers. But they were not ashamed. They would not learn. Nothing were easier, had they but wished to do so. They were far from pure in life and conversation, and had they but elected to go to perdition in English company they would have picked up the colloquial dialect in no time. Unfortunately, in their very vices they remained outlandish. Even as foreigners, they were narrow, being Hanoverians more than Germans. How the descendants of the barons who won the Great Charter, the countrymen of Shakespeare and Bacon, of Cromwell and Blake, the contemporaries of Newton and Marlborough, felt under these poor importations from the royal hive of the Continent, may be imagined! These Hanoverians were not only contemptible as men, low in their lives and surroundings, gross and grossly illiterate, but bad as Kings of England, inasmuch as they subordinated her interests to those of Hanover and other German principalities and powers. If William III. was a foreigner too, with a foreign policy more Dutch than British, he was a gem "for a' that, and a' that."

Mr. Labouchere might have added the third George to the category of the modern English Kings of England who did not advance the cause of loyalty.

"I HAVE the strongest aversion from going to funerals," says Mr. George Augusta Sala in his *Echoes of the week* in the *Englishman*. He has seen so many and of the grandest. "I dread them," he writes. "I dream about them afterwards; I can reckon up a lengthy schedule of doctor's bills consequent on colds, coughs, rheumatisms and lumbagoes caught at funerals." He "witnessed the passage of the funeral procession of Napoleon the Great from the Arch de Triomphe to the Invalides." "Since 1840 I have professionally attended the interments of the Duchess of Kent, the Prince Consort, the great Duke of Wellington, Prince Leopold Duke of Albany, the Czar Alexander II., the King of Hanover, Napoleon III., the Prince Imperial, Palmerston, Macaulay, Livingstone, Edwin Landseer, Robert Stephenson and Browning."

It is edifying to see the Prince of journalists remonstrating in all friendly seriousness with the Prince of poetasters and wittlings. Mr. Andrew Lang "has been making a really eloquent speech at the annual dinner of the Edinburgh Burns Club, but who, to my mind, has stumbled into a slip of detestably bad taste, in parodying perhaps the finest lines in one of the most deeply devotional poems in the English language."

"Quoth racy and ready, but slightly too smart, Mr. Lang. If the 'Last Man,' described by Campbell, were a Scotsman (which was likely, owing to the survival of the fittest) he would:—

You darkening universe defy
To quench Burns' immortality
Or shake his faith in Burns.

Thomas Campbell's magnificent lines thus irreverently burlesqued are inscribed, as Mr. Andrew Lang might have remembered, on the poet's monument in Westminster Abbey. There are certain poems, sprightly maker of 'ballades' which, by a common consensus of veneration for true genius, the veriest triflers refrain from making fun of. We do not parody Pope's 'Universal Prayer':

There is something wrong with the penultimate sentence which cannot be parsed as it is. Either something has been left out or some foreign matter has crept in, to make nonsense of it. As it is, the omission of the words "sprightly maker of 'ballades'" would make sense, and good sense, indeed. Those words evidently refer to Mr. Lang, but in their present position they merely spoil the text.

Mr. Lang has parodied—poorly enough—the concluding lines of the last stanza of "The Last Man" of Campbell. That stanza runs—

Go, Sun, while mercy holds me up
On nature's awful waste,
To drink this last and bitter cup
Of grief that man shall taste—
Go, tell the night that hides thy face,
Thou saw'st the last of Adam's race,
On earth's sepulchral clod,
The dark'ning universe defy
To quench his immortality,
Or shake his trust in God!

We pity the taste which could allow Mr. Lang to mangle such sublime poetry and put it to such execrable use as he has done. We have fallen on strange times. Auguste Comte has presented us the spectacle of a religion without a Godhead. And here is Mr. Andrew Lang exemplifying a heroworship which has no niche for the Hero of heroes—the Creator himself. Great as is the literary flippancy

shown by the parodist, this moral offence is far more serious. For, even if the substitution of "Burns" for "his" in the second of the three lines, were mercifully passed over, the final "Burns" must stick in every respectable throat. We wonder whether Mr. Lang is happy in his soul after his leap from "trust in God" to "faith in Burns." We are afraid it may recur to him hereafter as an unpleasant memory.

While thus sympathising with Mr. Sala in his condemnation of making fun out of literature of abiding worth and solemn import, we must in justice say that Mr. Lang has been guilty of no extraordinary conduct. Such parodies are common in European literature. The best and the worst—the most puissant and the most feeble—indulge in them indiscriminately. Nor is there any reservation in favour of any books or pieces. Nothing is too sacred for such profanation. The Bible itself has not been safe from the hand of sacrilege. And so far from punishing the bold hand, society has all the more honored it for its irreverence, wherever that has been sufficiently smart. Apocryphal "Chaldee MS." was the making of *Blackwood's Magazine*. In this country too we had a similar Chaldee business from the brilliant pen of Henry Torrens, which obtained for its author great praise. When the inspired scribes of the Scriptures are thus mocked, it is too much to expect the Bob Southneys and Tom Campbells to be spared.

MR. SALA quotes the following passage from a letter from Mason to Horace Walpole, dated August 14, 1778:—

"Our poor country, from being once a well-bred gentleman, is now turned a downright blackguard. A gentleman, when he has received an affront, sends his challenge and then fights his duel. A blackguard, under similar circumstances, drives his fist directly at the jowl of his adversary and waives the ceremonial of the challenge."

Mason alludes to the extraordinary departure made at the time by England, of going to war against France without the previous formality, usual among civilised nations, of a declaration to that effect. The occasion being commonly seized of justifying the step taken. Such departures have not been unknown in British wars in the East. They are repugnant to the spirit of Hindu warfare.

HORACE WALPOLE has been painted for the world at large by Macaulay as very near an aristocratic driveller and small wit, eaten up with vanity and suffering from the *cacoethes scribendi*. Mason was a clerical aspirant after the society of fashion and taste—a worse driveller—a smaller wit—a feeble *litterateur*. The popular impression is that no good ever came out of them, or can be drawn from them, the fashionable *flaneur* and his satellite having wasted their time in frivolous tittle tattle and the smallest of small talk, in mutual unbosomings of their envy, malice and all uncharitableness. That impression is wrong. The portraits, however life-like they stand on canvas, are not accurate, being, like many others from the hand of the same literary Rembrandt, imaginative rather than historical essays—mere studies in colour—in monotint almost—the shade predominating. The genius of the painter has made his works immortal. But their historical truth or biographical *verisemblance* has not gone unchallenged.

So in regard to the great *Edinburgh Reviewer's* character of the Earl of Oxford. Since the year 1834 when that character appeared, various writers, of more or less ability, in book or periodical, have satisfactorily vindicated the memory of the great epistolary classic. The gravamen of Macaulay's indictment against Walpole was that he was frivolity's fool, a fellow all affectation, without a particle of seriousness in his composition, without a single earnest purpose in his whole life. On this point, Lord Dover, in the biographical sketch prefixed to his edition of the Correspondence of Horace Walpole, published in 1833, anticipated detraction, and gave convincing proof in support of Horace's generosity. He certainly succeeds in reducing the sensational artist's Mephistophiles of frivolity and affectation to a decent-lived human being.

The nobleman's connections have rescued his memory from unjust aspersion. His correspondents of course gain by his clearance. But no special efforts have been made, we believe, in Mason's behalf. Be that as it may, Mr. Sala's single quotation will go far to give him ample respectability.

MR. SALA asks, What would Mason, were he alive, say to the recent 'scrimmage' in the French Chamber of Deputies?

"M. Floquet, President of the Chamber, being once insulted by the late General Boulanger, fought that wind-bag, and with his nimble rapier very nearly pinked him. M. Constans, a Cabinet Minister, being insulted by the ex-Boulangist Deputy, M. Laur, 'drives his fist directly at the jowl of his adversary,' or rather smacks his face resonantly; thus waiving the 'ceremonial of the challenge.' French politeness, where art thou hiding? M. Constans, however, is not the first eminent politician who has 'gone for' an opponent even as the exasperated gambler 'went for' the Heathen Chinee. Long ago, at Washington, I was shown a *photograph of the stick* with which the pro-slavery legislator, Mr. Preston Brooks, beat the abolitionist, Mr. Charles Sumner. 'From the bumps made on Sumner's head with that stick,' rhetorically observed the proprietor of the photograph, 'grew the tree of the emancipation of the enslaved and outraged African.'"

The Americans are a wonderful people beyond a doubt. If portraiture of pets is as far as other nations have reached, they have gone many steps beyond. They have established, we take it, or are on the way of establishing, a national gallery of portraits of famous broken sticks, soiled gloves, superannuated socks, used up Wellingtons, pensioned Bluchers, and such other important *bric-a-brac*. From the eloquent remark of the proprietor of the photograph of the club which felled Mr. Sumner, he was an Abolitionist, and for Abolitionists the weapon was a thing of melancholy associations. Why should Abolitionists preserve the portrait of the evil stick and love to show it to strangers? A tough problem, this.

Mr. Sala's gossip wakes up our own remembrances. A far more remarkable stick was that which Colonel Brooks received as a present for his exhibition of Southern chivalry from a most unexpected quarter. When the whole civilized world was shocked at the news that the eloquent lawyer and amiable Abolitionist orator Mr. Charles Sumner, had been, without warning, attacked in the floor of the Senate and cudgelled on the head to bleeding, and the welkin rung with shouts of execration from all sides on such cowardly brutality, the ladies of South Carolina came to the rescue of their hero. They presented him by subscription with a gold-headed cane bearing the significant inscription—*Hit him again*. We wonder whether the Brooks family have preserved this historic stick, as an honorable heirloom, or whether any portraits of it have been taken and preserved.

THE warrant, issued at the instance of the editor of the *Statesman*, by the Chief Magistrate, against Mr. Charrington, with liberty to appear in his Court on the 1st March on a personal recognizance of Rs. 1,000, was duly served at Bombay. But Mr. Charrington chose to leave India by the last mail instead of appearing in Calcutta to answer the charges. The consideration shown by Mr. Maraden has been lost on an undeserving object. The warrant stands over *sine die*.

THE death of Mr. Henry Curwen, editor and one of the two proprietors of the *Times of India*, is a loss to the Indian Press. He had been invalided home on Saturday before last and died at sea on the following Monday afternoon. Like the late Mr. Robert Knight of the *Statesman*, Mr. Curwen has been the victim of overwork. There is a movement in Bombay to perpetuate his memory.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, March 5, 1892.

THE SICK MAN OF EUROPE NOT DYING YET.

THE Sick Man is a synonyme for the Sultan or the Government of Turkey. This has been so for about half a century at least. Not that Turkey has been so long ailing, but that her Christian neighbours have loved to think her so. What right to health has the barbarian Moslem? That is the privilege of the enlightened Giaour. Having declared Turkey ill and in a critical condition, the Christian Powers kept a strict watch over her to see how life gradually ebbed away to nothingness.

If she was not unwell, they did their best to make her so. This was necessary to keep them in countenance. Indeed, it was needed for the satisfaction of their ambition and greed. They had employed their leisure in constructing a new map of Europe and Western Asia, distributing the soil of Turkey between others, and now they could not wait indefinitely. If she was not going to die of ill health and general debility, she stood a good chance of being shot to death by some bold bad neighbours, while the rest looked on with evident relish.

Dr. Brewer refers the origin of the phrase Sick Man to the great Emperor Nicholas, who, in 1844, thus wrote:—

"We have on our hands a sick man, a very sick man. It would be a great misfortune if one of these days he should happen to die before the necessary arrangements are all made.....The man is certainly dying, and we must not allow such an event to take us by surprise.—Nicholas of Russia, to Sir George Seymour, British *chargé d'affaires* (January 11, 1844)."

That was forty-eight years ago, and in the language of Galileo before the Inquisition, *still it moves!* Nicholas tried his worst—employed all the vast resources of the Mammoth Empire—to maintain his reputation as a political pathologist, to what purpose is known to everyone. Nicholas has long been in his grave, but Turkey still lives, somehow.

In point of fact, the political myth of the Sick Man is of much remoter creation. The idea of the decadence of the Moslem Power in Europe, has been in vogue from a long time. Such is the obscuring influence of religious diversity that the Christians saw signs of weakness when none existed. Even in Turkey's proudest day, when she had barely ceased to be a conquering Power, when she was still truly formidable, European diplomats and travellers amused themselves, and comforted their fellow Christians, by pretending to discern the symptoms of her approaching collapse. Certainly, before the close of the last century, they had decided that the Mahomedan Byzantine Empire was hastening to its speedy downfall.

These Mussulmans are endowed with extraordinary vitality. Even under the most desperate circumstances, they take a long time to shuffle off the mortal coil. So, Turkey has been continually dying for years.

Man is mortal, and states are but human—subject to the liabilities of the principal. As old William Browne, in one of his Britannia Pastorals, elaborately puts it:—

And as the yeere hath first his jocund spring,
Wherein the leaves, to birds' sweet carolling,
Dance with the winde: then sees the summer's day
Perfect the embrión blossome of each spray:
Next cometh autumn, when the threshed sheafe
Looseth his graine, and every tree his leafe:
Lastly cold winter's rage, with many a storme,
Threats the proud pines which Ida's toppe adorne,
And makes the sappe leave succoutlesse the shoote,
Shrinking to comfort his decaying roote.
Or as a quaint musitian being won,
To run a point of sweet division,
Gets by degrees unto the highest key;
Then, with like order falleth in his play
Into a deeper tone; and lastly, throwes
His period in a diapazon close:
So every humane thing terrestriall,
His utmost height attain'd, bends to his fall.

Drummond, of Hawthornden, more energetically sings in two words or rather in just four lines:—

I know that all beneath the Moon decays,
And what by mortals in this world is brought
In time's great periods shall return to nought;
That fairest states have fatal nights and days.

Fact coincides with theory. History is a melan-

choly repository of the wrecks of states and nations. As Byron pertinently questions:—

Assyria, Greece, Rome, Carthage, where are they?

Echo answers, *Where?* All the kingdoms of the earth of the present day, the proudest not excepted, will go the way of the great empires just named, sooner or later. So there will be no particular degradation to the Turks, when their hour arrives. Nor even if they go earlier. The Osmanlees have ruled sufficiently long in Europe for them to pass away with credit.

Since the last disastrous war, in which all was lost save honour and the capital, the Osmanlee credit has been at the lowest. If Turkey was before sick, she now was dying. There were many substantial grounds for such an opinion. Turkey had been defeated in the field and compelled to sign a crushing treaty by an enemy at her gate. She was denuded of her vital possessions and Provinces. She had agreed to pay a fine utterly beyond her resources. And, as a matter of fact, she did not pay; she was in arrears from the outset. Her desperate efforts to pay, only starved her without preserving her credit or satisfying her enemy. Add to these, accounts came from time to time of the want and wretchedness within the Empire, and the oppression in the Provinces. Absolute bankruptcy seemed to stare the poor nation in the face, and general ruin seemed a reserve of the measurable future.

At length, a gleam of hope appears in the horizon. The Vienna Correspondent of the *Times* lately wrote:—

"The sick man of the East is giving unmistakable signs of convalescence. In other words, the Turk is beginning to pay his debts with punctuality. I hear from Constantinople that for the second time the Porte has paid the full amount of the instalment on the war indemnity due to Russia—that is to say, the sum of £T350,000. The increased regularity with which the Turk is meeting his financial engagements, which originated with Agop Pasha, has been maintained by his successor, Nassif Bey, and the time may not be far off when a Turkish debt will be regarded as no less secure than that of any European Government. The Russian indemnity consists of an annual sum of £T350,000, payable for 92 years. No capital sum was fixed. But Turkey only paid £T100,000 in the first year, £T140,000 in the second year, and £T200,000 in the third year. During the last two years she has not only paid the entire annuity due, but also a considerable sum against arrears. At a moment when the condition of Russian finance can hardly be described as brilliant, M. Vishnegradski will certainly be glad to include in his annual revenue so important an item."

MARRIAGE IN HIGH LIFE.

Dumraon, March, 1892.

The marriage of the daughter of His Highness the Maharaja of Dumraon with His Highness the Maharaja of Rewa, has been an event in this part of the country. It was celebrated here on the 22nd February with tremendous *éclat*. The expenses incurred on the occasion have, of course, been enormous. A good deal of it is pure waste, no doubt, but not all. Even the position least useful has its reproductive qualities. A marriage like this really encourages arts and stimulates trade, giving employment to hundreds of ingenious men and feeding thousands of the artists and the poor and entertaining in the fullest sense a whole tract of country. Above all, it serves as a wholesome break in the dead level of life in the district. The tide of human beings that poured into this town to witness the marriage, was full to overflow. In the afternoon previous to the day of marriage, the chief scene of attraction lay on the railway station plat-

Holloway's Ointment and Pills.—Reliable Remedies.—In wounds, bruises, sprains, glandular swellings, enlarged veins, neuralgic pains and rheumatism, the application of this soothing Ointment to the affected parts not only gives the greatest ease, but likewise cures the complaint. The Pills much assist in banishing the tendency to rheumatism and similar painful disorders, whilst the Ointment cures the local ailment. The Pills remove the constitutional disturbance and regulate every impaired function of every organ throughout the human body. The cure is neither temporary nor superficial, but permanent and complete, and the disease rarely recurs, so perfect has been the purification performed by these searching yet harmless preparations.

form. Two special trains, one containing the Maharaja of Rewa and his suite and the other containing the Maharaja of Benares and party, were due at the Dumraon station at 4-3 and 5-30. Great was the expectation raised, and people flocked there in large numbers. The station premises and platform were very tastefully decorated all over with crimson cloth fringed with gold, the glare of colour being relieved by patches of evergreens and flowers. The floor of the platform was covered with red broad cloth; and pots of beautiful flowers were introduced along the whole length. By invitation, many European gentlemen, including several officials, assembled there. The native nobility and gentry mustered in force. Among the local officials, we noticed the Joint Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police of Arrah and also the District Superintendent of the Railway of this division. A detachment of infantry was in attendance, ranged in two rows on the platform, to present arms on arrival of each of the trains, and a battery of artillery was posted at a distance with their men with flaming torches in hand. Three complete bands were in attendance too, including the band of the 2nd Queen's Regiment now located at Dinapore. It is needless to say that the latter composed wholly of Europeans. Thither, precisely at 4-20, His Highness the Maharaja of Dumraon drove in a carriage and four attended by a detachment of body-guards and took his seat on the station platform. The energetic and courteous Dewan Jai Prokash Lal Bahadoor was to be seen everywhere, looking after the minutest details. Punctual to the time fixed, that is at 4-30, the special train of His Highness the Maharaja of Benares was sighted and was greeted with the usual salute. On the train coming to a halt, His Highness was welcomed with due ceremony and brought down to the platform. His noble host cordially embraced him, while the bands struck and continued to discourse music. He was then carried to his place of encampment surrounded by his guards and retinue. An hour after, that was at 5-30, the special train conveying the bridegroom and his suite arrived at the station and received the salute of his rank and the acclamation and blessings of all the people of Dumraon, while three bands from different directions began to play their most inspiring music with a wonderful effect upon the people. With His Highness the Rewa Maharaja was his Political Agent with his family and staff; and about 20 carriages that composed the train were packed with brilliantly dressed people. In the train there was a complete band which was discoursing its music while it slowly moved up to the station platform. The reception over, now formed a procession which once seen makes durable impression upon the imagination. It was a swarm of liveries, uniforms, equipages as brilliant and varied as a picture. Stupendous elephants, beautifully painted and literally loaded with massive golden ornaments and bearing splendid ambatis of various pattern and design; beautifully caparisoned horses; gem-encrusted swords; rich chairs of state made of gold, silver and ivory, inlaid with pearls and gems; and many such items of real eastern luxury dazzling the eyes of the sightseers. A squadron of Rewa Cavalry very smartly dressed and equipped escorted their Maharaja to his residence. All the way leading to it was lined with infantry. All this magnificence seen in the effulgence of the setting sun, made a deep impression and recalled to our mind what we hear of the old days of the Mogul Empire. Indian art has always prospered and will continue to exist only under the patronage of such Houses as these. Its beauty, durability, fineness, artistic quality, superiority of design and variety of patterns are all due to the patronage of an appreciative aristocracy. Surrounded by this grandeur, the Maharaja of Dumraon carried away his son-in-law in a carriage and four amidst the joyous acclamation of his friends and tenants. The next carriage contained the Political Agent and Dewan Jai Prokash Lal. And so on in strict accordance with the code of precedence. All the honoured guests of the Dumraon Maharaja took their seats either in carriages or on elephants as were assigned to them. The crowd of people jostling each other to secure advantageous points of view, was very great, and it required great nerve and exertion on the part of the Police to keep the way sufficiently clear for the passage of the procession.

The Dumraon Rajbari where the Maharaja usually resides with his family, is in the centre of the town. The house is in the shape of a castle surrounded by massive walls pierced only by two immense gates and defended by numerous rectangular towers. It covers an area of about a mile in circuit and the wall itself is surrounded by a ditch (now dry) about twenty feet broad and about as deep as it is wide. All the Raj offices, and public and private apartments are within this enclosure. A beautiful temple, the lofty spire of which towers over all other buildings, is to be seen from a great distance. The courts and columned aisles and other minor temples surrounding the big one look as its satellites and thus heighten the splendour of the chief temple. The sudder gate is surmounted by a *Nobhut Khana*, from which music descends at stated hours during the day and night. Besides this mansion, the Maharaja possesses at Dumraon 3 or 4 houses surrounded by shrubbery and ornamental fruit trees,

well furnished and kept in good order. Among them is one called Bara Baug and is on the way from the railway station and almost equidistant from the station precincts and the Rajbari. It is a charming place and is much frequented by the Maharaja's European guests, who when they come here like to reside in that pleasant retreat. This place was fixed for the residence of His Highness the young Maharaja of Rewa, and it was here that he was conveyed with such splendour by his father-in-law. It has an extensive compound where about more than 100 tents were pitched for the accommodation of his suite and people attending him. Thousands of men with numerous animals, such as elephants, camels and horses, belonging to the Maharajas of Rewa and Benares, as well as to Muuda (another honoured guest and son-in-law of the Maharaja of Dumraon who had come here previously) arrived here a week before and encamped in different places assigned to them. Besides these personages, many other relations of the Maharaja and local grandees came over here invited and were accommodated in different quarters according to their rank and needs. These men follow in a miniature form the example of the higher chiefs, their retinue and trappings following them. Most of the recognized noblemen and magnates of the two Provinces—Bengal and the North West—were invited, and those who could not attend, had sent their representatives. To accommodate and entertain such a number of people from the highest in rank to the lowest grasscut and also such a number of animals for a number of days, was not a light affair. Thanks to the resources of the Dumraon Raj and the foresight and energy of its Dewan, the commissariat arrangements were complete and exhaustless.

All the European gentlemen both at the headquarters as well as those remaining in the interior were invited by the Maharaja on this occasion, and a great many of them responded to the request, and coming here, enjoyed themselves for a week at the Maharaja's Garden House which goes by the name of Bhojepoor House, about 2 miles from the town and situated on the bank of the Bhojepore Jheel. Bonsard from Calcutta was appointed as their caterer. This House usually so secluded rung on this occasion with merriment and gaiety for days together, while horses ready saddled or harnessed waiting at all hours, champing their bits, and domestics in splendid liveries often flitted across the verandahs and corridors. Every evening during dinner the band of the 2nd Queen's Regiment played.

The day following the arrival of the two special trains mentioned above, was the grandest of the week. It was the day of marriage. From an early hour the whole town and its suburbs were crowded with men. It is difficult to fix the exact number which is variously estimated. The general impression is that it amounted to millions. In the morning, His Highness the Dumraon Maharaja visited the Rewa camp, to enquire after the health and comforts of his son-in-law, his relatives, friends and courtiers. The pomp of the Rewa court is still very great. Certainly, the Rewa people appear to be more racy and showy in their exterior aspect than the people of Behar. Many of their Reises put on Punjabee pugree and the colour of their tunic was saffron. They are conservative to the backbone. They preserve among them in all details of life the dividing spirit of the ancient Hindoo régime. They are all draped professionally, each man's dress proclaiming his calling. The gradations and subordinations of life are strictly kept up. Among such a people, etiquette forms a chief part of their accomplishments and duty. It is not an easy training as one would suppose. A man is required to acquire a certain ease of manner, which joined to a keen perception as to points of etiquette, enables him to go through all receptions in a correct form. It will not do to be equally civil to every one, irrespective of age, caste and rank. It was requisite to pay to each the exact amount of respect and attention that etiquette demands. To deal with such a people in such a way as not to give offence, is no light task, but the Maharaja of Dumraon and his Dewan have succeeded in winning general approbation.

At 4 o'clock p. m. on the 22nd, the marriage procession began to form. It started from the garden House at 5 p. m. Just at the firing of a gun. It extended over a mile and half. There were immense numbers of elephants and horses. Three deep columns of infantry 6 men abreast formed part of the procession.

The procession was a long and gorgeous one.

After the marriage there was a succession of amusements in the shape of dinners, nautches, reviews, durbars and fireworks extending over three days. It was only yesterday that the horizon was cleared. The Maharaja of Rewa and his suite have gone back.

The bridegroom is 15 years and 6 months old—very handsome and sprightly. A ray of intelligence shines about his face. He is said to excel in athletic exercises. The Maharaja of Dumraon has at last attained the acme of his ambition by forming an alliance with this House and securing such a handsome lad for a son-in-law. He, in an open Durbar, expressed his fortune and attributed it solely to the exertion and tact of his able Dewan. Indeed, Dewan Jai Prokash has scored a triumph for his master in securing this prize in hot competition with some of the first class ruling Houses of Rajputana.

MOORSHEDABAD.

Moorshedabad, the 26th February, 1892.

City Moorshedabad was overcast by a sudden gloom caused by the deeply lamented death of Nawab Shahun-Nisa Begum Sahiba, one of the four wedded consorts and the most pet wife of the late but last Nawab Nazim of Bengal, Syed Mansoor Ali Khan Bahadur Faridoon Jah Nusrut Jung. She breathed her last at quarter past 2 P. M., on the 16th ultimo, at the age of 61. The Nawab Sahiba had been suffering from pulmonary consumption (phthisis) for over 17 years and been treated by the best Unani as well as English physicians and though she showed, from time to time, signs of apparent recovery in her health, yet notwithstanding all that medicine could do to her, she succumbed to the fell disease. God grant her soul rest and peace! The generous lady's death has shrouded in gloom the Kila-i-Nizamut, where she resided, with her long train of attendants and followers, male and female. She was in the enjoyment of an annual political pension of over Rs. 37,000 from Government, and possessed a very liberal heart in the scraglio of the late Nazim Faridoon Jah. Her loss is almost of a public calamity, being already felt by the residents of the city in general, over and above her dear and near relatives. It is a serious loss to the community at large. There are few ladies of rank left behind of her public spirit and wide sympathies in Bengal. She had many virtues besides her well known public and private charities. She possessed all the generous and amiable qualities which adorn a lady of high birth and elevated position and which made her name a household word in every family of the city and the district. Strictly pious and devout, she kept up the memory of her august consort till her final end. With a political pension of Rs. 3,000 and odd a month, she maintained a very large establishment of her own. Her generosity and charity were so great, extensive and varied, that it is believed she leaves nothing of the wealth behind her. She always contributed her mite in alleviating the sufferings of the poor and the helpless. She leaves behind her an only son and heir Nawab Wala Qadar Husain Ali Mirza Bahadur, an amiable and intelligent prince.

It is a matter of great regret that the Lalbagh Sub-division will be abolished from the first of April next, and that the Munsiff's Court at Lalbagh will be removed to Jeagunj very soon, to the great disadvantage of the inhabitants of the city.

MONGHYR.

Jamalpur, 27th February, 1892.

The well-known Brahmo Missionary Baboo Protap Chunder Mozoomdar, has been at Monghyr for the last two days on a missionary tour. At Jamalpur, on the 25th instant, he delivered a lecture in the Mechanics' Institute Hall. He began with drawing notice to a famous incident recorded in the Christian Scriptures. When Jesus Christ was brought before Pontius Pilate, the Governor of Judea asked him what the accusation was against him and, on receiving Christ's reply that the complaint was that he bore witness to the truth, Pilate jestingly demanded "What is truth?" and immediately turned his back and left the room, without waiting for an answer.

The point of the lecture was directed against religious indifference, which seems to be just now greatly on the spread. As the lecturer remarked, there were jesting Pilates all over the world and that the spread of education and Western ideas did not appear to afford a safe-guard against the evil. There were jesting Pilates in all religious classes and creeds and the cause and secret of it all was a desire to please the senses--the advancement of the exterior at the sacrifice and expense of the interior or the inner self, which was allowed to have as it were a vegetable existence, such as a carrot or a turnip. The lecturer, in the course of a touching address in which, however, he did not mince matters and spared none of the wrong-doers of any religious denominations, class or creed, whether Christian, Hindoo, Mahomedan or of any other denomination, referred to the total extinction of Buddhism in India, a religion which at one time dominated the length and breadth of India, and he prophesied that if the spread of education had a tendency to make men irreligious, sooner or later, a time would come when education would be swept away from off the face of the earth and religion assert itself triumphantly. In an impassioned appeal and exhortation to his audience to try and lead a moral, holy and godly life, he warned them against the allurements of the three W's--Wealth, Wine and Woman, by none of which they should allow themselves to be enslaved. Towards the conclusion of his lecture, he related the history of Sakhya Mooni and said that, although he did not advise every man to follow his foot-steps and become a religious mendicant and betake himself to the jungles, he would exhort them all to give less attention to the exterior than to the inner self and strive to lead godly lives and not to stifle the instinctive craving and hunger of the heart or soul after God, which at some time or other comes to every man, no matter what his ideas and conceptions of religion may be. He asked each one of his audience to try the effect of prayer and

if there is any place in Jamalpur where people meet together to worship God, to go there. The Baboo then asked God's blessings on his audience. There were about 300 people, including several European ladies and gentlemen, who were very well pleased with the lecture and admitted that it was very impressive.

A case of misappropriation of Municipal Fund has recently occurred in the local Municipality. It is alleged that the Moonsee or 2nd clerk is implicated in the matter, against whom a warrant has already been issued.

The dread Influenza has made its appearance both here and at Monghyr. Two cases have proved fatal in one Bengallee and one up-country man at Monghyr and Jamalpur respectively. The other cases are rather of a mild type.

The prices of food grains have considerably risen and shew a tendency to farther rise.

SIR CHARLES ELLIOTT AND THE PURI MUNICIPALITY.

During his recent tour in Orissa, the Lieutenant-Governor visited Puri. After riding round the great temple of Juggannath and being shewn samples of the mahaprasad, or holy food, his Honor went to the Municipal Office to receive the following address:--

"We, the Municipal Commissioners of the town of Puri, beg to approach your Honor with this address of welcome on this your first visit to our town. In a place like Puri, which is one of the important centres of Hinduism, our civic functions are of a trying and intricate character; and however measures of sanitation may commend themselves to our judgment as just and proper, it is extremely difficult to carry them out in view of the religious feelings and sentiments of the people, which frequently constitute an obstruction in the path of sanitary reform. We have not, however, been remiss in the discharge of our trust, as the mortuary statistics of the town will bear out. We regret we have not been able to take up the cleaning of the Setgunga tank for want of funds.

"It is notorious that, owing to the influx of pilgrims all the year round, the conservancy and latrine arrangements swallow up a considerable portion of our revenue. The present contribution from the Lodging House Fund is by far too inadequate to afford sufficient help to the Municipality. The maintenance of the Pilgrim Hospital is a heavy charge upon our resources. The increase of the contribution from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 6,000, supplemented by a grant of Rs. 2,000 by the District Board, as recommended by the Sanitary Commissioner, is eagerly excepted by us to improve the health of this large town. The drainage work undertaken by our predecessors in office, without having previously obtained a loan from Government, is a further drag on our resources. It is a misfortune that the recent cyclone has affected our income by damaging and destroying municipal and rate-payers' property, and thereby throwing additional burdens on us.

"In conclusion, we humbly thank your Honor for the trouble your Honor has taken in paying us this visit; and we sincerely pray that Providence will vouchsafe to your Honor and your Honor's family long life and prosperity, and render the whole term of your Honor's rule an epoch of continued progress of the people placed under your Honor's care."

Replying to the above, his Honor said:--

"I have to thank you for the address of welcome you have just read, and for the kind terms in which you have greeted me on my arrival in this place. I must, however, confess to a feeling of regret that the terms in which I am about to reply are not of such a kind as one likes to employ on an occasion like the present, when the Municipal Commissioners are assembled to meet their Lieutenant-Governor, when they ordinarily have a report of good work and progress to present, and when it is the natural result of such a meeting that all should afterwards separate with an increased regard for each other. The present, however, is an occasion on which, while wishing to treat you with the utmost courtesy, I should be failing in my duty, both to Government and to yourselves, were I not to explain in what way you have omitted to carry out your duties, and to point out to you your shortcomings. I fully appreciate what you have said as regards the unusual difficulties with which you have to contend, and I admit that it must be often hard to carry out certain works in such a manner as not to offend the religious prejudices or principles of the people whom you represent. It would neither be right for you to offend those prejudices, nor for the Government even to ask you to do so, but there are many matters connected with good administration and sanitation, into which the question of religious prejudice does not in any way enter, and I would invite you to take much more active steps in these matters than you have hitherto been in the habit of doing. In the first place, you put forward the plea of poverty as an excuse for the present state of affairs, and say that, when the Lodging House Fund raises its contribution from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 6,000 supplemented by a possible grant of Rs. 2,000 from the District Board, you hope to be able to carry out great improvements; but I wish to draw your particular attention to the present amount of income which is already yours, and which you do not even take the trouble to collect. During the three-

quarters which have elapsed of the year 1891, the demand on account of latrine-tax, house-tax and land rent amounted to the sum of Rs. 28,000, but you only collected Rs. 14,500, or very little over half the amount due to you. Now, what is the use of your talking of the works you are going to do with an increased grant of Rs. 4,000 from other sources when you do not take the trouble to collect Rs. 13,500 of the funds to which you are already entitled? These remarks refer to the income which you are entitled to collect. But that income ought to be increased. The present assessment of the town was settled in 1888, and in the year 1891 the time came round for a new assessment, when, very correctly, you divided up the town into different portions, and allotted one to every two Commissioners, telling them to draw out lists of houses and to visit and assess them according to their true value. But having done this, you did no more; the work was never carried out, and I am told that up to the present day not one single Commissioner has even given in his record of reassessment.

Regarding the expenditure of the funds you have actually received, I do not feel called on to make very unfavourable remarks on the manner of its distribution. On education, however, I find you spend almost nothing; nothing is done for vaccination, and for registration but very little. Your funds are limited, it is true, and I admit that the conservancy and cleaning of the roads necessitated by the great traffic caused by pilgrimages require an unusually large part of your available means; but it is necessary to point out to you how serious the results of these limitations are. You have hitherto only afforded a little aid to one Middle Vernacular School and one Girls' School, and you have recently promised the Magistrate to open some Primary Schools. What I would urge upon you is, that sufficient opportunities for primary education should be afforded for all boys of a school-going age, to enable them to receive sufficient education to hold their own in competition with the boys of other parts of Bengal. It seems to be a freely admitted fact among you all, that Orissa is very backward in the matter of education, and yet you have hitherto done almost nothing towards affording your boys improved facilities for acquiring education. Personally, I should be very glad to find every office in Orissa filled with Uriya officials, and I am sure that Mr. Toynbee, the Commissioner, agrees with me; but, of course, Government are bound to accept the best candidate they can get. If a Bengali and an Uriya candidate of exactly equal qualifications come forward, there is no doubt but that the latter will be taken; but if the Bengali shows decided superiority, then, of course, Government is bound to accept him. I wish you, therefore, to very seriously consider this question of providing larger means of education.

I have been speaking so far of the amount of money which you have spent; but now I would like just to look into the question whether it is well and judiciously spent. About 48 per cent. of your funds have been laid out on conservancy and road cleaning; but has all that might have been done with this money been actually done? Going through your town yesterday and to-day, I have found that most houses have cesspools which open on and discharge into the street. Such a filthy state of things I have seen in no other town in Bengal, and it is very certain there can be no possible offence to religious principles in altering this. The conservancy arrangements are at present of the poorest and most offensive type, and the cesspools could be easily arranged to discharge their contents into reservoirs at the back of the houses instead of on to the street front. Most of your houses seem to be well and strongly built, standing on well-raised stone plinths, and you have therefore every element for a good drainage system, and yet the present state of things exists. I do not think the cost of these charges ought to fall upon the Municipality, but they ought to be carried out at the expense of the owners of the houses. Then, again, the state of the public burial-ground for paupers has been described as horrible. Your Magistrate, Mr. Allen, very rightly recommended you to build a burning place, and you erected a good *chabutra* with surrounding walls for cremation; but immediately the Magistrate went away on leave and turned his back, you turned yours also, and permitted the *chabutra* to fall into disuse and disrepair. Now this sort of conduct is neither creditable to you nor to that system of Local Self-Government which has, perhaps, the reputation of being more flourishing and better appreciated in Bengal than in any other part of India. The next question is that of the four great sacred tanks in the town. Some of them are very fine, but at the same time the water in them must be very unwholesome, and there can be very little doubt but that they are a great source of disease among the large number of pilgrims who come to them. It is very certain that something must be done to cleanse these large sacred tanks. The tank, which is the most sacred of all, called the Setgunga tank, is in the very midst of your houses, and as it is very deep and the water level is very low, it is therefore very foul, indeed; and yet the Municipal Commissioners do not seem even to have thought out any plan for cleaning it. Recently, during a visit to Gya, I came across just such another deep and foul tank surrounded by houses, but immediately it was pointed out to him, the mohant at once promised to have it dewatered and cleaned out, and made no difficulty

about the matter. Surely what was possible in Gya must be equally so here. It would be very gratifying, therefore, to hear that some wealthy mohant or other gentleman had come forward and undertaken to do the work. If, however, this should not happen, the Municipality must do it themselves, and if they raise objections to the work, then Government must enforce it. It seems to me that the best and only method of cleansing and keeping the tank clear will be to put in some sort of pucca flooring, and to repair the masonry sides, so as to prevent any drainage entering the tank, and to have the water changed at least once a year.

And now, gentlemen, having drawn your attention to these matters, I must tell you that I have been very seriously considering what steps it will be necessary for the Government to take. The one course open under the present Municipal Act is to issue an order, under Section 64, and if it is not obeyed, then under Sections 65 and 66 to suspend the Municipality; but this would have entailed great discredit on all concerned, and undoubtedly the vernacular papers would have taken up the subject and pointed at Puri the finger of scorn. But another course will very shortly be open, for in an amended Municipal Bill, which is now being considered, there is a proposal that Government should have power to put a Municipality into schedule 2. There are already some Municipalities under this schedule, but by some unfortunate oversight such a rule as is now being proposed was omitted in the original Act. I am anxious specially to draw your attention to this amending Bill, because I see that an agitation is being got up against it, and people are saying that I am aiming a blow at Local Self-Government, and instituting a retrograde measure. This is a complete mistake, and the working of the Municipal law in Puri is a good example of the benefit which my proposed amendment will do. Instead of passing an order which will convey a direct and severe censure, a milder policy will be open. When this amendment has been passed, Government will have the power to order any Municipality to be placed in the second schedule, and will then be able to order the Chairman to be a Government official, and to see that work is properly carried out. It would, however, be pleasanter and more satisfactory if you yourselves were to move in this direction, and ask your present Chairman to resign, and take care to appoint in his place an official who is trained in sanitary matters, and is strong enough to not only give the necessary orders, but to see also that they are efficiently carried out. Such an official will be found in your Civil Surgeon, who is naturally designated as the most suitable Chairman of such a Municipality as this. I have no present intention of putting the power vested in Government under the old Act into force, by suspending the Municipality, but as soon as the new Act has been passed, I mean to appoint an official Chairman; but if you choose to do so, you have the power to forestall my intention in the manner I have just suggested.

Before closing this reply, I wish to refer to another subject. There is sitting in Calcutta at the present time a voluntary Committee to take measures on behalf of the sanitation of Puri, and the town owes a great debt of gratitude to its members, and especially to Babu Jadu Lal Mullick, and Babu Raj Kumar Sarbadhikari the Secretary, for all the trouble they have taken for the improvement of this place. I think, however, the Committee are somewhat mistaken in attributing to the water supply the cause of so much illness and suffering among the pilgrims. There is no dearth of wells containing good water in the town from which the residents obtain their supplies, and from which pilgrims also could get theirs, and if the residents do not suffer from the water, it cannot surely be said that the well water is the cause of disease among the pilgrims. There must, therefore, be some special cause affecting the pilgrims alone, as the Magistrate, Mr. Allen, has very justly remarked, and this cause no doubt is the insanitary habits of the pilgrims, and their custom of drinking the polluted waters of the sacred tanks in which diseased people bathe as freely as any others. No doubt, too, many of the pilgrims arrive from long distances, feeble and exhausted, and therefore more susceptible to disease. Mr. Allen has in a praiseworthy manner been devoting himself to the general welfare of these travellers before even they reach Puri, and has been endeavouring to lessen the hardships of the road by establishing and improving chattras, by erecting hospitals, and appointing health officers and special native doctors at the season the pilgrims are most numerous. The other probable cause of disease remains, and it is my intention to have a proper analysis made of the water in each of these large tanks, and also of the water from three or four of the most used wells. If the well water is found, as we believe, to be good, then the question must be considered as to whether there are sufficient wells, and if not, then more must be constructed. If the tank water is as bad as I conceive, every nerve must be strained to purify it, and keep it clean, and in these combined ways, by looking after the health of the pilgrims on the road to and from Puri, by protecting and increasing the supply of well water, and by turning the tanks from receptacles of liquid sewage to reservoirs of fair wholesome water, I trust we may succeed in lessening the terrible mortality among the unfortunate pilgrims, and effacing the stigma which now attaches to this place.

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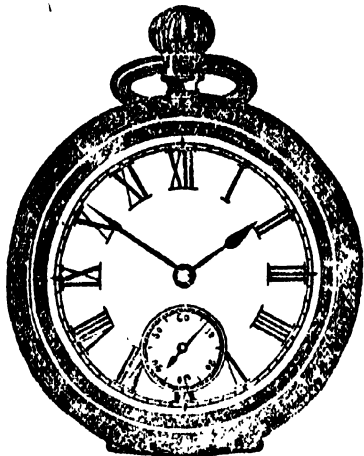
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Babu Akkaya Chandra Sarkar, Poet and Publicist,
Babu Ramanath Ghosh, of Pathuriaghata,
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Babu Kisori Lal Goswami, M.A., B.L., Zemindar, Srirampur,
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Babu Jagannathan Bhattacharyya, Deputy Magistrate, Burdwan,
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BOMBAY.

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(PRINCE AND PEASANT)

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Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1892.

No. 515

BENGAL'S NIGHTMARE.

IN the beginning when the earth was void,
And Nature bore the pall of endless night,
And on the waters Brahma mov'd alone;
God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

But times are chang'd,—our mortal gods are grown
Severer, grimmer, if not wiser all;
Lord Vilyet said, Let all be black; and all
Was black,—*cutchery*—counter—durbar hall.

The Lord of heav'n is serv'd by saints in white,
But the old order giveth place to new;
And men may murmur, men may fret and fume,
All must be black—that's English plain for you.

Lucifer's mask! Saturnian badge of woe!
Of old despis'd in India's sun-bright shore!
O negro outcast of all hues divine!
Thou count'st with vulgar triumph to the fore!

But yesterday yon lordly mansion teen'd
With visitors of high and low degree;
The scene, though festal, yet a grave-yard seem'd,
For all were clad in fun'ral drapery.

Each at his neighbour look'd with eyes aghast,
Common the colour,—common was the pain;
Save one old jester who enjoy'd the fun,
All suffer'd from a black-oppressed brain.

Black, black above—below! black, black around!
And not a bit of linen bright was there!
A darkling stream of black flow'd in and out!
Good Heaven! save us from this black despair.

An *Apka-wasté* with a tail I met—
Perpetual *Omedwar* for honor,—place:
O horror! with his limbs encas'd in black,
He look'd a very ghost in garb and face!

O *Apka-wasté*! *Apka-wasté*! poor
Light-headed loon! what is it ails thee, man?
With tear-drops streaming down his sunken cheeks,
He pointed to his—*chogu* and *chapcân*.

O *Apka-wasté*! *Apka-wasté*! poor
Light-headed loon! go, burn thy livery!
"Alas! I can't; I wait upon the great,—
Their smiles and spurns are meat and drink to me.

"Yet, sooth to say, I can endure no more
This black, which sore offends my taste and pride;
It haunts my waking thoughts—my nightly dreams:
My only hope now lies in suicide."

I ask'd a patriotic orator,
An editor, and then a saintly *Bhai*—
What made *them* wear the regulation suit,
Shocking alike to cultur'd taste and eye?

And the three with one voice made answer quick:
"Place hath its charms,—and birth-day honors too;
'Tis something to have both—but chief a tail,
To lend just weight to all we say and do!

"Yet, sooth to say, we can endure no more
This horrid black, which is Kal Bhairav's own;
It haunts our waking thoughts—our nightly dreams,
And soon, we fear, our callings will be gone!"

Is this a *choga* black I see before
Me, with the sleeves all dangling tow'rd my hand?
Come, let me wear thee. O Vishnu! Vishnu!
That hid'ous nightmare maddens all the land!

City of Blacknesses! farewell! farewell!
I go where no sartorial censor dwells:
Who knows but motley yet may be thy wear,
With peak'd cap and little tinkling bells!

RAM SHARMA.

NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THE gathering of all nations at the Chicago Exhibition, next year, will be taken advantage of to hold a Congress of the Creeds.

CAN it be that

"In the Japanese language there is no imperative mood, no form of oath, no form of abuse. The worst name you can call a man is 'fellow,' and when you wish to express great indignation you shout 'There! There!'"

Heavenly people!

THE ladies have been avenged:—

"Prof. Dr. Bishoff of Munich always maintained the mental inferiority of women over against men on the ground of a man's brain being 1,350 grams and that of woman's only 1,250; after his death the postmortem examination elicited the interesting fact that his own brain weighed only 1,245 grams!"

Holloway's Pills are admirably adapted for the cure of diseases incidental to females. At different periods of life women are subject to complaints which require a peculiar medicine, and it is now an indisputable fact that there is none so suitable for such complaints as *Holloway's Pills*. They are invaluable to females of all ages young or old, married or single. They purify the blood, regulate the secretions, correct all suspended functions, give tone to the stomach, and clear the complexion. The first approach of disordered action should be met with appropriate doses of these Pills; whilst taking them no restriction need be placed over the patient. They contain nothing which can possibly prove injurious to the system. They act by purifying the blood and regulating every organ.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

THE Abyssinian King Theodore's son, who has hitherto been a wild scamp often brought up before the magistracy on charges of assault and battery and other forms of violence, is, at last, on the road to improvement, let us hope. He is now going in for religion. At any rate, he has formed a permanent alliance within the pale of Orthodoxy, having wedded the daughter of an English minister of the Church.

THE most interesting tribute to the memory of the late Pandit Ajoodhianath has been paid by Mr. Justice Knox of Allahabad. He sent a wreath to be placed on the funeral pyre. Such avowal by an Englishman of friendship for an Indian, is rare indeed. It is said that a similar honor was done to Wasudeo Balwant Phadke, the "Dacoit" of the Deccan, by an English lady. It will be remembered how, after a long and arduous trial, Phadke was transported for life and removed to Aden, instead of the Andaman Islands. The occasion of his departure brought a great crowd of people to the Poona railway station to see the convict off. In the midst of the noise and confusion of the affecting leave-taking, an English lady stepped forth and put a wreath round Mr. Phadke's neck and shook hands with him saying, "you are truly born."

NAWAB Abdool Luteef Bahadar has received the following letter :—
"Government House, Portsmouth.

February 12, 1892.

My dear Nawab,

I am desired by H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th ultimo offering your condolence to H. R. H. and all the members of the Royal Family in their great grief, for which H. R. H. is deeply grateful.

H. R. H. wishes to offer his best thanks to all the members of the Mahomedan Literary Society, through you, for their kind and loyal expressions of sorrow and condolence.

The loyal feelings of sympathy expressed by all races and classes in India tend to soften the terrible blow.

Believe me, yours truly,
C. ROSDEW BURN, *Capt.*,
A. D. C. in waiting."

It will be remarked that His Royal Highness does not speak in his individual character but as a representative of his family, and thanks not the Nawab only but all the members of the Mahomedan Literary Society.

THIS is how the Emperor of Germany has offended the Court of England and shocked the respectability of Europe :—

"The Emperor received an intimation that the Duke of Clarence was in a practically hopeless state while he was shooting at Buckeburg. His Majesty, however, proceeded with his sport, and even on the following morning, when he received a telegram from Berlin conveying the news of the Duke's death, he did not return to his capital, but had another day's shooting, and he did not reach Berlin until the afternoon of Friday, the 15th. Then, instead of driving direct to the palace of the Empress Frederick, the Emperor went home, and twenty-four hours elapsed before he visited his mother, while he did not present himself at the British Embassy until Sunday afternoon. Then a Court mourning of only ten days was commanded by the Emperor instead of three weeks, as had been expected. It was observed, moreover, that the flag at the Schloss was not lowered to half-mast, and when his cousin was being buried, the Emperor, instead of attending the memorial service at Berlin, in accordance with his mother's earnest request, was holding an inspection of recruits at Kiel, a function which could perfectly well have been postponed. Lastly, the Emperor, apparently out of pure 'cussedness,' would not allow his brother Prince Henry to come to England to attend the funeral, although his presence at the ceremony was particularly desired by the Empress Frederick and by the Queen and Royal Family, and H. R. H. was himself anxious to attend."

So writes the *World*. The young gentleman in imperial purple has gratuitously added an ingredient of peculiar bitterness to the cup of sorrow of our sovereign.

THE following from a letter of the London correspondent of the *Manchester Courier*, is going the round :—

"One very touching exemplification of the extremely affectionate nature of the late Duke of Clarence was his desire to see his old valet, Mr. Fuller. This gentleman had been with him right from boyhood. He went with him on all his travels, and shared all his adventures, and, in fact, was treated by the Duke rather as an intimate friend than as a servant. The Duke was very eager to see his old friend, and when he expressed his desire, Mr. Fuller, who was at St. James's Palace, engaged in the Duke's apartments, was telegraphed for, and immediately hurried to Sandringham. The Duke was unconscious at the time, but in a fitful gleam of returning sensibility, he recognised

his old valet, and, only able to articulate very indistinctly, whispered his pleasure, and warmly grasped his hand. Though the official account does not say so, yet Mr. Fuller was allowed to remain in the death-chamber to the last."

That was very good of the dear boy, and it will stand him in good stead in the court to which he has gone—better than many an ostentatious act of goodness. One thing in that account puzzles us. Is Fuller—we beg his pardon, Mr. Fuller, a gentleman? Is the menial service of the Palace performed by gentlemen? There are noble Ladies of the Bedchamber, we read. Are the offices of footmen and valets held by gentle folk?

THE stronger sex is the weaker sex, after all. The writer of "The Old Saloon" in Blackwood, points out that it is men who break down from over work, not women. Thus the collapse of M. de Maupassant is attributed to the number of volumes written by him during the last twelve years. Yet Miss Braddon or Miss Oliphant has written more books without any signs of collapse. They go on serenely with a smile piling up volume on volume. This was the case with George Sand too. For strength and endurance the Mussets and Chopins and Flauberts were pigmies before the brilliant and volatile but energetic and ever-active Madame Dudevant.

A WOMAN, named Jane Rowe, of Marazion, in Cornwall, had been for several years troubled with a live lizard in her body. She had been suffering much from violent pains in the stomach, which nothing could remove. Recently, after taking some medicine, she vomited and threw out to her relief and amazement a living lizard from four to five inches long.

INAUDI is a strange calculating human machine. On February 13, in the Sorbonne, at Paris, before an audience of professors and pupils of all the Lycées, he worked out in no time abstruse arithmetical problems. He never faltered and effected multiplications and divisions of sums containing twenty-four figures and extracted square and cube roots with seventeen decimal places. While so quick in arithmetic, he reads and writes but indifferently well, and cannot commit to memory the shortest extract from a literary work.

A CENTENARIAN has just passed away at Brightlingsea, in the person of Thomas Wilshire Summerson. He was born at Colchester on November 20, 1791, and celebrated his one hundredth birthday last November. The death was the result of an accidental fall.

ONE older than Summerson, and of the opposite sex—the oldest woman in Vienna—just dead—Margaret Giesching, was 117 years of age.

A FRENCH Doctor—Constantin Paul—has a cure for neurasthenia, or that state of the nervous system which deprives the muscles of contractibility. The remedy consists of the subcutaneous injection of a solution of the grey matter of a sheep's brain sterilized and thrown into the blood by means of an Arsonval apparatus. The dose is 5 cubic centimetres. The Doctor made several experiments, and in no case was there a reaction. The first injection made the patients lively and, after a series, the muscular strength returned and the paralysed were able to walk.

THE enquiry, under Act XXXVII of 1850, into the charges against Mr. P. C. Wheeler, C.S., has closed. The Commission intimated its intention of submitting the report to Government as early as possible this week. The public must wait for the result till the Government have considered the report.

THE great American lexicon of the English language, which, under the name of the "Century Dictionary," was begun in 1881, is now complete, in six volumes, the last having just been issued. The great Transatlantic Sanskritist and linguist, Professor Whitney, of Yale University, has been the Editor-in-Chief. It is a gigantic work, consisting of 7,046 large quarto pages, and containing 500,000 definitions of over 215,000 words, 50,000 defined phrases, 300,000 illustrative quotations and 8,000 cuts. It claims to be the greatest American publishing enterprise. Over 750,000 dollars, in cash, has been spent on it, and its total cost, including interest on the money invested, has been \$1,000,000. They have already sold 15,000 copies.

THE Sessions Judge of Cuttack sentenced, on admission of guilt, Kadumba Strila, a girl of sixteen or seventeen years of age, to death, for murder of a boy of eight years of age, for the sake of his ornaments. The High Court—Messrs. Justices Norris and Beverley—confirmed the conviction but reduced the sentence to transportation for life. The Judges remarked:—

"We have carefully examined the evidence recorded by the Sessions Judge and by the committing Magistrate, and we are of opinion that it fully bears out the plea of guilty. It only remains for us therefore to consider the question of sentence. We quite agree with the Sessions Judge that the murder of children for the sake of ornaments they may happen to be wearing is one of the worst forms of murder, and in ordinary cases we should have no hesitation in confirming the sentence of death imposed in such cases. In the present case, moreover, we can find no mitigating circumstance whatever so far as regards the offence itself. The accused, though young, seems to have been fully aware of the nature and the consequences of the act she committed. She seems to have taken the child away with her for the purpose of killing him. She killed him in broad daylight, and she proceeded to secrete his body in a tank. At the same time, we cannot blind ourselves to the fact that she is little more than a child herself, and that from the time when she was taxed with the crime she has admitted her guilt, and therefore thrown herself upon the mercy of the Court. We think we may accept this as evidence of genuine sorrow for the crime committed, and we think we may fairly take such sorrow into consideration. In this view we do not think that the end of justice requires the infliction of the extreme penalty of the law, and we accordingly set aside the sentence of death, and in lieu thereof sentence the accused, Kadumba Strila, to transportation for life."

NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE Prince and Princess of Wales with Prince George started on the 9th for Mentone. They all needed change of scene.

In preëssing the Army Estimates in the House of Commons, Mr. Stanhope explained

"That the British Army in India and in the Colonies was in a thoroughly efficient condition, and was the largest force that had been available, since the Peninsular War. He was, he said, willing to consider the advice given in the report of the Wantage Committee, without depleting the Reserve or introducing an extensive pension system. The strength of the Reserve would, he said, reach 80,000 in April, 1893. Referring to the defences at home and abroad, he said that a vast improvement had taken place, and plans had been arranged for the proper defence of London. Mr. Stanhope dwelt on the success of the Lee-Mitford rifle and the use of smokeless powder, and referred to the improved barrack accommodation which had lately been provided. He hoped to be able shortly to provide soldiers with free kit."

The Naval expenditure for 1892-93 has been fixed at £14,250,000.

THE Jury have found Mrs. Osborne guilty of perjury, and she has been sentenced to nine months' imprisonment with such labor as her present delicate health would bear. An exemplification of the Bengali proverb, the mother gets the benefit of the child—to be.

MR. Hastings, M. P., has been found guilty and sentenced to five years' penal servitude.

THE Currency Commissions at Vienna and Pesth have declared for a gold standard and against bimetallicism. The Madrid merchants, following their decision, have asked the Spanish Premier for coinage of gold and non-coinage of silver.

DURING the debate on the Indian Councils Bill in the House of Lords, the Premier made a most important statement.

"Lord Salisbury said he would be sorry that it should be believed that Government looked upon such representation as being confined to municipal bodies. He must demur to the idea. They were necessarily the main bodies in India to which this additional representation should be given. Care must be taken lest by the application of occidental machinery there was brought in not the strong and effective elements of Indian society, but the artificial influence of the weakly elements. It would be a great evil if the really strong portion of Indian Society under any system of Government did not retain that share of government to which their natural position among the people traditionally entitled them."

That, we confess, is reassuring. Such a reform in the constitution as this Bill essays, however necessary, is, in the present circumstances

of the country, obviously a step forward, if not a leap, in the dark. There is no knowing to a certainty where you may be landed. It is something, therefore, to know from the present repository of power that the Ministry are alive to the situation. In Ireland, in connection with the Local Government Bill introduced last month, the Government are afraid of the minority being swamped in the elections from its operation. In India, there is reason to fear that, in the working of the Indian Councils Bill, the respectability of the country may be ignored. The Government feel this and they will take care to prevent such a calamitous absurdity.

ON the other Indian Bill—the Indian Officers' Bill, Lord Salisbury, speaking to the suggestion of Lord Lorthbrook for exemption of the Viceroy, said that

"he thought a considerable amount of difficulty might have been avoided when he was Secretary of State for India and Lord Northbrook Viceroy, and when there were considerable differences of opinion between them, if Lord Northbrook could have come home for consultation."

The Bill has been passed by the Lords.

ON the 18th February, Mr. Balfour introduced the Irish Local Government Bill. He said that the Bill would give to the cess-payers in Irish Counties and Baronies full power to manage their own affairs. The franchise would be the same as in England, but the Irish County Councils would have more extensive functions than the British ones. Mr. Balfour proceeded:—

"There are people who say that popularly elected bodies in Ireland, would be extravagant and corrupt, and would oppress the minority. Government was, therefore, determined to have a minority vote, and also other safeguards. Twenty cess-payers might apply to the Judge of Assize for leave to petition for the removal of a County Council on the ground of wilful and persistent disobedience of the law. If the petition was granted, the Council would be tried before two Election Judges and might be removed, a new Council being appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor."

Here the speaker was greeted by a storm of disapprobation. There were hooting, jeering, laughing from different parts of the House, with cries of "Keep your Bill to yourself" from the Irish members in special. After a brief pause, Mr. Balfour went on and concluded by saying:—

"I do not expect this bill will regenerate Ireland or settle the Irish questions, but after what we have done for England and Scotland it is a right which Irishmen may claim and will bring all classes together. Other measures I have introduced I consider more important, namely, the Crimes Bill, the Light Railway Bill, and the Land Purchase Bill."

THE Irish Bill seems a clever piece of work, which grants as much latitude as any wise ministry would give to the Irish in their present condition and attitude, with a few indispensable safeguards. But the very liberality of Government as it cuts the ground under faction, seems to have exasperated the Opposition. The Bill has been virulently attacked in the House and out of it. Mr. Morley anathematized the proposal as a monstrous imposture, and called upon the Government to commit suicide by instant dissolution. According to Mr. Redmond, the Bill was an insult to Ireland. Mr. McCarthy could only ask the House to "Reject the unclean thing." Sir William Harcourt called it simply rubbish.

IN the press, the *Times* says that, a few years ago the Irish Local Government Bill would have been regarded as extravagantly liberal and democratic. The *Daily Telegraph* describes in the Bill only the shadow, not the substance, of Home Rule, while the *Daily News* says that nothing more extraordinary has ever been submitted to the judgment of the House of Commons, and that not Mr. Balfour's very opponents ever imagined that he would have devised so thoroughly bad and hopeless a measure. Of course, in Ireland the anger is hotter, and the language more extravagant. The well-known Dublin paper, *Freeman's Journal*, says that the Bill may be briefly and compendiously described as Mr. Balfour's joke.

THE following telegram gives the latest news:—

"News from the Irrawaddy Column says that it left Sadon on the 26th ultimo for Namlikoo. On the Sansi road it attacked a village which was defended by 15 stockades and numerous pitfalls. The position was outflanked and the village burnt in the evening. The enemy's loss was six killed and many wounded; our loss was five men wounded. The stockades were composed of earthworks and circular redoubts, clearly showing Chinese assistance. The Column arrived at Sansi on

the frontier on the 28th at an altitude of 9,200 feet, overlooking the source of the Meungkhia, flowing down a valley about a mile long on the Chinese side. It reached Sadon again on the 18th instant. The North-Eastern Column left for Nkriaw on the 31d. General Stewart is expected at Sadon on the 9th."

THE Calcutta municipal elections, the second under Act II (B.C.) of 1888, come off on Tuesday next, the 15th instant. There are eighty-four candidates for the fifty Commissioners to be elected. Four of these have chosen two Wards each to ensure their return. Of the 25, 8 Wards, Nos. 5, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, are uncontested. In Ward 1, there are as many as eight candidates, in No. 23, six, five in each of the Wards 6, 21, and 24. In four Wards, four, or twice the required number, have come forward for the honor. In the remaining Wards, there is for each one in excess of the legal number. The superfluous number does not in every instance represent *bona fide* candidature. In some of the Wards, it has been adopted as an electioneering trick, to allow the real candidates more agents at the booths than the rules permit. Of the total number, broadly speaking, 59 are Hindus, 13 Christians and 12 Mahomedans. Most of the retiring Commissioners seek re-election.

The day will not be observed as a public holiday, as at previous elections, but the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to direct that all public offices under the Government of Bengal, which are situated within the limits of municipal Calcutta shall, as far as can be arranged without detriment to the public service, be closed at 2 P.M. on that date. The heads of departments have been requested that the necessary steps may be taken to give effect to this order in the case of all offices under them. It is hoped that the heads of those offices which it is thought inexpedient to close on the afternoon in question will make arrangements, so that every assistant under them may be able, if he wishes, to record his vote.

We give below the list of polling stations : -

Ward No. 1	Metropolitan Institution, Sham Bazar Street.
" 2	Normal School, Gour Laha's Street.
" 3	Keshub Academy, 65 Beadon Street.
" 4	Metropolitan Institution, Sunker Ghose's Lane.
" 6	Cowar Debendro Mullick's House, 20 Mooktaram Baboo's St.
" 7	58 Clive Street.
" 8	Seal's Free College, Halliday Street.
" 9	Sanskrit College.
" 10	Indian Association, 62 Bowbazar Street.
" 11	Government Aided A. V. School, 85 Bowbazar Street.
" 15	Municipal Office.
" 16	Ditto.
" 17	Ditto.
" 19	Entally Conservancy Depot, 13, Convent Road.
" 21	Ballygunge Bodyguard Lines, Store Road, in a tent.
" 23	Suburban Municipal Office, Alipore.
" 24	Mr. Lambert's House, 44, Ekbalpore Road.
" 25	Kidderpore Branch, Ripon College.

THE confessional is undoubtedly one of the peculiarities of the Romish Church which is specially viewed with angry jealousy and suspicion by opponents. It will startle and pain not a few Christians of other denominations when they learn, as they may now do, on the authority of a Protestant clergyman in a periodical called the *Newbury House Magazine*, that as many as twelve hundred clergymen of the Church of England hear confessions in private. This must be worse than the sartorial and other frippery of Ritualism. If this is true, we are afraid Protestantism in England is being thoroughly undermined.

We Pagans who go the whole length with the most protesting of Protestants in keeping our sins to ourselves, without surrendering ourselves into the hands of any mortal, have no acquaintance with this remarkable religious institution. The Roman Catholics who follow it, say that the practice of confessing has a most tranquilising and spiritualising effect. We can imagine this possible. But, then, prescribed religious exercises are apt to degenerate into mummeries from which the soul has vanished. That is probably the view of moderate Protestants. Protestant polemics are not content with that, however. They take serious exception to the practice as positively baleful. A single sentence from a well-known Protestant divine, Dr. Cumming, will show in what light it is held by Protestants :—

"Sigouri's work, recommended by Cardinal Wiseman, contains things connected with the confession of sins so horrible, so atrocious, so pestilential, so offensive to every sense of delicacy, and every feeling of religion, that their horribleness is their only and impensurable shelter. I dare not read them." *Cumming's Lectures*, p. 55.

THE Native Press in India has been accused of habitually drawing the long bow. But at their best, native journalists are indifferent hands before the artists of the European and American Press. What Hindu, Mahomedan or Parsee is capable of the delightful sea story told in some of the papers to hand by a recent London mail?—

"The whaling ship *Star of the East*, while seeking its prey off the Falkland Islands sighted a whale three miles off on the starboard quarter. Two boats were manned and eventually the monster was harpooned. He dragged the boat five miles away, and then with great consideration brought it back again. The men in the second boat then threw their harpoon, and after a frightful struggle the whale sank. The harpoon lines were still slack however, and when the men hauled them taut, the whale came again to the surface, lashed about furiously, and eventually upset one of the boats, and two of the men disappeared. Their bodies were sought without avail, and presently the whale—by this time dead—was towed to the ship and hauled aboard, and the men cut away at it with axes and spades to get at the fat. After working all day and part of the night they suspended operations till the next forenoon, and when they got to the stomach of the animal they were spell-bound to detect something moving inside it. It was, of course, one of the missing seamen, James Bartley by name and he was taken out, revived by copious douching with cold water, and after being confined a raving lunatic in the captain's cabin for a fortnight, he regained his senses, and was able to tell his Jonah-like experiences. He remembered, he said, 'the sensation of being lifted into the air by the nose of the whale and of falling into the water. Then there was a fearful rushing sound, which I believe to be the beating of the water by the whale's tail; then I was encompassed by fearful darkness, and felt myself slipping along a smooth passage of some sort that seemed to move and carry me forward. This sensation lasted but an instant, then I felt that I had more room. I felt about me and my hands came in contact with a yielding slimy substance that seemed to shrink from my touch.' It finally dawned upon him that he had been swallowed by the whale, and he was overcome with horror at the situation. He could breathe easily, but the heat was terrible. It was not of a scorching, stifling nature, but it seemed to open the pores of his skin and to draw out his vitality. He became very weak, and grew sick at the stomach. He knew that there was no hope of escape from his strange prison. Death stared him in the face, and he tried to look at it bravely; but the awful quiet, the fearful darkness, the horrible knowledge of his environments, and the terrible heat finally overcame him, and he must have fainted, for the next he remembered was being in the captain's cabin. The marks of his entombment he will carry with him to his dying day, for the action of the gastric juices in the whale's belly 'bleached his face and hands to a deathly whiteness, and the skin was wrinkled giving the man the appearance of having been parboiled.'"

That is an admirable account, betraying true genius, before which the monster-births which the vernacular papers of India deal in are child's play. An Edgar Allan Poe need not be ashamed to own the creation of this modern Jonah. Such is the *vraisemblance* of the narrative that we shall not be surprised if, in some grave religious circles, it be seriously adopted as a confirmation of Holy Writ. Were it not for the initial physical impracticability of any whale, however naughtily inclined, accomplishing the swallowing feat, the account has every chance of being accepted among the proofs of the recorded miracles.

A CHARACTERISTIC anecdote comes all the way from Morocco. It is one of the amusements of the ladies of the European society of the capital to visit the houses of the principal Moors or Mussulmans. At one of these meetings in the zenana, a beautiful young girl shrieked and fainted at seeing one of the visitors in the act of removing her glove. The young girl thought the Whitewoman was removing the whole skin of her hand. The sight of the operation gave her so much shock that she fell down, and it was some time before she regained consciousness. It would be curious to enquire into the *rationale* of the phenomenon. It is not to be supposed that the dark-eyed Peri imagined that the Nararene lady intended to commit suicide by flaying herself alive. Is it possible that the ignorant prisoner of the Harem believed the Giaour to be disburdening herself of her thick cuticle in order to ventilate and cool her inner man—her subcutaneous self? It is related of Sydney Smith that in an extraordinarily hot summer, the perspiring British wit talked of doffing his skin and sitting or lounging in his bones. The Europeans in the grilling atmosphere of Morocco might, in the same way, hanker after the enjoyment of an unencumbered anatomy.

NOTWITHSTANDING the molestation of the fanatics of the dominant creed, the little Mahomedan colony in Liverpool is slowly but surely gaining ground. They have already got a neat little mosque, and now contemplate founding a Muslim College, to be under the principalship of Professor Karl Falkner, of the Universities of Basle and Zurich. It is believed that there will be no insuperable difficulty in

raising the necessary funds. The world of Islam is vast in numbers and liberal by disposition. Given the required amount of intelligence, and it will readily maintain a worthy centre of influence and action in the heart of Europe. Already a great many Mahomedans in Turkey, India, Syria, Egypt and the British Colonies on the West Coast of Africa, are alive to the advantage of giving their children a good English education, but they are averse from sending them to Europe lest their young hopefuls should be made Giaours of. The College, which of course will adjoin the new mosque, will give just the required facilities for a Mahomedan education in arts and sciences and modern and ancient languages which the paterfamilias of Islam wants, or at least would prefer.—It is also intended to purchase land for a Moslem cemetery.

FOLLOWING upon our article last week on "The Sick Man," we have much pleasure to announce, on the authority of the *New Freie Presse*, that Turkey has been able to raise the effective strength of her army to a million men, of whom 700,000 would be available for service at any time anywhere. The difficulty now is to arm and equip them properly. Besides the Winchester central-fire carbine, there are three different systems of fire-arms in vogue in the Turkish army. These are

"500,000 Martini-Henry Rifles of an old system, 220,000 Mausers, and an order has been given for 280,000 Mannlichers to the German manufacturer, Loewe. As this difference of systems is naturally calculated to have serious consequences, it has been decided to reconstruct the Martini-Henry after the model of the new Mannlicher, so that there would be 780,000 rifles available for the troops of the line and reserves, while the stock of Mausers would be distributed to the Bashi-Bazuks and other irregular troops."

AMONG the distinguished visitors to Calcutta at the end of the present season, are Admiral Ahmad Ratib Pasha, A.D.C. to the Sultan of Turkey, and the Turkish Consul General of Bombay, who are on a tour throughout India. This is their first visit to the city of Palaces. They were entertained at dinner by Nawab Abdool Luteef Bahadur, at his residence, on Wednesday. Dinner was followed by *nautches* to which a very select number of Princes, noblemen and gentlemen of Calcutta were invited. The guests of the evening seemed evidently pleased with the party given in their honor, and admired the *nautches* which were quite novel to them.

SIR James Lyall has gone out and Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick has come in as Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab. The Maharajas of Cashmere and Patiala, the Nawab of Bahawalpore and the Rajas of Jhind, Nabha, Kapathala, Nahan, Faridkote and Chamba were at Lahore to bid farewell to the old and welcome the new Lieutenant-Governor. The members of the Punjab Commission entertained the retiring chief to a dinner. In replying to the toast of his health, Sir James said that "his time had been a time of quiet internal administration in the Punjab, and his successor, who he trusted would have less frontier troubles, would no doubt be able to do more in many ways than he himself had done, especially if finance continued to improve." Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick is sure to stamp his individuality on the administration.

SIR Charles Elliott is determined to push on the Cadastral Survey in Behar. The prayer that it be postponed on account of the threatened scarcity in Behar, has fallen flat on an unheeding ear. The local Government thinks the argument of scarcity is not valid, considering "that the cost of the traverse survey is all that will be incurred this survey year, and that it will not fall on the land." Besides, "it may be hoped that next season the crops will be good. The field survey will not begin till then."

The present survey is justified on the action of the late Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Stuart Bayley, Behar's own. In 1889, on the recommendation of that Lieutenant-Governor, the survey was postponed on the same grounds as now taken by the Behar people—to procure similar relief. The distant Secretary of State, in his sympathy for the poor people, went so far as to command that the harassing operation—the survey—was not to be commenced until "the people re-

covered from the loss caused by the scarcity." The pity of it is, however, that the Secretary of State further ordered that "your Government will arrange for the diligent prosecution of the undertaking as soon as the circumstances of the country permit."

The people of Behar now begin to feel the commencement of the specified loss. The shadow of Famine is already on the land. But that is not considered sufficient reason to stay the dear measure that has been determined upon. There is an appeal to the Viceroy who, we doubt not, will fully consider the matter. We trust His Excellency will rise to the height of the occasion and decide the question independently of bureaucratic influence. There is a peculiar heartlessness in forcing this costly fad at this moment.

It is announced that the Maharaja of Pathuriaghata, in discharge of filial obligations to his mother, will invest one lakh of rupees for the relief of poor Hindu widows. It will be a princely gift worthy of a man of the giver's fortune. Every credit ought to be given to the Maharaja. We are afraid his friends are spoiling the effect of the deed by their extravagance. Some of the Bengal papers are loud in their praise of the intended charity, as if no greater is in existence, or a larger or an equal sum was never paid over to Government for a benevolent undertaking. The Maharaja is exceptionally unfortunate in his court journal. The *Hindoo Patriot* sums up the charity of his life, thus:—

"This is not the only act of charity in which the Maharaja Bahadur has risen above sectarian prejudices. Upwards of one hundred poor men and women are fed at his house every day without the slightest observance of caste distinctions. Not less than four thousand Rupees are paid by him every month in pensions and allowances to deserving men of all classes—to men of broken fortunes, to poor descendants of ancient families, to struggling men of ability and education, and to Professors of Sanskrit learning, the guardians of our ancient lore."

The Maharaja has need to be indifferent to caste, and the *Patriot* to deal in vague generalities. The journal would have acted a truly friendly part to the Raja if it had spared him the fierce light of public gaze into his private accounts. But what shall we say of the rashness of presenting a Pir Ali Tagore as a Hindu reformer who has risen above sectarian prejudices and who observes at his table no caste distinctions? Such impudence will only cause the truth to be more widely known than ever. We do not know if the hundred and one men and women include the Maharaja's family and connections. Even if they are strangers, the number is a poor one for a wealthy man in this country. Many *mooktears* and pleaders and Amla—ministerial officers of courts—have been known to feed from fifty to a hundred men daily at their lodgings, besides their charity at their permanent homes. The *Patriot's* hundred poor must be poor indeed to receive food at a house in which the slightest caste distinctions are not observed. The Maharaja is not only Charity itself but Genius too, greater than both the Napoleons, or even Alexander the Great. The *Patriot* has made the greatest discovery of the age which is highly patriotic. Know all Bengalis and all Indians that we have in our midst an inchoate founder of an Empire:—

"A well-known European gentleman, whose opinion on the character and worth of our public men is entitled to the highest respect, has often observed to us that Maharaja Sir Jotendra Mohun is a *born* statesman. The faculty of harmony is so well developed in him that the most discordant elements are controlled and guided by him without the slightest difficulty. He is a real leader, who at other times and in other situations would have founded an empire."

What matter where, if *he* be still the same,
And what *he* should be.

MISS Janet Gomes, a lady student in the Dufferin Hospital, charged one Arthur Vanspall, a dispenser of medicine in a druggist's shop in College Street, with using criminal force and abusive language. In her examination, the complainant said that while she was going to her work, the accused came out of a gharry in which he had lain in wait and got hold of her. She ran into the College Square, the accused followed her there, laid hold of her hand, tried to take off her hat and then to pull her into his gharry. In cross-examination, she denied having ever spoken to him, though they were fellow-students in the Campbell Hospital, denied being ever friendly

with him or seeking him at his place of business. She protested that she never wrote any letters to the accused. The letters produced, purporting to be from herself and her sister, were not any of them in her handwriting, she said, and she indignantly argued that it was not possible that both sisters would make love to the same young man. Besides, the internal evidence was against the hateful suggestion: the style was not hers. To crown the triumph of innocence, she was never in the habit of writing to young men at all. Of course, she had never encouraged young Vanspall's advances. The Magistrate, Mr. Handley, with a proper sense of the holiness of love, was of opinion that the lovers' quarrel ought not to have been made public, and that it should be settled out of court. It was a very simple matter, and the complainant should not have made so much fuss about it. The accused had grown fond of the girl and had only asked her for a kiss. Although sympathising with him, he advised the young man to apologise for what he had done and to transfer his affections to another and more responsive quarter. He warned him against demonstrations of love in public streets. The apology on magisterial advice satisfied the girl and she withdrew her complaint. The closing advice of the Magistrate to the accused was that he must not speak to the complainant again.

THE contest over the Imperial diamond has closed. The Nizam has paid to Mr. Jacob an additional Rs. 1,49,400 and become the possessor of the diamond, for that sum, plus the 23 lacs previously paid and the costs incurred in the proceedings against Mr. Jacob—both civil and criminal. Just the end that every man had expected of all the noise and waste. The political consequences of the affair are permanent, and they affect not the Nizam only but the whole country. We wonder whether there is sense enough in Hyderabad to perceive them. What a pity there was no statesmanship there to prevent the evil!

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, March 12, 1892.

BENGAL UNDER THE NEW BROOM.

THERE can be no doubt that Sir Charles Elliott is actuated by the best of motives in issuing the series of sensational orders, which has shaken the administration to its very depths. Such shakes are from time to time needed, but in the present instance it has caused a disturbance to no useful purpose. It is all very good to pass extraordinary orders without reflecting on the consequences. It redounds to the credit for activity of the new ruler. But for lasting credit, such energy should be tempered by sufficient discretion. These orders, according to some of our contemporaries, relate chiefly to trifles. It were more correct to describe them as trifling with great interests. Their subject-matter certainly is not trifles. Our contemporaries perhaps do not know that these orders, regarding so-called trifles, have put a large number of persons to great difficulty, and endless inconvenience and trouble. His Honor would turn his Deputy and other Magistrates into a judicial machinery—in the literal sense—which would daily turn out a given amount of work. His order to dispose of cases without adjourning them for more than three times and to discharge witnesses daily anyhow, or at any hour, virtually converts judicial officers into mechanical engines. If these magistrates for whose guidance this order has been passed, had no other work than their judicial work, there might have been some justification for it. Even in that case it would have been impossible to carry it out always, without defeating the ends of justice and doing great harm to the parties and putting the legal practitioners to great inconvenience. But the shadow of reasonableness disappears when the circumstances are taken into account. There are Deputy-Magistrates who are so much burden-

ed with revenue and miscellaneous work, that they cannot commence their judicial work before the fag end of the day, when they are perfectly exhausted and the parties and the pleaders have become quite tired. Now, what has been the effect of these orders? Men who, after the fag of the whole work-day, are physically and intellectually unfit for judicial or any other serious work, proceed, after sunset, to administer justice, and force the parties and witnesses against their wishes to stay till 8 or 9 and sometimes 10 O'clock at night. In most cases, Pleaders or Mukhtears do not care to stay, and the parties are left to the kind care of the broken-winded, gasping, drooping court and its furious ministerial agency. With great difficulty the evidence is somehow completed, say, at about 8 or 9 P.M. on the 3rd day, and at that hour the poor Deputy, perhaps the subject of some chronic disease or suffering from weak eyes, is obliged, most reluctantly, to fire off his decision. Such decisions cannot be thorough or careful, any more than the examination of witnesses under such circumstances can be complete. Judges have already commenced to find fault with the decisions of the Deputy Magistracy, and men of high reputation as judicial officers in that line are fast losing their credit. In one District, a Deputy actually noted in his judgment that it was 10 o'clock (P.M.) and at that late hour he could not write a complete careful decision. In another too, we hear a similar statement was recorded. High Court Judges themselves acknowledge the need of consulting their Hon'ble colleagues and hearing Barristers for days, and, after all, they reserve their judgment in many cases, in order to meditate and make up their minds and indite their judgments at leisure. The unfortunate Deputy, however, is not now allowed time to consider his decision or to go carefully through the record. His whole attention is directed towards one point, namely, to save his livelihood—a paramount consideration with every man in this world, unless he is a *Rishi*. He is a judge in name only, being treated as an automaton for disposal of complaints. He is clearly prevented from doing justice either to his own abilities or to the parties who seek it from him. Pressed for time to dispose of his cases, his first consideration is how to get over the difficulty of discharging the witnesses, otherwise he finds suspension of promotion staring him in the face. In this way officers have already suffered, and now the whole Subordinate Executive Service is terror-stricken. The civilians are safe; they know the strength of their position by tradition and by recent experience. Their records are not ordinarily overhauled; their promotion is not stopped,—they are not even censured. Prompt despatch of business is praiseworthy, but not at the expense of efficiency and thoroughness. No Magistrate now cares to extend the scope of his enquiry, because he has no time to do so. If proper and fair independence of action is not allowed to a judge, he is no better than a mere writing machine.

In some quarters, it is talked of and even believed that Native Magistrates are generally weak and pliable, and therefore the legal practitioners, taking advantage of their situation, delay the disposal of cases, by numerous legal methods, including long and unnecessary cross-examination. It is whispered and sometime plainly said, that bullying barristers, howling pleaders and the wretched mukhtears should not be allowed to waste the court's time, that they

should be snubbed and controlled by the fiat of the presiding officer. All this is very good talk in the club, but it is not practicable. It is neither the fault of the magistrate nor of the counsel (generally speaking). The law is defective. It is unnecessarily elaborate and withal imperfect. The bar is now a most formidable body and its influence and power unlimited. There is not the slightest doubt of the "Vakeel Raj in India," and when these gentlemen of the long robe come armed with statute and case law books, it is not easy to deter them. They must cross-examine, and they must do it to their satisfaction. The law permits it, and they do it before the Judges of the High Court, although the latter may be internally averse from long cross-examination. If a Judge quarrels with them, he always gets the worst of it and his time is nevertheless wasted. It would take 10 minutes to write the questions and answers, and a Barrister would only argue for half an hour on the relevancy or otherwise of asking a single question and then hand over half a dozen books for the perusal of his worship on the bench, all which he is bound to read as containing decisions of the Hon'ble High Courts. It would be mad to suppose that the District Magistrates could stop counsel who occupies a court in this way. There is scarcely another European Magistrate who would dare to treat barristers and pleaders just as Mr. Phillips did one of the leading barristers at Burdwan. The Chief Presidency Magistrate compelled another luminary the other day to take off his grey coat. Where is the Civilian Magistrate in the country who could screw his courage to the sticking-place for such a feat? Law is now very cheap and law books are available to every one. Vakeels and Barristers by scores crowd even the mofussil stations, and they must try to benefit themselves, irrespective of the views of the Head of Government. It is very easy to dispose of undefended and unrepresented cases in places where men are ignorant, where there is neither public opinion nor press, where the powers of the judge are practically despotic. But it is quite another thing to meet a Woodroffe or a Jackson, a Ghose or a Palit, or any really able pleader, and then stop him from wasting the time of the Court, if the counsel before you is bent upon spinning out his case. Quarrels have sometimes unfortunately occurred between the Bench and the Bar, but always with a very bad effect upon the public weal. In the absence of the harmony which ought to exist between the Bench and the Bar, litigation consumes more time than ever, and justice is a good deal left to chance. Our experience has shewn that no executive order can help a Court in saving its time or curtailing the cross-examination. Barristers and Pleaders are now apt to say—Oh, we know His Honor's order and we respectfully bow to it, but, at the same time, we cannot neglect the interests of our clients. Thus, Government will see how not only are the poor unfortunate Deputies not always responsible for the dilatory proceedings and weakness charged to them, but that circumstances, over which they have little or no control, exist which lead sometime to that undesirable result.

It must, of course, be freely acknowledged that the orders of Government are generally carefully enough worded, and always well-meant, but alas! how are they abused in the working. They are certainly not carried out in the sense and spirit in which they are intended to be executed. Thus, Magistrates are

enjoined to correct and guide their Deputies by judicious friendly criticism of their proceedings, and watch the progress of cases in their files. This direction, in most cases, is doing great mischief, in more than one way. Under cover of this order, young and inexperienced magistrates now greatly and unnecessarily interfere with the subordinate magistracy. They make unwarrantable and unjust remarks upon the latter's proceedings and decisions, and do them much harm in mind and reputation. A new arrival, with hardly five or six years' service, is appointed an acting District Magistrate. He is puffed up with a high notion of his vast general knowledge, great ability and special store of information about the country and its people, collected from Hunter's Gazetteer or some such book, or perhaps mere club gossip, although, in point of fact, he may be not only wanting in experience and the necessary information, but wrong-headed into the bargain. Such an officer is allowed to criticise the decisions of Deputy Magistrates who have been 20 years, 25 years and 30 years in the service and have gained reputation as judicial officers. In the first place, the question arises—Is this boy of a Magistrate fit to criticise these judgments? The next consideration is—Is it to be expected that such seasoned Deputy Magistrates will invariably prove so timid and devoid of self-respect and self-confidence as to stand all the abuse poured over their grey heads indiscriminately in the form of extra-judicial remarks? The inevitable result is friction and bitterness in many cases, and the work suffers. In others, an old Deputy retires precipitately in disgust with the reward of a large bag of insults from the service of which he was an ornament for a quarter of a century. Again the work suffers. This is a grave fault in the system of administration which ought to be reformed. The Judges see a good deal more of the work of the subordinate magistrates and also criticise their work, but they never lash away in ignorant fury. Still less do they injure the feelings of their subordinates or insult them. And why not? Because they have experience of judicial work and respect for the independence of a judge. The sooner the judicial and executive branches of the service are separated, the better for the country, for the native officers and for all concerned.

THE FUTURE OF INDIAN INDUSTRIES.*

"INVENTIONS likely to take and pay" is the title of a pamphlet brought out by Mr. H. H. Remfry, the wellknown Attorney of Calcutta. The author has the largest practice as a Patent Solicitor, and, being directly interested in encouraging inventions, he seems to have taken very considerable trouble to study the subject in all its important bearings. He does not take the world by surprise by any invention of his own. But he does even better—puts eligible men in the way of making inventions for themselves. The formulating of a problem is very often quite as difficult as its solution, and the public cannot be too grateful to Mr. Remfry for the service that he has done, by collecting together, in a small compass, a large number of exercises for the votaries of science and ingenious mechanics. To use his own words, he "presents the original seeds from whence spring to thinking minds vast vistas of new thought, that they may be further cultivated, beautified, and enlarged."

* *Inventions likely to 'Take' and 'Pay' in India and the East.* By Henry H. Remfry, M.S.C.I., F.M.I.P.A., &c., Solicitor and Pleader, High Court, Calcutta, 1892.

We have, in these columns, from time to time, drawn the attention of our go-ahead politicians and plutocrats to the fact that, instead of wasting their energy and resources in clamouring for shadowy legislative privileges, they might serve their country far better by offering small rewards for such inventions as the improvement of our primitive hand-looms and spinning wheels. Cheap weaving and spinning machines, that might be worked as a domestic industry, without any large combination of capital and labor, would be a boon the value of which it is hardly possible to exaggerate. But our men of wealth would not spend a pice for public good, except with the view of gratifying their vanity, and our "patriots" are so apathetic to the real needs of the country, or are so enamoured of the fads of British radicalism--the elective principle and government 'by debating clubs--that they can hardly ever be expected to respond to our suggestion. Mr. Remfry does not say anything in particular with regard to spinning and weaving industries. Nevertheless, his repertory includes a vast variety of subjects, for acquaintance with which we must refer our readers to the original. With regard to the improvements of agricultural implements, our author says :---

"Several descriptions of ploughs, intended to replace the primitive implements handed down from generation to generation of Native cultivators, have been introduced from time to time, but their prices have usually been beyond the means of the needy Indian rayyet, while the implements themselves have generally been too heavy for Indian cattle to drag. Apart from this, the rayyet is perhaps the most conservative mortal in existence; he objects to any improvement, he is ever so palpable, which detracts from the ways and manners of his ancestors. The objection to expense, however, which depends a good deal on the nature of the crops, seems now to have been fairly overcome, for a Calcutta firm is advertising 'Hindustan' ploughs at Rs. 10 and 11 each, and from all accounts they are eminently suitable to the work, requiring the use of only *one pair of Indian cattle*, while they have the additional (doubtful) recommendation of being 'Stanley's latest discovery,' having been in use in Central Africa for ages!

Among the ploughs recently introduced, those called the 'Kaiser,' the 'Duplex,' and the 'Baldeo' (the last of these being the invention of a Native workman) have proved somewhat successful. The Indian plough of the future, however, must have the qualities of strength and simplicity in construction to render its adoption anything like general; it must be cheap, adapted to the yoke and strength of the cultivator's cattle, easily repaired and sufficiently light to be portable on the shoulders of a Native of ordinary physique. The Norwegian plough meets these requirements more closely than any other we know of, and it remains to be seen whether the ploughs patented here can be improved.

On the subject of implements of husbandry, our readers may profitably consult the lists of agricultural implements, issued yearly by the Government of India, which have been weighed in the balance and *not* found wanting."

Mr. Remfry seems evidently to know a great deal more of his subject than he has thought fit to communicate to his readers. But the information that he has given is, in almost all cases, full of interest. For instance, he accounts for the deterioration of the silk industry of Bengal thus :---

"All efforts in this direction have shown the impossibility of getting Native spinners to produce, by spinning, anything like *an even thread*; for they prefer to dab on to the spinning-thread lumps of the ends of (say) six cocoons at a time, in order to complete their task speedily: an inequality of thread is the result of such hasty clumsy procedure. This uneven thread, full of fluff and rough-joins, is, and will continue to be, the bane of Indian silk, until some practical remedy can be introduced."

The principal merit of the pamphlet under notice lies not so much in the information that it gives about the industrial arts, as in the suggestions that it throws out for the improvement of those arts. He is nothing if not practical. Yet a vein of originality runs through the entire performance. As an instance, we cite the following :---

"Another thing which would receive no small share of attention if successfully worked out, would be some method by which the vast energy of the tropical *sunshine* could be utilised for the benefit of man, as also a plan for the conversion of heat into a 'working engineer.' The idea is such as should commend itself to those who have been gifted above their fellows with a God-like reason. In an age which is almost daily witnessing the triumphs of human ingenuity and engineering skill, it behoves him who is desirous of shining with a brighter light than the great majority of his fellows, to put his best leg forward, and make hay while the sun shines, lest 'while he is coming another steps in before him.'"

This world would be a paradise, if science ever should render it possible to utilize the energy of the sun's heat for tilling the soil and

for other agricultural operations. The ideal may or may not be attainable. But the progress that has been already made in science, and notably in its application to human convenience, is sufficient to inspire us with the hope that a time may come when the majority of men will no longer have to suffer from the primeval curse of earning their bread with the sweat of their brow.

TREATMENT OF NATIVE INDIANS.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12.

Mr. MacNeill moved the addition to the Address of the following paragraph :---

"And we humbly regret that your Majesty's Speech from the Throne contains no proposals for redeeming the pledges so frequently given by various Governments that natives of Great Britain and natives of India should be placed on terms of equality in the matter of appointments in the public service and in facilities in competing for such appointments."

He called the attention of the House to a statement made by Lord Northbrook at Birmingham to the effect that there was one simple test which might be applied to Indian questions--the country should never forget that it was their duty to govern India not for their own profit and advantage, but for the benefit of the people of India. How had this principle been carried out? On one occasion Mr. Bright contended that "India has now become a pasture-ground for smart young English gentlemen." Every emolument worth having in India was given to Englishmen, and the natives were by various simple processes boycotted, and cheated out of everything in their own land. The hon. member further pointed out that Lord Lytton had admitted in private correspondence that the Indian natives had been cheated, and that the noble lord had thrown himself when Viceroy of India more into the arms of the official class than any other Viceroy. The Duke of Argyll had also confessed that in the matter of appointments the natives had not been given a fair chance; that the promises which had been made to them had not been kept. He maintained that this was a very scandalous state of things, and that our government of India in this matter savoured a little too much of hypocrisy. The present Government were treating India as though it was another Ireland, and the result was that the poorest people in the world were saddled with the most expensive government. In conclusion, he begged to move the amendment of which he had given notice. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Curzon, who was received with cheers, said that, the amendment having been curtailed, it was necessary that he should refer only to the statements of the hon. member referring to the Civil Service of India. The hon. member had complained that the pledges given to India of equality of treatment as between natives and Englishmen in appointments to the public service had not been carried out, but that statement was wholly incorrect. The proclamations in which the pledges were made had been endorsed and enforced by various Governments, and the authorities in India had made constant and consistent efforts to carry them out. Since 1867 successive Viceroys had considered the best means of utilising the services of natives in the higher classes of the Civil Service, and those pledges had culminated during the administration of Lord Lytton in 1879 in the creation of a statutory Civil Service, and under this scheme one-fifth of the annual appointments to the Civil Service in India had been reserved for natives, and without the disagreeable penalty, of which the hon. member had severely complained, of the necessity of having to come to England for examination. The hon. member appeared to be ignorant of recent events in India, for matters to which he referred had become or were becoming accomplished facts. The public service in India at the present time was undergoing a process of complete reorganisation, and the hon. member had never so much as referred to the Public Service Commission, which was appointed in India a few years ago, and was composed of representative and influential men. It consisted of fifteen members, was under the presidency of Sir Charles Turner, late Chief Justice of Madras, and contained five Civil servants, one representative of non-official Europeans, one representative of the Eurasians, one Unconvenanted Civil servant, and six representative native gentlemen. This Commission, so constituted, conducted its investigations all over India, and its report was presented to the House in 1888, and two years later a Blue Book was also laid on the table, which showed the steps that had been taken to carry out the policy of the Commission. That was a point the hon. member had entirely ignored. (Hear, hear.) The Commission proposed that for the conduct of the higher branches of the executive and judicial work throughout India there should continue to be, as at present, two distinct services, and those services would be reorganised and rechristened. The first of these would be the existing Convenanted Civil Service, which the Commission had proposed to call the Imperial Service, recruited by competition in England, and open without distinction of race to all natural-born subjects of her Majesty. The second of the two

services would be called the Provincial Service, and would be recruited in each province of India separately, and would hold the higher appointments of the existing Uncovenanted Service, together with a certain number of appointments now ordinarily reserved by law or practice to the Covenanted Civil Service, which would be transferred to the Provincial Service. Under the new scheme of organisation one-third of the sessions judgeships and one-sixth of the collectors' offices, and also other posts, would be confined to natives of India. The object of the proposals which had been made was to open up to the natives of India a greater number of appointments, and the result would be not only that many more native gentlemen would obtain positions of distinction in the English service, but that there would be two branches of the service, one recruited in England and the other in India, both being subject to regulations as to status and pay which would apply equally to the European and native members of the service. Those who thought that hardship was caused by the system of holding examinations for the Civil Service in England should bear in mind that the question was inquired into by the Public Service Commission, which included native gentlemen of great position, and that the Commission unanimously decided against the system of simultaneous examinations in India. They reported that "an open competition in India for the Covenanted Civil Service would operate with inequality, excluding altogether some important classes of the community while giving undue advantage to others. The question is simply one as to the qualifications required and the arrangements under which officers possessing such qualifications can best be secured. The object of the Government of India in recruiting in England a limited staff of officers, who, after a training in India, might be intrusted with the more important executive and judicial charges, was (*inter alia*) to secure an administration conducted so far as possible on principles and by methods in harmony with modern civilisation." The native members of the Commission, while they did not altogether share in the apprehension expressed by their colleagues as to the probable results of simultaneous examinations in India and England, stated that the scheme which they recommended as well as their colleagues was "in their opinion well calculated to secure the end they had in view, and at the same time was not open to the objections urged against simultaneous examinations." Objection having been raised to the limit of age for the natives of India coming to England for examination, that limit had been raised from twenty-one to twenty-three. From the speech of the hon. member opposite one might infer that the natives of India bore a small and disproportionate part in the administration of the country. This view was quite contrary to the facts. In the Uncovenanted Civil Service in 1890, in the superior ranks of the executive and judicial branches (excluding the so-called special departments), there were 2,588 officers, of whom 2,449 were natives of India, and only thirty-five Europeans or Eurasians not domiciled in India at the time of appointment. It would be a great mistake if the House were to entertain the belief that these officers were engaged in humble or unimportant official business. It was with them that the great mass of the people were ordinarily brought into contact, and upon them devolved the duty of deciding a large proportion of the disputes whether connected with revenue, magisterial, or civil matters, which arose between man and man in ordinary life and did not, as a general rule, come before officers belonging to the Covenanted grades. Nearly the whole of the civil judicial business throughout India, including a large portion of that in the Appellate Courts, was transacted by natives. Native judges had jurisdiction in all classes of civil suits over Europeans and natives alike, without distinction of nationality. The duties of the executive branch of the native service were hardly less responsible and important. Since 1874, notwithstanding constant demands for improvement in the strength of the Covenanted Service, the number of English members had been reduced by more than 22 per cent, and would soon be reduced by 12 per cent. more. Under the rules laid down by Lord Lytton's Government there was one statutory civilian for every five members of the Covenanted Service. He thought that these facts would show that the Government had adhered to the proclamation of the reign of William IV. If the hon. member instead of making speeches in that House would go to India and inquire into the facts, he doubted very much whether he would make the allegations against the Government of India which they sometimes heard in that House. Thirty years ago, when the Crown had taken over the Government of India, not a single native had been a member of any legislative council; now there were four in the Governor General's Council, five in Madras, five in Bombay, four in Bengal, and two in the North-West Provinces. There were now six native judges of the High Court; three at Calcutta, one at Madras, one in Bombay, and one in the North-West Provinces. Colleges for the encouragement of engineering had been established, and every effort made to attract natives, and natives only, to that important branch of the public service. (Hear, hear.) In addition to the number of native members of Council, it would be his privilege before long to introduce a Bill dealing with the reorganisation and extension of these councils by which the number of native members would be consider-

ably increased. He hoped that he had put considerations before the House which would lead them to believe that the Government of India had a strong and convincing case in this matter, and he hoped that the hon. member would not think it necessary to press his amendment. (Hear, hear.)

Sir R. Temple said that, though he sympathised with everything that could be done for the advancement of the natives of India, it was necessary to remember that the natives of India, though they might be equal to us in intellect, and equal, of course, before the law and in courts of justice, were not equal to us in courage and prowess in the battlefield, or in administrative energy and capacity in field and government. (Hear, hear.) No legislation could ever make them equal to us in that respect, and in the case of the condition of a country like India they must have Englishmen in the front to manage the great transport arrangements in time of war and relief operations in the seasons of danger from famine—(hear, hear)—and in the great administrative departments, and the natives knew this as well as we did. (Hear, hear.)

The amendment having been withdrawn, the debate was adjourned on the motion of Mr. Sexton.

The other orders were disposed of, and the House adjourned at five minutes past twelve o'clock.

TIBET AND THE EARLY BENGAL PANDITS.

[A Lecture read on March 5, by Baboo Sarat Chunder Das, C.I.E., at the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, the Hon'ble Dr. Mahendralal Sircar, C.I.E., presiding.]

The account that I have given you of the Missionary activity of the Indian Buddhists, being gathered from incidental notices of holy men, contained in the dynastic histories of China, cannot fail to be meagre. The names of such scholars have been preserved in the State records as had attracted the notice of those sovereigns of China, who had favoured Buddhism. In fact, very little is known of the vast body of Indian Buddhists who in their peculiarly quiet ways worked for the diffusion of the Buddhist creed among the teeming millions of China. The Chinese have been a civilized nation from the very early times. Compared with the antiquity of their civilization, that of Babylon, Egypt, and Greece falls into insignificance. The early religion of the Chinese with the great Heaven as their father and the Earth as their mother, was of a theistic character, for it enjoined on the Emperor alone the duty of worshipping the great God, whose majesty no ordinary mortal should approach, except the heaven-appointed Ruler of the celestial Empire.

Two eminent sages appeared in China six hundred years before the birth of Christ who built their religion upon it. To speak in the language of Dr. Edkins :—"Khungfu-tse (Confucius) found a religion already existing in China with a very practical system of morals, which first and last has always given it its practical character."

He founded on this religion his own, which continues to be the religion of the literati at the present day. He had three thousand disciples at the beginning to aid him in promulgating his ethical creed in which there was nothing ascetical nor spiritual. The questions to which it replied were :—How shall I do my duty to my neighbour? How shall I best discharge the duty of a virtuous citizen? It attempted no reply to the higher questions :—How am I connected with the spiritual world beyond what I see? What is the destiny of immaterial nature? How can I rise above the dominion of the passions and of the senses?

These thoughtful questions remained unanswered for a long time. It was reserved for the religion of Buddha after six hundred years to reply to these inquiries. The Buddhist missionaries, ever alive to the commands of the immortal sage, in the middle of the first century, A. D., proceeded to the Far East to work in the Buddhist Propaganda. Buddha's last words were written in letters of gold, on a lamant as it were, to last for upwards of twelve centuries without being deteriorated in the least way. They were handed down from generation to generation till the 13th century A. D., when all Asia became converted to Buddhism. They were delivered in the following words :—

"Bhikshus, I am delivered from all fetters, human and divine. Go ye now, O Bhikshus, and wander for the gain of the many, for the welfare of many, out of compassion for the world, for the good for the gain and for the welfare of gods and men. There are beings whose mental eyes are covered by scarcely any dust, but if the doctrine is not preached to them, they cannot attain salvation. Go then through every country, convert those not yet converted; throughout the world that lies burnt up with sorrow, teach everywhere; go, therefore, each one travelling by himself filled with compassion, go, rescue and receive, Mahavagga, Vinaya Pitakam."

Contemporary with Confucius was Loau-tsoo—the founder of Taoism, the second religion of China, who meditated in a philosophic mood upon the more profound necessities and capacities of the human soul. But his religion, in course of time, degenerated into priestcraft. Like Tantricism, it is at the present day no better than what is understood by the term fetichism or demon worship.

These two religions operated in China for upwards of six centuries before Buddhism entered the land of Han. Their followers had strenuously exerted themselves to thwart the attempts of the early missionaries of India to propagate Buddhism in China. We are told by Christian missionary writers that thirteen years before the Indian Brahmans, Matanga and Subharana, reached China, the first missionaries of Christendom had crossed the Ægean Sea, and entered Europe. Instead of being received, however, with the smiles of those in power and enjoying imperial hospitality, they were publicly whipped and imprisoned by the Magistrate of a Roman Colony, and ignominiously dismissed. It is true that the first Indian missionaries visited China at the invitation of the great Han Emperor, Ming-thi, but it was not until the followers of Confucius and Laou-tsoo had exhausted their weapons on them, that they were admitted into the imperial favour. The missionary activity of the early Christians of Rome and Greece in many respects resembled that of the Indian Buddhists, in consequence of which they were successful in their labours to Christianize *en masse* all the nations of Europe.

The first century of the Christian era was, indeed, the age of missionary enterprise. It was then that the Indian missionaries started on their distant and perilous journey to the Far East. Once introduced, Christianity continued as a living religion in Europe. Under its influence all the nations there steadily advanced in civilization and science. In India the case was otherwise. Both Hinduism and Buddhism split into different independent sects, and finally languished, in spite of the efforts of Nagarjuna and others to reconcile the tenets of the one to those of the other. This state of religious difference lasted in India for about a thousand years, till the Mussulmans turned their victorious arms to the conquest of this ill-fated country. When the religious zeal and energies of the peoples of Western and North-western India became paralyzed, if not altogether extinct, the superior intellect of the people of the province of Bengal shone prominently in the domain of philosophy and religion. The Pandits of Bengal became the spiritual teachers of the Buddhist world. The sovereign rulers of Eastern India, Tibet, Ceylon and Suvarna bhumi (the capital of which was Sudharma Nagar) vied with each other in their devotion to them.

In the first quarter of the seventh century, A. D., Buddhism was introduced in Tibet from Nepal by the Nepalese Princess (daughter of King Amshu Varma), who was married to King Strongtsan gampo and also from China by Princess Kon-jo (the daughter of Emperor Thai-tsung), who was married to the same Tibetan King. Under the auspices of these two Princesses, Buddhism penetrated Tibet. They also converted the King to Buddhism, who had already received information regarding the civilization and sciences of the Indians and the Chinese from his emissaries and messengers, who had visited those countries. (I extract here an account of his endeavours to introduce the art of writing in Tibet, from the early records of Tibet.)

The King of Tibet established in his dominion the laws based on the ten commandments of Buddha, sent embassies to foreign countries and received envoys from the neighbouring States, who brought presents with them. He exhorted his subjects to follow the religion of Buddha. By his exertions the prosperity of the country of Himavat increased. Till then there existed no written language in Tibet. The King keenly felt its want, especially when it was found that his court had no means to reply to the letters of the foreign monarchs. His people were ignorant of the arts and sciences of the Indians and the Chinese. In acknowledging the presents and letters of the Kings of Nepal, Khotan, and India, he had to rely on the verbal communications of his own envoys. With a view to remove this want and to acquire the enlightenment that his neighbours possessed, he sent seven of his young intelligent officers to India to study the art of reading and writing.

In obedience to his commands they proceeded to the Indian frontier, but before crossing the Himalayas they began to lose heart. The fear of the three kinds of demons, viz., evil spirits, deadly fevers, and wild animals, including poisonous snakes that abound there, prevailed and they retraced their steps towards home. Thereafter, Thonmi, the son of Anu, a brave, talented minister of the King, undertook to visit India for the purpose of studying the Indian languages. The King furnished him with a large quantity of gold, to enable him to make presents to the Indian Princes and professors of Sanskrit learning. He travelled southward to India, and hearing the fame of a Brahman named Lipidatta for proficiency in the art of writing, he went to him. Making profound salutation to the learned Indian he addressed him thus :—

"Oh, thou incarnate sage of the divine race, who art full of mercy and who on account of thy moral merits art born as a Brahman, vouchsafe unto this humble stranger a little of thy attention. By the dint of the virtues of thy former life thou hast now become talented and marvellously accomplished in Agama Sastras and the art of writing. I am a minister of the King of Himavat, the border country of Arya Bhumi. My King, the sovereign ruler of Tibet, ascended the throne of his ancestors at the age of 13, and having

satisfied his people with the doctrine of Buddha, has promulgated the laws based on the ten commandments within his dominions. In my country there is no written language, none of my countrymen can read or write. The King has, therefore, sent me to this country with costly presents to wait upon Indian professors for acquiring a knowledge of the art of writing."

"May I therefore approach thee with the humble prayer of being granted a knowledge of the words and letters of Sanskrit, the language of the gods?" So saying he prostrated himself before the learned Brahman and begged for his gracious acceptance of a little present of gold. Lipidatta received the gold and said in reply :— "Hear me, oh minister Thon mi, you are the son of blessed parents. You are minister of King who rules in Himavat. You are intelligent and talented; and meditate upon the two great noble truths. I shall certainly teach you the art of writing and reading and the various sciences as well as versification and other sciences of a wonderful nature." So saying, he conducted him to his house which was built of precious stones, and began to give him lessons in writing. Thon-mi applied himself assiduously to the study of Sanskrit, and soon made a remarkable progress. His intellect developed and the lamp of knowledge being lighted he learned the sections of Nagari and Gatha character. He also learned the Ranja and the Wartula character of Magadha. Having finished his education under Lipidatta he proceeded to the great monastery of Sri Nalanda, and having placed himself under the tuition of Acharya Devavid-simha, he studied the sacred literature of the Hindus and Buddhists.

While Thon-mi Sambhota was studying at Nalanda the great Chinese pilgrim-traveller, Hiouen Tshang, visited the monastery. The splendour and usefulness of that institution founded in the first century B. C. by Saraha, the tutor and spiritual guide of Nagarjuna, were still undiminished. In the words of Hiouen Tshang "the Sangharamas of India are counted by myriads, but the one at Nalanda is the most remarkable for grandeur and height. The priests belonging to the convent or strangers residing therein always reach to the number of ten thousand, who all study the Mahayana, and also the works belonging to the Eighteen Sections, and not only so, but even ordinary works, such as the Vedas and other books, the Hetuvidya, Sabdavidya, and Chikitsavidya, the works on Atharveda, the Sankhya; besides these they thoroughly investigate miscellaneous works." "Life of Hiouen Tshang."

In the beginning of the eighth century, A. D., two eminent Pandits of Bengal visited Tibet at the invitation of King Thisrong-deu-tsan, and formally introduced the religion of Buddha, which from that time became the established State religion of Tibet. Shanta Rakshita, a native of Gaur, was the high priest of the Monastery of Nalanda at the time the Tibetans came to invite him. He was received by the Tibetan King with all the honours due to his high position as the spiritual teacher of the King of Magadha. The Tibetans gave him the name of Acharya Bodhisattva.

King Thisrong-deu-tsan, than whom a more enlightened and powerful monarch did not appear in Tibet, appointed him as the high priest of Tibet, and under his direction, for the first time, introduced the system of Buddhist monachism, which is now known as Lamaism in Tibet. While Shanta Rakshita attended to the moral and disciplinary part of the church, his eminent coadjutor, the sage Padma Sambhava, a native of Udyana, took charge of the Tatrik part of the Buddhist Church. At this time a Chinese missionary in the person of Hwashong Mahayana visited Tibet to preach Buddhism. His doctrines being to a great extent at variance with those of Shanta Rakshita and Padma Sambhava, a great controversy arose between the Indian and the Chinese Schools. The Hwashong was found to be more than a match for the Indian Acharyas in religious metaphysical discussions. The Indian Pandits induced the King to send for the great Buddhist philosopher named Kamala Sila, whose fame had already spread far and wide.

Accordingly, Kamala Sila visited Tibet, and in the presence of the assembled court came out victorious over the Chinese Sage and won the laurels. Thisrong-deu-tsan placed him at the head of the metaphysical branch of the Buddhist Church and ordered the vanquished Hwashong to leave the country. In the ninth century many learned Pandits from Bengal were invited to Tibet by King Ralpachan and employed by him in the work of translating the Sanskrit works into Tibetan. The names of Silendra Bodhi, Ratendra Rashita, Manjusri Virma, Surendra Misra and others occur largely in the two Buddhist cyclopedias called Kahgyur and Tangyur, which consist of 330 volumes. We have no narratives of their journey to Tibet except incidental mention that many among them came from Gaur.

The real history of Tibet, or rather of the grand hierarchy of the Lamas began in 1026, A. D., when the Vrihaspati cycle of sixty years was introduced in Tibet by Pandit Somanath from Kashmir. According to some of the eminent historians of Tibet this system of chronology originated at the famous Buddhist monastery of Sri Dhanya Katak, the city of accumulated paddy, which has been identified with modern Katak. Vrihaspati cycle is still current in Southern India. During the ninth and tenth centuries it prevailed in Kashmir and Khoten.

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5. The Garbhadhan Vyavasta by Pandit Ramnath Tarkaratna (of Santipore), author of Vasudeo Bijra (a Sanskrit epic) and Pandit attached to the Asiatic Society, Bengal. One anna.
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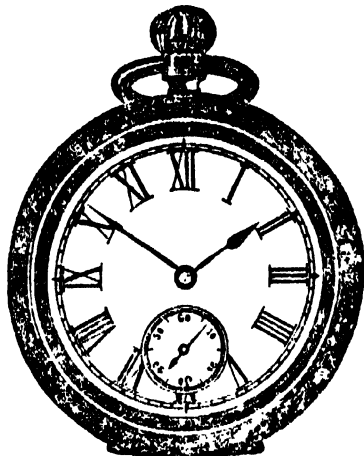
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AND

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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1892.

} No. 516

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

In Memoriam.

ALBERT VICTOR

DUKE OF CLARENCE AND AVONDALE.

Born January 8, 1864, Died January 14, 1892.

I.

Dead ! And no warrior soul outworn,
Aweary of the strife,
But he, alas ! we have to mourn,
A neophyte of Life :
Youngest of England's ancient Line,
Hope of a people's heart ; your promised King, and mine.

II.

Now change the purple for the pall !
The bridal for the bier !
He, the beloved, besought, of all,
Lies mute, ungazing, here,
Dust unto dust, the young, the proud :—

III.

A coffin for his crown, his majesty a shroud !
Yet weep not only for the dead :
Mighty and mean must die ;
The loftiest, like the lowliest head
Peasant and Prince alike live but in fee from Fate.

IV.

But Love, the boon of lord and clown,
Love had he made his own.
Love jewelled beyond any crown,
Loftier than any throne :
Had found a maiden fond and fair,
Who trembling on his heart, wept her glad weakness there.

V.

Now muffled be the marriage bell !
The nuptial wreath be rent !
Palace and tower must toll the knell
Of his dark tenement.
The flowers we twined to blush and bloom
Around the bridal bed, must pale about his tomb.

VI.

Alas for her ! the graced, the good,
For ever doomed to wear
The mockery of widowhood
About her maiden hair.
Scarce had she time to reach and clasp
The gifts of Love, but they were ashes in her grasp.

VII.

Glory of pomp, and glow of power,
'Tis nothing to forego :
Grandeur is but a doubtful dower,
Rank oft but radiant woe.
But to lose Love just seen, just known,
To mangle, Two-in-One and then to mourn—alone !

VIII.

O ! if she could exchange her lot
And now were free to choose,
With one who in some whitewashed cot
Over her baby coos,
And tend the humblest heart that burns,
To whose awaiting smile the cherished one returns !

IX.

We weep with her. We weep with you,
No less, loved, widowed Queen,
Who nurse a loss for ever new,
A wound for ever green.
Your brow august is crowned with care,
So take her to your breast, hush her anguish there !

X.

And you, Sir, who for long, long years
Have stood beside the Throne,
And now would stem a Mother's tears
Forgetful of your own.
For you we mourn, we mourn for her,
All of us at your side, by his sad sepulchre.

ALFRED AUSTIN.

—*The Times.*

TO THE MOURNERS.

The bridal garland falls upon the bier,
The shadow of a crown, that o'er him hung,
Has vanish'd in the shadow cast by Death.
So princely, tender, truthful, reverent pure—
Mourn ! That a world-wide Empire mourns with you.
That all the Thrones are clouded, by your loss
Were slender solace. Yet be comforted ;
For if this earth be ruled by Perfect Love,
Then after his brief range of blameless days,
The toll of funeral in an Angel ear,
Sounds happier than the merriest marriage bell.
The face of Death is toward the Sun of Life,
His shadow darkens earth ; his truer name
Is "Onward," no discordance in the roll
And march of that Eternal Harmony,
Where to the world's beat time tho' faintly heard,
Until the Great Hereafter. Mourn in hope !

TENNYSON.

—*Nineteenth Century.*

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THE municipal elections are over. Police arrangements were made at several polling stations to suppress any disturbance if it broke out. Special precautions were taken at Ward No. I. which displayed unusual interest. The greatest enthusiasm was visible in Wards Nos. I. and II. In the first, Baboo Matilal Ghose, of the *Amritabazar Patrika*, was not successful against Baboos Pashupati Nath Bose and Bhupendranath Bose. Every attempt was made to keep out Baboo Ghose. At the last moment, an application was made to the High Court by Baboo Pashupati Nath Bose to strike out Ghose's name from the list of candidates. Mr. Justice Trevelyan characterized the attempt as an electioneering dodge and refused it. The particulars will be found in another column. The dodge, however, succeeded. At the close of the poll at No. I., there was a sort of demonstration against the defeated candidate and his supporters. The failed candidate was conveyed home under police protection. His supporters too had their share of hisses delivered at the gates of their houses by an elated crowd swelled, it is said, by officers of the Corporation.

The town Corporation of Calcutta consists of 75 members or Commissioners as they are called. Of these, Government appoints 15, the Chamber of Commerce elects 4, the Trades Association 4, the Port Commissioners 2, while the electors among the rate payers of 25 Wards of the town elect 50 representatives.

Among the retiring Commissioners who sought re-election, six were not accepted, namely,

- Ward 2. Mr. N. N. Ghose.
 " 4. Babu Sarat Chunder Mitter.
 " 6. Babu Umakant Sen.
 " 11. Dr. Mahendralal Sircar.
 " 21. Mr. W. Swinhoe.
 " 23. Babu Shama Churn Bose.

The non-return of Dr. Sircar and Messrs. Ghose and Swinhoe is a distinct loss to the Corporation. The natural law of survival of the fittest has clearly been belied in these cases. This indeed, we are afraid, is the rule in popular elections.

There were no contests, or the superfluous candidates had retired before the commencement of the poll, in Wards 5, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 22.

The return, subject to revision by the Chairman, shews that 38 old Commissioners presented themselves for re-election, of whom 32 have succeeded, namely,

- Ward 2. Babu Chandilal Singh.
 " 3. " Kallynath Mitter.
 Coomar Shusil Krishna.
 " 4. Babu Nolin Behary Sircar.
 " 5. Kumar Dinender Narain Roy.
 Babu Lal Behari Bysack.
 " 6. " Bhoobun Mohun Sircar.
 " 7. " Harinarain Goenka,
 " Shewbux Bogla.
 " 8. Moulvi Budruddin Hyder,
 Babu Sreenath Dutt.
 " 9. " Narendernath Sen,
 Moulvi Zahiruddin Ahmed.
 " 10. Babu Rash Behary Das.
 " 12. " Nobin Chand Borah.
 " 13. Moulvi Fazlor Rahman.
 " 14. Khan Bahadar Ahmad.
 Babu Surendranath Banerjee.
 " 15. Khan Bahadr Serajul Islam.
 " 16. Moulvi Aga Mahomed Musa.
 " 17. Mr. J. Ghosal,
 " G. T. Doucett.
 " 18. " J. G. Aparcar,
 " W. Corkhill.
 " 19. Babu Amritlal Ghose.
 " 20. Moulvi Abdul Jawad.
 " 21. Babu Kanti Chunder Banerjee.
 " 22. " Preonath Mullick.
 Pandit Prannath Saraswati.
 " 24. Kumar Satyabadi Ghosal.
 " 25. Babu Monilal Banerjee.
 " Akhil Chunder Mookerjee.

The new comers are :—

- Ward 1. Babu Pashupati Nath Bose.
 " Bhupendra Nath Bose.
 " 2. Mr. U. K. Dutt.
 " 4. Babu Ram Charan Mitter.
 " 6. " Radha Churn Pal.
 " 10. " Soorender Nath Das.
 " 11. " Devprasad Sarvadhicari.
 " Ashootosh Dey.
 " 12. Mr. R. McGuire.
 " 13. Babu Mohini Mohun Chatterjee.
 " 15. Mr. A. L. Sandel.
 " 16. Mr. W. H. Ryland.
 " 19. Mr. M. O'Brien.
 " 20. " A. F. M. Abdur Rahman.
 " 21. Sheik Bachoo.
 " 23. Babu Devender Chunder Ghose.
 " Ram Tarun Banerjee.
 " 24. Mr. R. Braunsfeld.

Of these eighteen, ten represent law, three medicine, one trade, and the remainder land and other interests.

NOTHING in God's universe is good for nothing, unless it be some miserable men. We learn that a Parsi at Bombay has sent over a consignment of 250 crows to Zanzibar to assist, as he says, in carrying out sanitary reforms. He should follow up with a shipment of vultures, who are well-trying reformers. There are many men who have all the nastiness and the nuisance breeding capacity, without the detergescence of these nightmen of Nature.

MRS. Mary M. Stuart, who during her lifetime had expended fifty lacs of Rupees in charity, has left by her will to the institutions of sorts of New York, charitable, educational, and religious, the fabulous sum of a crore of Rupees. A genuine sister of charity though not up to founding an empire, perhaps, under any circumstances.

MANY parts of Asia are now badly suffering from the small-pox epidemic, specially Japan and Cabul. In the latter, the disease is most virulent among the children.

THE Financial Statement for 1892-93 was published yesterday as a *Gazette of India* Extraordinary. The official summary of it is as follows :—

"The Accounts of 1890-91 have closed with a surplus of Rx. 3,688,000. It is explained that this large surplus is mainly due to the speculative rise in Exchange which took place in that year, and to other causes of temporary operation.

In the Revised Estimate for 1891-92 the Revenue is estimated at Rx. 88,586,000 and the Expenditure at Rx. 88,666,000, showing a deficit of Rx. 80,000. It is fully anticipated that the improvement on the Revised Estimate which usually occurs will more than cover this deficit and that the Accounts of the year will close with a surplus.

During the year 1891-92 there has been a very great increase in net Revenue from Railways, a considerable improvement in the Opium Account, and satisfactory increases of Revenue under all important heads except that of Land Revenue.

The improvement has, however, been swallowed up by increased Military Expenditure, by the fall in the rate of exchange, and by falling off of Land Revenue owing to scarcity in portions of the country.

In the Budget Estimate for 1892-93 the Revenue is estimated at Rx. 88,368,000 and the Expenditure at Rx. 88,221,000, yielding a surplus of Rx. 147,000. The most striking feature of the Budget is the fall in the Rate of Exchange from Rs. 54d. in the Budget of 1891-92 to Rs. 4d. in the Budget of 1892-93—a fall which adds Rx. 1,708,000 to the Expenditure of the Government of India. This increase of Expenditure has been met by the resumption of Rx. 466,000 from Local Governments at the periodical revision of the Provincial Contracts, by increase of Revenue from Railways, and by increased receipts under the Principal Heads of Revenue, as well as by an improvement in the Interest Account in India, owing mainly to Capital Expenditure on Railways and Canals having been met from the large surpluses of recent years. The net Opium Revenue is taken in the Budget at Rx. 5,400,000.

The Estimates of 1892-93 provide Rx. 4,035,000 for Capital Expenditure not charged to Revenue, as well as Rx. 1,012,000 under the Famine Grant for the Construction of Railways and Canals and Rx. 118,000 under head 37—Construction of Railways.

It is not expected that it will be necessary to raise a loan in India this year, though no pledge is given.

It is announced under the usual reserve that the Secretary of State will probably sell bills for £17,000,000 in the coming year, and will raise a loan of £1,800,000 for discharge of Railway Debentures and for advances to Railway Companies.

The present scarcity is stated to be a cause of anxiety, but actual famine is not anticipated unless there should be a failure of the perio-

dical rains in the affected tracts. The meteorological conditions at present afford no indication of the likelihood of such a failure.

Apart from the possibility of the occurrence of serious famine, Sir David Barbour considers that there is no ground for special anxiety regarding the coming year.

He adds, however, that the Currency question appears to be approaching the critical stage, and that it is impossible to tell what a few years may bring forth."

MR. Justice Birdwood succeeds Sir Raymond West as judicial member of the Bombay Legislative Council.

COLONEL Henderson makes over charge as General Superintendent, Thagi and Dacoity Department, on March 21, to Dr. Lethbridge, and takes over charge, on April 15, as Resident at Mysore.

As desired by Mrs. Quinton, the N.-W. P. Quinton Memorial Committee have decided that the fund subscribed by the friends of the late Mr. Quinton be applied to the establishment of an additional ward in the Dufferin Hospital at Lucknow, to be called the "Quinton Memorial Ward."

THE blood of General Azimuddin of Rampore still cries for blood. Seven men, including the two brothers who were arrested before and after an enquiry set free, are under arrest for the late murder. Mr. R. G. Hardy, Collector of Jhansi, has been deputed for the second enquiry. Messrs. T. Conlan and W. M. Colvin, of the Allahabad bar, will represent the Rampore state, while Mr. H. Vansittart and Mr. Ross Alston defend the accused.

RAJA Jung Bahadoor Khan, C.I.E., the munificent Talookdar of Nanpara, in Oudh, who had before subscribed Rs. 10,000 to the Endowment Fund of the Lady Dufferin Hospital, has now given to the same charity Rs. 20,000. The money has already been paid to the District Magistrate, Mr. H. W. Gibson, Deputy Commissioner of Bahriach.

WE heartily commend the *Rangoon Times* for its earnestness in behalf of the truly dumb millions. There is no mincing of matters with our contemporary. The Editor goes straight to the point. Here is a paragraph in the *Rangoon Times*:-

"We would call the attention of the S. P. C. A. to the state of a bay pony which is being driven in a trap by a petition-writer named Sunjeeveraido. The animal is very lame on the near fore, the shoulder being apparently sprained."

The *Central Provinces and Berar News*, quoting that, says that it would like to follow suit, but that no S. P. C. A. is at Nagpur. What a pity! Nay, what a shame! A large town, the capital of a great and growing Province, which has no institution for protecting God's weaker and dependent creatures from unnecessary harm and frivolous cruelty and injustice, has no legitimate claim to civilization.

NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

EUROPE suffers from winter still. A Reuter of the 14th speaks of most severe weather prevailing throughout England and the Continent. The snowstorms have been, and continue to be, very heavy, and the frosts terrific. Railway traffic is impeded and many trains snowed up in various parts.

THERE is again a sensation in England over a fashionable delinquent of the feminine gender. Mrs. Osborne had scarcely been lodged in jail when another member of "Society"—this time a genuine Upper Ten-wallah, or should we not rather say, wallah?—a "horsey" lady and well-known sporting character—was caught tilpping. Mrs. Montague, wife of Lord Robert Montague's son, is under trial for causing the death of her daughter Helen, aged three years. The poor thing was shut up for punishment in a dark room where it died. Of course, the defence pleaded accident. The prisoner has been committed on a charge of manslaughter, and is now at large by deposit of bail for £700.

THE prospects of Home Rule seem brightening up. A Gladstonian, Mr. Dalziel, has been elected for the Kirkcaldy District vacated by the

death of Sir George Campbell, by a majority of 1,036 votes, against Mr. Cox, Liberal-Unionist. But, of course, one swallow does not make summer.

LORD Rosebery has been appointed Chairman *pro tem* of the London County Council.

AT Manchester, on the 11th, Sergeant Holden, formerly of the Royal Engineers, was brought up charged with selling to France certain plans giving details of the Malta defences. The Magistrate refused bail, and the prisoner has been remanded to prison.

MR. William Tayler, wellknown as the dismissed Commissioner of Patna, has died after all.

THE week began with miners to the number of four hundred thousand on strike in England, necessitating the stoppage of many manufacturing for want of coal, and sending it up in London ten shillings a ton over the average price. Many steamers are lying idle in the northern ports. The London and North-Western Railway Company have stopped their engine works at Crewe, while the North-Eastern Company have reduced the hands at their workshops. The measures taken by the Railway Companies have thrown 1,400 men out of employ. On the 15th, one hundred passenger trains were to be withdrawn.

The Miners' Federation were thus forced to reconsider their original resolution. They were scarcely prepared for these reprisals. On the 17th, they came to the conclusion to resume work on Monday next, but not to work more than five days in the week. The end of the week may see the close of the strike. The price of coal has already declined four shillings a ton.

AT Paris, there is quite a scare in the wealthy quarters owing to the increase of outrages by the Anarchists. A house in the Boulevard St. German was wrecked by a bomb on the 12th. On March 14, they exploded a dynamite bomb in the barracks of the Republican Guard, causing great damage to property but hurting nobody. The Government has had recourse to extraordinary measures. The military posts have been reinforced, and the Police have orders to arrest anybody possessing arms, explosives, or seditious documents. A Bill has been introduced in the Chamber of Deputies prescribing death for any person found guilty of causing unlawful explosion of dynamite.

IN Belgium, an explosion from fire damp has entombed one hundred and twenty miners at the Anderlues coal pit, near Mons. Sixteen were rescued in a dying condition.

PROFESSOR Freeman, the historian, is dead. He was a learned man of somewhat extreme views. He hated the Turks like a Crusader. In diction he had turned an ultra-Saxonist.

TOWARDS the end of last week, the Emperor William was suffering from a severe cold, being confined to bed since Thursday. He is now much better and making fair progress towards recovery.

THE flighty young Emperor of Germany has managed to complete his breach with the Liberals, if not his entire people. At the annual banquet of the Bradenburg Diet, he made a remarkable speech denouncing the Opposition in no measured terms. With considerable warmth he noticed the growing habit of grumbling—the tendency to find fault with every measure and movement of Government, with the certain result of disturbing the public tranquility and rendering the people unhappy. He did not quote Virgil for anything that we know, but he spoke in the sense of the famous lines—

O! fortunatos nimium, sua si bona norint,
Agricolas! quibus ispa procul discordibus armis,
Fundit humo facilem victum justissima tellus.

Under the evil teaching of irresponsible demagogues, the people were prevented from enjoying the advantages of their security and

steady prosperity. Such was the drift of the imperial complaint. His Majesty thought that the masses did not understand the mysteries of public affairs and had better not concern themselves with political problems. The Emperor concluded: "I am helped by a firm conviction that the Ruler of all will not now leave me in the lurch. He has given Himself such endless trouble with our house that we can assume that he has not done it for nothing. Brandenburg, we are called to greatness! To those glorious days I will lead you! Do not let grumblers and the party speeches of discontented persons darken your future." It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of that deliverance. It is a historic manifesto. Naturally, the speech has caused a profound and indeed painful impression throughout Germany. That well-known authority the Berlin correspondent of the *Times* says: "The speech is the chief topic of conversation in all classes of society. It is felt that the gauntlet has been thrown down, and that the struggle between the Government and the Opposition will now be fought out to the bitter end. The Education Bill, the Bill repressing drunkenness, and other measures which provoked public protest will now be forced through the Legislature at all costs. Should the Education Bill be refused by the Upper House, a crisis will be reached, which may afford an opportunity for Prince Bismarck's reappearance. Should he oppose the Bill in the Upper House, he will occupy the position of leader of the German nation."

THE Government having taken women labourers under its protection, and relieved them of one hour's work, the mill owners of Ahmedabad are changing the sex of their proletariat, depending more and more upon working men rather than working women, inasmuch as the former work for twelve hours as heretofore, while the latter cannot, under the Act, be worked more than eleven. Already, we learn from *Native Opinion*, hundreds of factory women have thus been discharged and males taken in in their places.

THE Malabar Marriage Commission has presented its report. To the great question whether the peculiar marriage customs in the Malabar country were founded on or connected with religion, the unanimous answer of the members is in the negative. Accordingly, they advise legislation. Towards this end, the Nair member, Mr. C. Sankaran Nair, laid before his colleagues certain suggestions which were accepted by them all with the exception of the President. These have been formulated in a Bill, which will probably be introduced in the legislature. The President thinks that the legislature should attempt nothing beyond recognising the existing forms of union. These forms are so numerous that the other members regard the President's proposition impracticable.

PERCHED high up in the great chain of mountains which separates Southern from High or main Asia, where it ceases to be the Hindu Kush and takes the name of the Himalayas, is Chilas. It is one of the frontiers of Cashmere to which it is understood to pay an almost nominal allegiance. And now that slender tie between the two has been cut. The place could scarcely support a costly establishment, and the people could not brook the presence of a lot of foreigners, little men dressed in brief authority, among them and, what was far more intolerable, over them. Chilas paid a little tribute in token of submission, but this was quietly collected and remitted by the people themselves, and not, as we take it, exacted by a foreign agency. The only overt indication of not necessarily subjection but connection at all was the maintenance in Chilas of an intelligencer from the Durbar—a correspondent. Call him Resident if you will, but this was his real position. Of course, being there, not the least of his duties is to remind the natives of their obligation in regard to the tribute and to see to its transmission. Whether this officer was wanting in tact, or whatever be the cause, the Chilasites have kicked him out. And there is a talk of sending out a small expedition to chastise these "cheeky" mountaineers of Chilas.

THE troubles of Baboo Mahendranath Chatterjee, the Plender of Mhow in Central India, and proprietor and editor of the defunct *Eastern Herald*, sentenced to nine months' simple imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1,500 for defamation of the European Secretary of the Maharaja Holkar, but set free by the Viceroy, are not yet ended.

He is not allowed to practise in the Courts subordinate to the Central India Agency. The Baboo has appealed to the Viceroy against this injustice of his Agent in Central India. We understand that the Baboo's release from jail was unconditional. He has suffered much for any folly he may have committed. He cannot revive his journal. The Agent might have some justification in not allowing it, but to drive him from his profession is to punish him for attempting honest labor for livelihood and, after his late disaster, is withal vindictive cruelty.

THE *Behar Herald* of March 12 writes:—

"His Royal Highness, Prince Damrong of Siam, was at Gya, the other day for the purpose of a pilgrimage to Budh Gya. He was accompanied by Mr. Grierson, who explained to him all the important inscriptions on the walls, the exact position of the sacred tree, and the site which may be taken as the place of Nirvana. The Mohant of Budh Gya made suitable arrangements for the reception of the Prince and presented him with an address of welcome. The Mohant is, we believe, a Shivate Syannassi and cannot officiate in any way in the Temple. He is the owner, because it is situated within his zemindari, just as much as he can be said to be the owner of a mosque, or a temple situated within its cubit. It may be that to it, the late Mohant, owed the distinction that he enjoyed above all the Mohants in the district, of Gya, and the present man considers it as a 'precious diadem' of which 'he is justly proud,' but in our opinion, it would be much better if he were to accede to the temple being made over to its legitimate owners and worshipers. It is a huge misnomer that this Mohant is known as the 'Mohant of Budh Gya.'"

Just so! And while the learned Indian Buddhist, Dharmaraj Bhikshu, is practically denied access to the temple! This pilgrim is now in quest of justice from the Lieutenant-Governor.

THE season closes in Calcutta on Wednesday, March 23, with the Garden Party at Government House. The Viceroy leaves the winter capital on the 28th following, reaching Simla on the 21st April, taking in his way Bombay, Pachmar and Khanki. At the Western capital, Lord Lansdowne will open the Tansa water works.

THE *Central Provinces and Berar News and Railway Gazette*, we regret to notice, labours under the same failing as the *People's Friend*, namely, an unfortunate habit of what the wise call "conveying" other people's goods. In a sub-leader, in our issue of the 27th February, we adverted to the literary phenomenon of the Madras journalist using the best part of one of our issues—often to the very words—for the best part of one of his, without acknowledgment. It is the same in the *Central Provinces*, only not on so big a scale. Nor does the Nagpur journalist give himself any unnecessary trouble in tinkering the cribbed article to make it look somewhat like a home production. The *Central Provinces and Berar News and Railway Gazette* of the 11th March simply coolly transfers, without the slightest acknowledgment, two of our original paragraphs—Notes—of the 20th February into its editorial columns.

POETRY does not apparently thrive among the British in the Central Provinces. There is no lack of good scenery to stimulate the fancy. At any rate, there is abundance of materials for satire. But this is all the use made of the opportunity by the Nagpur Juvenal!

"Chillies and salt he knows how to buy
And when making payment, he'll tell a big lie;
And even the cook, though a poor old man
He'll rob of an anna, whenever he can.

With the ladies he thinks, it is his rightful due
To help himself to kisses a few;
Like the Turk in his harem, he does a queer grin
While his servants they curse, and say God help him."

—to quote the last two stanzas of a piece in the local print.

Both thought and expression are beyond praise. The writer beats hollow "the Turk in his harem, in doing a queer grin"—in the "pottery" business. Edmond Burke, in translating, while a boy of sixteen, a famous passage in classical literature, rhymed *ease* with *days*. It was, of course, due to his Irish pronunciation. But here we have, we fear, a more serious case—one evidently of congenital deformity. There is something wrong in the auricular nerve which perceives a sameness between "grin" and "him." Yes, it is a question of ears, after all. What is the length of these appendages of these poetical Britishers?

IN native households in India, the resident physicians (of European medicine) are not confined to jalap and bark, but are utilised in more practical and profitable work. This is specially the case in the Native States. Ranjeet Singh employed Dr. Honigbeiger in making brandy and spirits for his own consumption and gunpowder for his army. We are not surprised to find, therefore, that Dr. Gray, the present Physician to the Cabul Durbar, had been to Europe not to perfect himself in the art of healing and saving men, but to seek more efficient instruments for killing. He has now brought out a consignment of magazine rifles. Whatever may be thought of the propriety of such a mission for a son of Æsculapius, there can be no doubt about the Ameer's appreciation of his doctor and the European practice of medicine. Not problems regarding sanitation or the specific action of drugs, nor even the quest of the philosopher's stone or the elixir of lasting juvenescence, are the Ameer's care. For other things absorb him—thoughts like the following—

What rhubarb, senna, or what purgative drug,
Would scour these English hence?

Abdur Rahman is an Afghan after all. He is thankful for what he gets from England, but he probably suspects that it is the refuse of the Indian arsenals that is turned into a presentation quadruped for his acceptance. And he may be excused for thinking that, if he would be really strong, he must acquire his arms according to his own choice. With arms received from the British *gratis*, he could never meet the British—or the Russians either.

Hope is constant, if not very strong, on the social and religious question. At any rate, since the Consent Bill controversy when it not only set up as the Hindoo Pope—sure exponent of the *sastras*—but also sounded the depths of the ignorance of its neighbours, we have to approach our contemporary on those subjects with caution. Total ignorance may, however, be allowed to ask true scholarship just one question. In taking up the cudgels in behalf of Mr. R. C. Dutt's school History of India, *Hope* passes a strong and sweeping condemnation on all the recognised writers as historians of ancient Hindu India, Dutt included. From Hunter the Editor thus passes to Dutt:—

"In Mr. Dutt's book also there are a few chapters devoted to this very subject. These chapters are, however, generally based upon informations received second-hand. At best these chapters never show on the part of their writer more than a dabbling in the ancient works from which they are said to be derived. For a true Sanskrit scholar, who has carefully read the Vedas, the Puranas and the Sanhitas, would regard it highly foolish and ridiculous to say that the Vedas are only a few thousand years old, or that the four Vedas were produced at four distant periods, or that the Mahavarata was written before the Ramayana, or that the incidents of the Ramayana were historically of later occurrence than those of the Mahavarata.

Yet these things are deliberately passed off as historical facts and no better arguments are given in their support than bold assumptions and imaginary theories. The Ramayana and Mahavarata are looked upon as mythologies dealing with fables of the imagination, though they give a far more faithful account of the ancient Hindus and their manners and customs than these so-called *histories* which are filled more with figments spun out of the imagination of the writers and facts tinged with their individual prejudices."

[We have reproduced our contemporary with the peculiarities of the text, not knowing what is the writer's originality and what the printer's lapse.]

Such is the criticism of the Hindu Revival. We confess we do not sympathise with it. We are not of those who hold, Our country, right or wrong. And our maxim is, Plato is great but Truth is greater. But we are getting impertinent. So we will ask our question and be done.

What are "the Vedas, the Puranas and the Sanhitas" in particular of "the true Sanskrit [Sanskrit?] scholar?"

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, March 19, 1892.

INDIAN ECONOMISTS AND THE VALUE OF THEIR NOSTRUMS.

THE report of the first Conference of the Poona Industrial Association is out. It is a neat little volume containing the full text of the addresses delivered,

the papers read, and the resolutions passed at the three meetings held at the capital of the Peshwas in August last. The object for which the Association has been organised, cannot but have the sympathy of every well-wisher of India. But as to the efficacy of the means proposed to be employed, there seems to us to be room for considerable difference of opinion. We gave expression to our views on the subject at the time when the Conference met. And in the report now before us we see nothing to alter our opinion. On the contrary, it serves only to deepen our conviction that the Industrial parliament, inaugurated by our Poona friends, may involve quite as needless a waste of energy and resource, and in the end prove quite as abortive, as the political movement organised at the suggestion, and under the guidance, of Mr. Hume. The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Mahadeb Govind Ranade's paper on the reorganisation of real credit in India, and Dr. Dhanokoti Rijoo's paper on Indian iron and steel, deserve serious attention. Mr. Nutt's paper urging on the Government of India to buy its stores from local manufacturers in all cases where there is no difference of quality or price, is also to the point. But we cannot appreciate the value of most of the other remedies prescribed by the Association for bringing about the industrial amelioration of India. We must confess that we have no faith whatever in exhibitions, technical schools and industrial surveys which the Conference recommends by its resolutions. As to exhibitions, the mover of the resolution on the subject himself says:—

"The experience of the Calcutta Exhibitions of 1883-84 is not very encouraging on the point. The anticipations of its promoters have not been realised and the display, though held under the most favourable auspices, has left no impress on the industrial life of the country."

Exhibitions are certainly useful in Europe and America, where the people are making vast and rapid strides in the improvement of the industrial arts. But an exhibition in India is only a solemn mockery—nay, a cruel insult. If our infant industries be represented as hanging by the neck on the gibbet of British mercantile selfishness misnamed "Free Trade," and if Manchester be represented as sucking the life-blood of its victims, that would be a fitting exhibition for India. In the present state of things, the economical condition of the country could be adequately represented, only if it were possible to bring together, in all their wretchedness, the millions of weavers who have been thrown out of employment by the import of Manchester piece-goods. It would be a ghastly spectacle of human misery. Yet it would represent the economical ruin of the country in a far more life-like manner than the pomp and pageantry of a Joubert's farce.

In countries where everything is being done to improve the industrial arts, it is useful at times to take a bird's eye view of what has been achieved, and also to hold a comparison with the products and capabilities of other parts of the world. But of what use is an exhibition in India? To a man who is well-housed, well-fed and well-clothed, a change of scenery or climate may bring about some improvement in health. But what can the sight of a sanitarium do to the victim of penury and starvation? To deny him a handful of rice while urging him to spend the last pice he may have to catch a glimpse of celestial Darjeeling or Simla, is only cruel mockery, of which there can be no justification whatever.

With regard to technical schools and industrial

surveys, our views are well known to our readers, and we need not repeat here what we have before said on the subject. With such statistics as we do already possess, indeed without the need of any statistics, we all know what our most important economical wants are. It would not matter much if leather or soap or candles or painter's stores or even paper continued to be imported from foreign countries for some time to come. The total value of all these items, falls short of even a tenth part of the amount that represents the value of cotton piecegoods imported from Manchester. What we want most urgently, are cotton mills and iron foundries. These industries do not require for their further expansion either neatly tabulated statistics, or operatives trained in chemistry, algebra and portrait painting. They require only a little of that protection to which, during their infancy, they are entitled, according to the highest authorities of the economical science, but which our Government has denied to them for the sake of Manchester. If our rulers had not made cotton piecegoods duty free, the indigenous mills would have flourished; more mills would have been set up; there would have been no necessity whatever for the hated income tax; and the rupee would not have been depreciated to the extent that it now is.

Speaking of the depreciated rupee, we cannot do without referring to the paper on the "Rupee and Foreign Trade," read at the Conference by Mr. David Gostling, F. R. I. B. A. E. G. H. His account of the causes of low exchange, is accurate enough. He says:—

"The Indian Government having to pay in London fourteen millions sterling yearly,—I believe their indebtedness during the current year has increased to sixteen millions,—sell their drafts on India, when the rupee is worth 15 1/2 for Rs. 21,000,000, i. e., they agree to pay in India this value of Rupees on demand to the bankers and merchants who purchase their drafts in London. The Government pay this amount out of their land revenue and other sources of income in India. The money is paid at the Government Reserve Treasuries in Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras. Thus at that rate of exchange, £14,000,000 in London exchange for Rs. 21,000,000 in India. But the balance of trade in favour of India, including the amount paid for the above Government drafts, varies from Rs. 24,000,000 to Rs. 30,000,000. This variation is due partly to bad or good harvests in India and partly to bad or good trade prices in England. It has been established that, during seasons of unusually bad trade in England, when prices have fallen to their lowest point, when English manufacturers and merchants are not able to sell their goods, and are obliged, at any sacrifice, to get advances from the banks and keep trade going, to accomplish this they ship their goods on consignment to India, and take their chance of selling at any price on arrival. In such circumstances the Indian Banks in London having purchased drafts payable in India secured as to repayment by these goods, and the total value of these goods being thus larger than usual, they require less silver and a less value of Government drafts to make up their balance of remittance. They are thus in the commanding position to be able to say to the holders of silver, we require no silver this week unless you make us a concession; and they give the same answer to the India Office. If silver is weakly held they purchase silver, if Indian drafts they purchase the latter; neither party can afford to be left in the cold, and thus both silver and India drafts go down in price."

To understand the above, it is necessary to bear in mind that, in the normal state of things, the exports and imports of a country must be of equal value. The exports represent the price paid for the imports, and, necessarily, there must be equality in their value, unless affected by other circumstances. As a matter of fact, the exports of India exceed her imports every year by nearly 30 crores of rupees. The price of the excess of India's exports, is paid by the English merchants either by importing silver to India, or by buying the bills on the Indian treasuries which are sold by the Secretary of State. It was the demonitization of silver by Germany that first brought about the fall in the price of silver. But the evil, if it is such, is materially aggravated by the competition of the Secretary of State, who sells more than 200 millions of silver rupees in the Indian

treasuries for their equivalent in gold paid to him in London. The adoption of the bimetallic principle by America and by all the European nations, might restore silver to its former footing. But the history of the American silver legislation shows, that no one nation, however great, can do much single-handed. On the other hand, the day seems to be yet very far in the distance, when there will be unanimity among all the great nations of the world, as to making the coinage of silver free. Mr. Gostling suggests that the Government of India should impose restrictions on the coinage of silver, as the United States and the continental nations of Europe have done, since its demonitization by Germany. A far better plan would be to impose a duty on silver bullion imported into India. While silver is allowed to be imported duty free, the imposition of restrictions on its coinage in the Government mints, would only make the temptation for illicit coining irresistible to the Sonar and the Bania. By the regulation of currency suggested by Mr. Gostling, Government might derive some benefit from the unearned increment that would take place in the value of the rupee. A duty on silver would secure to the public exchequer not only that invisible benefit, but also a visible revenue. The only objection to the measure is, that it would, in the long run, only aggravate the evil by lowering still further the price of silver in the European markets.

Then are there no remedies for low exchange? We think there are, and, some of them being entirely in the hands of our rulers, we wonder much that our Anglo-Indian friends never insist upon their application. We see no reason why they should fear Manchester as Her Majesty's ministers do. The rupee being the standard coin of India, her demand for it is limited only by her means to buy it. At the present time, the balance of trade being about 30 crores, and the Home charges about 20 crores, India imports on an average about ten crores in silver. Should the Home charges be diminished, or if there should be an increase in the balance of trade, then the demand for silver would obviously increase to a corresponding extent. If only cotton piece-goods, ironware and salt ceased to be imported, then the balance of trade would be wide enough to absorb all the silver in the European markets, within a few years. The two remedies for low exchange which are absolutely in the power of our rulers, are:—

1. Diminution of Home charges.
2. Imposition of an import duty on cotton piece-goods and ironware.

If our Anglo-Indian friends choose to accept the depreciated rupee and the Income tax, in spite of these obvious preventives, they have only themselves to blame.

SELF-DESTRUCTION OF HINDU WOMEN.

WITHIN the last few years and especially within the last one year, the number of suicides among Hindoo women in and about Calcutta has been alarmingly great. It is a matter of no less regret than surprise, that such a growing calamity has not up to this time engaged the serious attention of the thoughtful in that community, nor attracted the notice of the press. Beyond recording an isolated case now and then or commenting upon the merits of an incident of more than common pathos, it does not seem that this important subject has received that attention from the public and the press which

it deserves. We think it is high time that public attention should be directed towards it, and it is with this object alone that we have taken up pen. We do not profess to be able to deal with the subject satisfactorily, as all the materials required to do justice to it are not in our possession. We shall only make certain observations based upon individual experience and not upon any vital statistics or analysis of all recorded cases. We shall deal with it from a general and commonsense point of view.

Even a cursory looking over the Calcutta daily papers of the last few months, ought to enable one to realize the truth of what we have stated. But this is not all the information on this unfortunate subject. If the daily Police reports of Calcutta and the suburbs are examined, it would appear that all cases of suicide are not reported by the press, but only the important and sensational ones, leaving out dozens. If these Police reports of the last 6 years are compared with some of the previous years, it will clearly appear to what extent, in number, in importance, and in melancholy significance, these cases have increased. In former days, self-destruction was rare and mostly confined among the lower classes. Now we find a sufficiently large number among the middle and educated classes and sometimes among the higher classes too.

Generally, there appear to be three effective ways by which life is destroyed : (1) opium or other poisoning, (2) hanging, and (3) drowning in tanks or excavations adjoining the house or in the neighbourhood. Let us see who are the victims of such painful and rash acts. One would fain think that most of them are widows, whose lives are presumably unhappy for more than one reason in the Hindoo household. But no, this surmise seems incorrect. Most of the victims are young married women, whose lives might be presumed happy and who are in their prime of life, full of hope and tender and cherished ambitions of their own kind. The question then arises, Why do they destroy themselves? What makes them so unhappy as to be sick of their precious lives? What are the vital causes which lead, not to say force, them to self-destruction? What has made their relation with their husbands and their female relations so intolerable?

These are the few principal causes of suicide which we have chiefly noticed : (1) the ill-treatment which the wife receives from the notorious mother-in-law and the no less formidable *nanud*—the husband's elder sister; (2) husband's ill-treatment of her and want of sympathy with her, for various reasons, *viz.*, evil habits of drunkenness, and debauchery, which make her life bitter and a burden to her. In some cases, young, inexperienced, and impulsive husbands are prompted by their mothers and sisters to ill-treat their wives, and whenever there is any quarrel or disagreement between the wife and her mother-in-law and *nanuds*, the husband generally sides with his mother and sister and chastises and ill-treats his young and helpless wife. Sometimes, these unfortunate girls are cruelly and brutally thrashed by their husbands, either at the instigation of their mother-in-law or the sisters-in-law, or at her remonstrating against the conduct of the husband. They are subject to many other mental and physical tortures, which it is difficult to describe in detail. For months and years, these unfortunate creatures bear their miseries and sorrow with heroic silence,

like dumb animals, until their lives become truly embittered, when, hopeless of any redress, and straining their eyes in vain for the faintest silver lining in the prospect before them, they are driven to seek for "the golden key of the chamber of eternal happiness." When the relation between the husband and the wife or between her and his female relations becomes strained and unpleasant, then all her communications are cut off from her parents or relations, or at least attempts are made in that direction with more or less success. The knowledge of this fact intensifies her wounded feeling and raises it to the highest pitch of desperation and hopelessness, resulting, in most cases, in her self-destruction, accompanied not unfrequently as it is with a train of misfortune, disgrace, trouble and shame for the families of her husband and of her father.

The reasons which we have adduced above, are not mere conjectures. They are founded on positive evidence and reliable information. Apart from the evidence collected by the Police or given before the coroner or the Magistrate, we have had the painful duty of reading several letters written by some unfortunate wives before committing suicide. More really pathetic and heart-rending correspondence we had never occasion to read before. In those letters also the above reasons were ascribed by those who had destroyed themselves.

It is admitted by all that a great revolution is going on in the social existence of the Hindus. Their habits, manners, social rules, ways of living, household influences and the whole household atmosphere, are all fast changing. This is regarded as a direct result of the influence of Western education and Western civilization, which are confessedly not without their peculiar attendant evils. Female education in whatever form it might be given, must be held accountable, to some extent, for the changes which are visible in the habits, thoughts, ideas, and principles of Hindu women in Bengal. Each schoolboy is a reformer in his own little family circle, and each educated lady a champion of female emancipation, protector of the rights of her sex and supporter of the Great National Congress.

Have these changes or influences anything to do, either directly or indirectly, with the lamentable increase in painful and startling suicides among the Hindu womankind? Has English education, which is claimed as a great blessing to our youngmen, made them worse husbands? Or, have the influences above described, including female education, ground self-respect of Hindu women into a keener edge than it had before? Have the ladies become more susceptible to those wrongs which they bore without murmur before? It is very difficult for anyone to assert and demonstrate any particular link between these influences or circumstances and the prevalence of self-murder, but there cannot, we believe, be much doubt that they have in one way or the other to account a great deal for this unhappy state of things.

Apart from the tyranny of the mother-in-law throughout the world, she holds in India a more impregnable position and exercises a more unquestioned authority. Here the dowagers are despots, pure and simple. They are still the strongholds of Hindu orthodoxy in all its rigidity. Their notions of the duties and rights of a wife are quite distinct from those of the Western world or those at present held by their sons and grandsons and daughters and daughters-in-law, who are receiving English education in some form or other. The education provided

for the Hindu boys and girls is devoid of any religious element, and is not inappropriately called ungodly. They are all therefore quite free from any religious or moral restraints, the greatest safeguards for human society against all sorts of evils. Most of the Hindu girls now receive a sort of half-cooked, indigestible education, and hence their ideas of freedom and happiness quite unknown to their mothers and grandmothers. They have commenced to see their rights and privileges from a different point of view. How, then, are they to be expected to harmoniously, happily and quietly live, and get on, with their old-fashioned mothers-in-law and sisters-in-law? Our young men also desire to see their wives more anglicised, externally as well as internally. They not only indoctrinate them with foreign thought, but also supply them with outlandish things, openly or secretly, against the wishes of their own mothers and sisters and grandmothers. The young wife has, therefore, the difficult task of pleasing two sets of men, whose views and ideas are quite antagonistic to one another on most points, not to speak of her own new desires and thoughts. This may be one of the causes of the frequent disagreement and rupture between the daughters-in-law and the mothers-in-law of the present day. In those cases in which the standard of education of the husband is very high, and he unfortunately desires to see his wife a perfect English lady, of a type of which he has only some theoretical conception rather than knowledge, and the wife falls far short of his ideal of an accomplished wife, he feels disappointed and fails to appreciate the normal good qualities of a Hindu wife—qualities unparalleled in the history of the outside world—her sincere devotion to her husband whom she regards as an avtar, a god, her respectful submission to all her elders, her vast sympathies for every relation, and her self-sacrifice for the comforts of others, her docility in acquiring the duties of her station, her meekness under suffering, her value as a nurse and a comforter. Thus disappreciated at home, he perhaps seeks his happiness elsewhere, and thus makes the life of the wife miserable.

Among Mahomedans, Jews and Christians, such misunderstanding is rare. This advantage, we believe, they owe to their early religious instruction and education, and among the two former also to their conservative rules for the guidance of their women folk and, above all, perhaps, to the absence of that female education which is so much talked of nowadays. It is an old saying "little knowledge is a dangerous thing," and it is quite applicable to the case of Hindu women or that education without religion is worse than ignorance—from an Indian point of view. It is not uncommon to see distressed Mahomedans saying when much dissatisfied with their lot and sick of their life, Oh! I would have committed suicide had I not been prevented by my religion. This shows the strong check which religious instructions place on ones wild passions.

It comes to this that the Hindu wife has no independent existence in the household of her husband where her mother-in-law rules supreme. Her own education or the husband's anglicised habits and ideas cannot give her that position which her Mahomedan or Christian sisters attain after she is installed on the glorious guddee of matrimony. Under such circumstances, it appears necessary that the Hindus should first improve their homes and turn the present queens of their household into constitutional sovereigns, before aspiring to educate and civilize their wives,

as the two contradictory elements cannot be expected to remain at peace.

In most cases, in pleasing her husband the young Hindu wife unwittingly and unconsciously displeases her mother-in-law, and when the latter gives vent to her displeasure, which she usually does under some other excuse, the inexperienced husband, not knowing the real cause or sympathising with his wrong-headed and vindictive mother, takes his wife to task.

The fact that most of these cases occur in or about Calcutta, clearly goes to show that they must very probably be due to some of the causes stated above. Calcutta is now the centre of Western education and civilization for the Hindus, where their influences are most acted upon, and are more strongly felt by their objects than in any other part of the country. In the interior, such cases are very few and far between and of no particular consequence. The social phenomenon in question certainly does not occur in any of the several important towns and stations where we have lived for years and had ample opportunities for observation and enquiry.

The ease with which the Hindu ladies of good families get opportunities of committing suicide, does not speak in favor of the control and supervision which Hindu gentlemen exercise over their households. It clearly points to great laxity of supervision. Surely, it must be very difficult for a female member to get opium with such ease in a well-regulated family or to hang herself. Alas, how few must be the well-regulated households! Free intercourse with outsiders, perfectly irresponsible position of female attendants, employment of young boys as servants and allowing them access to the inner apartments—all these help to bring opium or other destructive poisons within the easy reach of the ladies. In many families may be seen grown up up-country Hindu male servants moving in the female apartments with more freedom than an Aya has in an English household. These men are not like the polished servants of respectable Mahomedan or European gentlemen, but mere coolies, with (in some cases) rags tied round their waist. This last remark refers to the educated middle classes chiefly.

A well-regulated and properly supervised house is free from many such dangers, or at least protected to a great extent. The freedom which the half-educated and semi-civilized Hindus now generally wish to give to their women, is neither fish nor fowl. It is based on no principle and, in fact, has no meaning. It, therefore, gives rise to many dangers and troubles, and must involve them in the future in great difficulties which they cannot foresee in their zeal of new converts to foreign ideas, thoughts and habits, but which they must feel most keenly. In our opinion, it is undermining the good old Hindu society. Foreign habits and thoughts must be adopted with very great care and by degrees, if at all. We believe this mischief of opium-poisoning may be much minimized, if not entirely stopped, if Government take some action in the matter as not to make it easily accessible to those who are not entitled to have or possess it.

Our opinions, conjectures, and observations must, we are afraid, be full of errors and subject to correction by those who are better informed and have given more attention to the subject. But we may, in conclusion, be permitted to say this much that we have placed at least some materials before the public, however incomplete, for discussion. We hope the press will take up the subject in earnest.

A HINDOO WIDOW'S INHERITANCE.

The question as to whether a Hindoo widow, by marrying a second husband who was not a Hindoo (she herself having changed her religion prior to contracting the second marriage), forfeited her right, title and interest in her first husband's estate in favour of the next heir, was referred to the Full Bench for opinion by Justices Wilson, Prinsep, and Pigot, who were disagreed on the point. The following written judgment was delivered at the High Court on Saturday by a full Bench composed of the Chief Justice, and Justices Wilson, Pigot, Ghose and Prinsep.

Sir Comer Petheram, C. J.—The question submitted for the opinion of this Bench, as stated by Mr. Justice Wilson, is as follows: "In this case a Hindoo widow inherited the property of her husband, taking therein the estate of a Hindoo widow. She afterwards married a second husband, not a Hindoo, in the form provided by Act III of 1872, having first made a declaration, as required by Section 10 of the Act, that she was not a Hindoo. The question is, whether, by that marriage, she forfeited her interest in her first husband's estate in favour of the next heir?" I think that the decision, reported at page 206 of the third *Weekly Reporter*, is wrong, and I agree with the learned Judges who referred the question—that it must be answered in the affirmative. It is, I think, concluded by section 2 of the Hindoo Widows' Marriage Act XV of 1856, and I do not think it necessary to express any opinion on the other points, which have been mentioned in argument, and which are discussed in the judgment of the Judges who constituted the referring Bench.

The first two sections of the Act are as follow:—

"I. No marriage contracted between Hindoos shall be invalid, and the issue of no such marriage shall be illegitimate, by reason of the woman having been previously married or betrothed to another person who was dead at the time of such marriage, any custom and any interpretation of Hindoo law to the contrary notwithstanding.

"II. All rights and interests which any widow may have in her deceased husband's property by way of maintenance, or by inheritance to her husband or to his lineal successors, or by virtue of any will or testamentary disposition conferring upon her, without express permission to re-marry, only a limited interest in such property, with no power of alienating the same, shall, upon her re-marriage, cease and determine as if she had then died; and the next heirs of her deceased husband, or other persons entitled to the property on her death, shall thereupon succeed to the same."

Section I, no doubt relates to marriages between Hindoos, but Section II, includes all widows who are within the scope of the Act, that is to say, all persons who being Hindoos become widows, and it must follow from this that if any such widow re-marries, she is deprived by the section of the estate which she inherited from her Hindoo husband. The words are clear:—"All rights which any widow may have in her deceased husband's property by inheritance to her husband." The estate which a Hindoo widow takes upon her husband's death in his property is an estate which she takes by inheritance to him, and such estate is expressly determined by the section.

My answer to the question is, that by marriage the widow forfeited her estate in her first husband's property, in favour of the next heir.

Wilson, J.—I agree. I think it is unnecessary to say more, as I expressed my views in making the reference.

Pigot, J.—I agree.

Ghose, J.—I agree in the answer which the Chief Justice has given to the question referred.

Prinsep, J.—The inclination of my opinion has been always against the view expressed by my two learned colleagues, who joined with me in referring this case to a Full Bench, and I still have doubts, which the further argument has failed entirely to remove.

Act XV of 1856 is entitled an Act to remove all legal obstacles to the marriage of Hindoo widows, and it provides for such marriages according to the rites and ceremonies current amongst Hindoos. The widow in the case before us ceased to be a Hindoo by a public declaration abjuring that religion, and her re-marriage was under Act III of 1872, entitled an Act to provide a form of marriage in certain cases. That Act was passed by the Legislature expressly for cases of this description. If the widow had merely renounced the Hindoo religion, admittedly she would not have ceased to hold her deceased husband's estate. She could not, after her conversion to another religion, confer on him what are known in Hindoo law as spiritual benefits; but it is said she would still be regarded as a part of her husband's body, and as such in possession of his worldly properties. It has been contended that her title is only during her widowhood, *durante viduata*, in consequence of the principle under which she is recognised as proprietress after her husband's death. It is difficult to understand how that legal fiction can be maintained if, after her husband's death, the widow were to become a Mahomedan or a Christian. The statute however (Act XXI. of 1850) has provided that a

change of religion shall not operate as a forfeiture, and according to the opinions, in which I am unable to agree, a re-marriage not as a Hindoo would have that effect. We have also the anomaly that, although she may change her religion and cease to be a Hindoo, so long as she remains a widow, she continues as a Hindoo to hold her husband's estate; that she does not forfeit this by leading a notoriously unchaste life (see *Moniram Kalitani vs. Kaly Kalitani*, I. L. R., 5, Cal., 776), but that if she remarries she forfeits because she ceases to be a widow, and because the conditions under which she retained her husband's estate as part of his body no longer exist. I have the misfortune of being unable to agree that Section 2, Act XV of 1856, is of general application to all Hindoo widows re-marrying, for I read it as being limited only to the cases provided for by that Act, *viz.*, Hindoo widows re-marrying as Hindoos under Hindoo law, as provided by that Act. Having still these doubts regarding the views expressed by my learned colleagues, I regret to be unable to concur in the judgment delivered.

THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

THE JOINT HINDU FAMILY AS VOTER AND CANDIDATE.

At the High Court on Tuesday, March 14, Mr. Hill applied to Mr. Justice Trevelyan for a rule calling upon Mr. Lee, the Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta, and Babu Mutty Lal Ghose, a candidate for election in Ward No. 1, to show cause why the name of the latter should not be removed from the list of candidates published under Act II. of 1888. The objection taken to the candidate was that he was not qualified to be elected as a candidate as he was qualified to vote not in his own right but only on behalf of a Hindu joint family of which he was a member. It was stated that he did not pay any rate.

Trevelyan, J.—You have come to me on the 14th to prevent an election taking place on the 15th.

Mr. Hill explained how his client had not been able to apply before, that this was the earliest opportunity he had had of moving the Court. He also pointed out that if a rule *nisi* was granted, that would not in any way interfere with the holding of the election or the candidature of Babu M. L. Ghose.

Trevelyan, J.—To me it looks like an electioneering dodge to prevent this man getting any votes. I do not like issuing a rule at this time.

Mr. Hill.—The rule will not prevent votes being recorded for him. We contend that his candidature is an electioneering dodge for splitting votes by putting up an ineligible candidate. Section 14 lays down that any person qualified to vote under any of the preceding sections shall, subject to certain other provisions of the Act, be qualified to be elected a Commissioner. Section 8 provides who are qualified to vote, and the following sections lay down in which wards such persons are entitled to vote, and to how many votes they are entitled. He cannot vote under any provision of Section 8 other than sub-section (c), and he cannot vote under that sub-section because he has not paid on his sole account and in his own name the requisite amount for rates and taxes.

Trevelyan, J.—According to you no member of a joint family can vote.

Mr. Hill criticised the wording of the Act.

Trevelyan, J.—One has heard a good many complaints of the old Act of 1871, but under this Act we seem to be worse of than before.

Mr. Hill.—It is certainly drawn with an utter disregard of consistency of language. Under Act IV of 1876—

Trevelyan, J.—One Bengal Act at a time is enough.

Mr. Hill.—The Court can interfere in a case of this kind. On the 30th of September, 1882, Mr. Justice Norris granted a rule to show cause why certain votes should not be struck out, and not counted.

Trevelyan, J.—I may have power under the Act, but I dislike interfering where powers have been given to another person.

Mr. Hill.—The Courts at home decided a question as to the construction of a section of the County Councils Act when they decided that the word 'person' did not include a woman.

Trevelyan, J.—That probably was under a writ of *quo warranto* or some similar writ, but in this country all those writs have been swept away, and only the section of the Specific Relief Act is left.

Mr. Hill submitted that that section gave the Court the necessary power to act in this case.

Trevelyan, J.—If he is qualified to be a voter he is qualified to be a candidate, and the Chairman, as he has power to do, has decided that he is qualified to vote.

Mr. Hill.—The Chairman has published a list which shows he is not a voter.

Trevelyan, J.—I cannot see how I can give a rule on the candidate. That is quite clear. I doubt whether under the Act Mr. Lee has power to do anything beyond publishing a list of candidates.

After some further discussion the following order was made: On the undertaking of the applicant to serve this rule by 2 p.m. this day and to serve with it a copy of his petition, let a rule issue calling on Mr. Lee, Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta, to show cause this day at 3-30 p.m. why the name of Babu Mutty Lall Ghose should not be removed from the list of candidates published under the provisions of Act II of 1888.

At the time fixed Mr. Pugh and Mr. Garth appeared on behalf of the Chairman to show cause against the rule, while Mr. Hill appeared in support of the rule.

Mr. Pugh.—The candidate should be represented.

Mr. Hill.—I am instructed that Babu Kallynath Mitter, who is present, is the candidate's attorney, and can accept service for him.

Trevelyan, J.—He does not hold any public office, and so I do not see my way to ordering service on him.

Mr. Hill.—In Dr. Rajendralala Mitra's case, Norris, J., ordered service on the candidate.

Mr. Pugh.—It is too late for such an application to be made.

Trevelyan, J.—The applicant has satisfied me, subject to what you may say, that he could not have moved before to-day.

Mr. Pugh.—Under Section 31 of the Act the Chairman has to see whether certain requirements have been complied with, and if they have been, as is admittedly the case here, he has no choice, but to accept an applicant's name.

Trevelyan, J.—Who then is to enquire into the eligibility of a candidate?

Mr. Pugh.—No one under the Act.

Trevelyan, J.—Then anyone who likes can come forward, even though ineligible.

Mr. Pugh.—He would be liable to have his election declared void by this Court.

Trevelyan, J.—Under what section?

Mr. Pugh.—Under no section, but under the general provisions of the law.

Trevelyan, J.—There is something in the applicant's contention that in such a case ineligible candidates might be put up to split votes.

Mr. Pugh.—The election in such a case could be set aside as void. What remedy would they have at home?

Trevelyan, J.—A writ of *quo warranto*.

Mr. Pugh.—Here they have Section 45 of the Specific Relief Act instead. The Chairman has done everything he is empowered to do under Section 31 of the Act and can do no more. Supposing your Lordship did make this rule absolute, what result would it have?

Trevelyan, J.—In that case the polling officers would not take any votes for him. I cannot see how under this Act any persons can become elected. It is not set out in the Act or the Rules.

Mr. Pugh.—It is left to people's common sense.

Trevelyan, J.—The nearest approach to it is Rule 18. So far as I can make out from the sections there is nothing whatever to prevent anyone who pleases to come forward for election. Probably after election he could be sued, but there is nothing to prevent his candidature.

Mr. Pugh.—It can hardly be said to be clearly incumbent on the Chairman to do what is prescribed neither by the Act nor by the Rules. All that he can do is to see that the particular conditions specified in Section 31 have been complied with. I am placed in an awkward position in this case by the short notice given of this rule.

Trevelyan, J.—If you can tell me what the Act or Rules mean about this, I will give you as long time as you like. It would be a most valuable discovery.

Mr. Pugh.—I do not know that I should be able to do that, but I should be surer of my facts than I am now.

Trevelyan, J.—Is there any provision in the Act for void elections? Who is to determine if they are void?

Mr. Pugh.—This Court.

Trevelyan, J.—Why this Court?

Mr. Pugh.—Under Section 45 of the Specific Relief Act. There is no connection between Section 31 and Section 14, and the Chairman cannot interfere in the matter.

Trevelyan, J.—This is the first time in this country that I have seen an official professing to have lesser powers than are imputed to him.

Mr. Pugh.—It would be a good thing if it were commoner. I do not know of a single English case where this question as to the eligibility of a candidate has been decided before the election. It would be a serious drawback to standing for election if a candidate were liable to have serious charges of the nature specified in Section 32 brought against him in Court before the election. Mutty Lall Ghose was down on the list of voters. He is living alone in the house the other members living elsewhere.

Trevelyan, J.—He is undoubtedly entitled to vote, but that is not the difficulty. Mr. Hill's point was that he could not be a

Commissioner because the section giving members of a Hindu joint family leave to vote is a succeeding section to Section 14, which lays down that any person qualified to vote under any of the preceding sections is eligible as a candidate.

Mr. Pugh.—I submit that the Court would be very slow to put a construction on the Act which would debar such a large class of persons from becoming candidates. It is true it is Section 24 which provides the mode in which the names of persons authorised to vote for Hindu joint families are to be registered, but that does not disqualify all those persons from becoming candidates. No rule should issue against Mr. Lee, for he has performed his duties under Section 31, and no other duty is placed on him. In fact, no other powers are given him in this matter. If the facts are to be gone into I am instructed that Babu M. L. Ghose is the sole occupier of this house. The rule should be discharged.

Mr. Hill.—My learned friend's argument goes to show that a Hindu joint family could sit as a Commissioner, but not the person authorised to vote on its behalf. He does not, however, contend that such a family might be put on the list of candidates. The Chairman is not a mere polling officer, and it is his duty to see that persons are not put before the public as candidates for election who are not eligible for election, and the Court can compel him to perform this duty. In re the election of Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, reported in the *Englishman* of the 30th of September, 1882, Mr. Bonnerjee moved for a rule to strike the name of Dr. R. L. Mitra out of the published list of candidates on the ground that he was ineligible. Thus such an application was made even under the old Act. Mr. Justice Norris granted a rule made returnable on the morrow, and ordered it to be served on the Chairman, Mr. Harrison, and Dr. Mitra. On the day fixed Mr. Harrison was unrepresented but Mr. H. Bell showed cause on behalf of the candidate. This report is instructive as showing how the same arguments against this kind of application are repeated time after time, for my learned friend's arguments had all been anticipated in this case. After hearing Mr. Bonnerjee in support of the rule Mr. Justice Norris held that though the member of the joint family by whom the taxes on the property were paid was Dr. Mitra, he was not qualified to become a candidate, and made the rule absolute, as it might prejudice the position of the other candidates if he was allowed to go to the poll, and as the applicant had no other remedy, an injury is done to the person who has the franchise by the introduction of an ineligible candidate. If we waited till after the election, the mischief would be done. The rule should be made absolute.

Mr. Pugh.—Dr. Mitra's case was decided under a different Act.

Trevelyan, J.—This is an application made under Section 45 of the Specific Relief Act. I granted a rule this morning. There are two possible defects in that rule. It is doubtful whether it should not have been addressed to the Commissioners and not to Mr. Lee. Another objection might be taken which I do not, however, think it necessary to take into consideration. It might, moreover, lead to delay, and in this case I must decide the question in issue at once. The point is this: This man Mutty Lall Ghose is on the revised list of voters for the municipal election to be held to-morrow for himself and other co-sharers. He is not on that list separately. The Calcutta Municipality Act has, I think, been attacked sufficiently during the hearing, and I feel I ought to deal kindly with it and not attack it any more. The persons who are qualified to be elected are to be found in Section 14, which says that any person qualified to vote under any of the preceding sections shall, subject to certain other provisions of the Act, be qualified to be elected a Commissioner for any ward in Calcutta. The right of a Hindu joint family to appoint one of their members or another person to vote for them is conferred by a section, Section 24, which does not precede Section 14, and accordingly Mr. Hill objects to a person so qualified to vote standing for election. I do not think it would be safe for me to lay down on such very short consideration an absolute rule like this which might have a great effect upon the exercise of the franchise in this city. Under Section 45 of the Specific Relief Act I cannot make an order requiring an act to be done or forbore by any person holding a public office or by any Corporation or inferior Court of Judicature unless such doing or forbearing is clearly incumbent on such person or Court in his or its public character or on such Corporation in its corporate character, and I think all the persons engaged in this case failed to find a duty clearly incumbent on Mr. Lee to exercise any judicial discretion or judicial action in the matter. Mr. Lee has, it is true, written a letter, which was an act of civility, but I must see whether it was clearly incumbent on Mr. Lee to exercise any judicial discretion. Under Section 31 there is a statutory obligation on him to publish a list of all persons who are candidates for election. If he had refused to insert Mutty Lall Ghose's name he might have come to this Court, and it might have been held incumbent on Mr. Lee to enter his name, but so far as I can find from this Act there is no provision in it giving the Chairman any power more than any other Commissioner to exclude his name from the published list of candidates. That being so, without prejudice to any question which may arise after the election, I must dismiss the rule with costs.

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Dr. Trailokya Nath Mitra, Pleader, High Court, Chairman, Surampur Municipality,
Babu Chandi Das Ghosh, M.A., B.L., Officiating Sub-Divisional Officer, Surampur,
Babu Jolu Lal Mallick, of Pathuriaghata, Zemindar,
Kumar Radhadas Ray, of Posta,
Dr. Nil Ratan Sarkar, (M.A., M.D., &c.),
Ray Bhubon Chandra Chatterjee Bahadur,
Babu Akkaya Chandra Sarkar, Poet and Publisher,
Babu Rumanath Ghosh, of Pathuriaghata,
Ray Kumar Lal De Bahadur, C.I.P., &c.,
Babu Kison Lal Goswami, M.A., B.L., Zemindar, Surampur,
Lala Bingsagond Nandey, Burdwan,
Bhubehari Kipuri, Burdwan,
Babu Sures Kinkar Sen, B.L., Government Pleader, Burdwan,
Ray Nilindakha Bose Bahadur, Chairman, Burdwan Municipality,
Babu Umacharan Banerji, M.A., Principal, Raj College, Burdwan,
Dr. Jigat Bandhu Mitra, Vice-Chairman, Burdwan Municipality,
Babu Sukuri Banerji, Member, Burdwan Raj Committee,
Babu Rajendra Kumar Bose, Sub-Judge, Burdwan,
Munsi Golam Azuk, Pleader, Burdwan,
Babu Jagannathan Bhattacharyya, Deputy Magistrate, Burdwan,
Babu Taraprasanna Mukerji, Pleader, Burdwan,
Thakur Govinda Prasad Tewari, Zemindar, Burdwan,
&c., &c., &c.

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 1892.

No. 517

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

SONGS IN THE NIGHT.

THE TEMPLE IN DARKNESS.

DARKNESS broods upon the temple,
Glooms along the lonely aisles,
Fills up all the orient window,
Whence, like little children's wiles,
Shadows—purple, azure, golden—
Broke upon the floor in smiles.

From the great heart of the organ
Bursts no voice of chant or psalm ;
All the air, by music-pulses
- Stirred no more, floats deathly calm ;
And no precious incense rising,
Falls, like good men's prayers, in balm.

Not a sound of living footstep
Echoes on the marble floor ;
Not a sigh of stranger passing
Pierces through the closed door.
Quenched the light upon the altar :
Where the priest stood, none stands more.

Lord, why hast thou left thy temple
Scorned of man, disowned by thee ?
Rather let thy right hand crush it,
None its desolation see !
List—"He who the temple builded
Doth his will there. Let it be !"

A LIGHT IN THE TEMPLE.

Lo, a light within the temple !
Whence it cometh no man knows ;
Barred the doors : the night-black windows
Stand apart in solemn rows.
All without seems gloom eternal,
Yet the glimmer comes and goes—

As if silent-footed angels
Through the dim aisles wandered fair,
Only seen amid the darkness
By the glory in their hair.
Till at the forsaken altar
They all met, and praised God there !

*Now the light grows !—fuller, clearer !
Hark, the organ 'gins to sound,
Faint, like broken spirit crying
Unto Heaven from the ground ;
While the chorus of the angels
Mingles everywhere around !

Lo, the altar shines all radiant,
Though no mortal priest there stands,
And no earthly congregation
Worships with uplifted hands :
Yet they gather, slow and saint-like,
In innumerable bands !

And the chant celestial rises
Where the human prayers have ceased :
No tear-sacrifice is offered,
For all anguish is appeased.
Through its night of desolation,
To his temple comes—the Priest !

HAPPY ALONE.

I AM only happy when alone ;
Then I can think of thee,
And hear no harsh discordant tone
To break my reverie.
They tell me that my heart is cold—
Unsocial, too, and strange ;
- But could they see its inmost fold,
How soon their thoughts would change !

Now thou art absent, every hour
Seems doubled with Despair,
Whose stern supremacy of power
Crushes the bright and fair.
I weary of the shortest day,
Am grateful when 't is flown,
For when night comes, I steal away
To think of thee alone.

I look upon the starry skies,
And worship each small gem ;
Because, I think, perhaps thine eyes
Are gazing, too, on them.
And then I wonder if thy love
Be constant as my own,
And if, whilst viewing them above,
Thou think'st of me alone.

I mix not with the joyous throng,
Where glad hearts aptly meet ;
- I never sing thy fav'rite song—
The one you call so sweet—
I keep it, cherish it, for thee ;
I call that song my own,
And never is it sung by me
Save when I am alone.

My thoughts, all tending to one source,
Are habited in gloom ;
Apparent joy I cannot force—
I never could assume.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

To think of thee, morn, noon, and night,
My heart is ever prone,
And all I ask to feel delight
Is but to be alone.

Oh ! when wilt thou return again
To change the hue of things ?
Time seems to move alone in pain
On dark and sombre wings.
Oh ! when wilt thou return to cheer
The heart that's all thine own,
That it may be less sad and drear—
Less happy when alone ?

NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THE Ameer after all is not coming to India.

THE Poona Sessions Court has sentenced, under the Age of Consent Act, one Rangoba Atmaram, aged 40, to three months' simple imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 300. The jury had found him guilty.

MR. W. S. Gantz, of Madras, as Secretary to the local Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, recommended to the local Government the introduction of a system for painless destruction of dogs, and asked for a grant for construction and maintenance in Madras of the Lethal Chamber invented by Dr. W. B. Richardson, of London. The Government have replied intimating their inability to make any special grant at present.

THE *Morning Post*, of the 19th March, has this sensational paragraph:—

"We hear that Mr. A. O. Hume's parting shot at the Government of India takes the form of an incendiary 'private and confidential' letter addressed to the Standing Congress committee. In it the English are held up to execration, and it is affirmed that the time will come when their throats will be cut like sheep. It is altogether a peculiarly offensive and outrageous epistle, and the authorities will certainly fail in their duty if they do not arrest the writer for sedition. There is plenty of time, as Mr. Hume does not sail from Bombay till next week."

MR. P. Ramachendra Rao, Acting Sub-Collector of the Madura District, is accused of accepting presents in connection with *jummabandi*. Mr. Gibson, Member of the Board of Revenue, as Special Commissioner, is enquiring into the charges.

AT Quetta, a man named Futteh Din ran amok, killing four men of the 7th Bombay Lancers and wounding three others. He was arrested and was to be tried before a court-martial on the 15th March.

THE Government of India, it is said, refuse to sanction the revised mining and prospecting rules of the Madras Government, apprehending that they will foster unprincipled speculation.

THE public sitting of the Land Indebtedness Commission closed at Poona on the 15th, with the examination of the Hon'ble Rao Bahadar Ranade, Special Judge under the Relief Act.

It is reported from Hyderabad that in the Diamond case, Mr. Jacob received no extra sum beyond the 23 lacs already paid, and that the costs of the Nizam in the litigation amount to one and three-quarter lac.

THE Telegraph department oppose the proposed Madras Electric Tramway, as it is feared induction will result from the proximity of the Company's wires to the telegraph wires. To our unsophisticated imagination, the letting loose of so much electricity—currents of great force—about, has a highly sinister aspect. It will not—cannot—come to good.

THE Commission on Mr. P. C. Wheeler, the Judge of Jaunpur, have found against him. The Lieutenant-Governor agreeing with the

finding, Mr. Wheeler has been suspended from active employ. The report of the Commission and the recommendation of the Local Government have gone up to the Government of India.

TWO men in a bullock-cart drove up to the house of a *mahajan* at Jubbulpore at night, forcibly entered the house and brought out an iron safe which they put in the cart, and drove off. Stopped on the way by the police, they gave a cock and bull story of their being bound for the railway station with goods. Instead, however, of going that way, they went to a piece of water, where they proceeded to open the box. By the time they had cut through the top lid, they were surprised and fled. They were, however, soon after traced and seized. They have since got each three years' rigorous imprisonment.

THE Viceroy leaves Calcutta next Monday at 11-45 A.M. (Calcutta Time) for Simla, *via* Bombay, Pachmarhi, and Khanki. He will be accompanied by Lady Lansdowne to Bombay, whence she sails for England on April 2, accompanied by Captain Viscount Valletort, A.-D.-C. to the Viceroy. Colonel Lord William Beresford, Military Secretary to the Viceroy, leaves Bombay the same day for England, Captain the Hon'ble C. Harbord, A.-D.-C., acting as Military Secretary. Colonel Ardagh has already gone on leave, having left Calcutta on Thursday. During his absence, Mr. J. P. Hewett acts as Private Secretary to the Viceroy. Of late, we see Simla does not agree with the Viceroys and their Private Secretaries, any more than the Vice-queens.

THE Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, accompanied by the Revenue Secretary and the Private Secretary, starts on a short tour in the Bhagalpur division on the evening of the same 28th March, returning to Calcutta on April 9.

It is notified in the *Calcutta Gazette*, that the rules of February 4, 1884, regarding the levy of excise duty on spirits manufactured or produced after the European method in Portuguese India, when imported by sea into any port within the territories administered by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, are cancelled.

SIR Charles Elliott has decided the rival claims of the two sub-divisions of Chuadanga and Meherpur, in Nadia, to survival in favor of the fittest. From April next, the jurisdiction of Chuadanga, with the exception of thana Jibannagar, will be amalgamated with that of the Meherpur sub-division. Meherpur will be the headquarters of the new Sub-division, thana Jibannagar being transferred to the Sadar subdivision of the district.

FROM April 1, the Registrar of Calcutta will have an assistant in the shape of a Sub-Registrar of Calcutta, and in the person of the present Special Sub-Registrar of Alipore—Baboo Behari Lal Chandra. The Convert's place at Alipore will be filled by a Rajaling—Kunwar Ramendralala Mitra, B.L., eldest son of the lamented Bengali *savant*. Dr. Rajendralala Mitra.

THE *Indian Spectator* notices the publication of a handsome edition of good Gujrati poetry by a Parsee, the late Jamshedji Nasserwanji Petit, collected and edited with a life of the Poet and a critical estimate of his work, by his friend, J. P. Mistri, M.A. As the editor in chief of the *Indian Spectator* is himself a true poet, not only in English but, above all, in Gujrati, our contemporary's praise of the book and of the Poet may be accepted with confidence. When will the Mahomedans of Bengal produce their Bengali Poets?

A CORRESPONDENT, under date March 17, points out:—

"In yesterday's *Calcutta Gazette*, Baboos Saroda Prosad Sircar and Surutt Chunder Das (two unfortunate Deputy Magistrates whose cause you were so strongly advocating) have got promotion, and about a dozen and half promotions have again been stopped including Rai Bahadur Juggadanando Mookerjee's son, Baboo Kumada's, who is at Burdwan. In the sixth grade, about 7 or 8 eight have been superseded, Mr. W. H. Thomson overtopping 7 Deputy Collectors who were above him. Mr. Donald Sunder, on deputation as Settlement Officer, Jalpaiguri Duars, too gets a lift over some of his seniors. The explanation is that the Lieutenant-Governor was pleased with his economy while on inspection at Jalpaiguri. This seems to be a dangerous way of rewarding Eurasian and European (if any) Deputy Collectors and Magistrates. In the sixth grade, all Deputy Magistrates whose promotion has been stopped, seem to be stationed in one of the unfortunate districts visited by the Lieutenant-Governor last year."

THE Midnapur College has been affiliated to the Calcutta University in ~~Law~~ up to the B. L. Standard.

ACT XXI of 1865 (to define and amend the law relating to intestate succession among the Parsis) has been extended to the whole of Upper Burma, exclusive of the Shan States.

THE Queen has been pleased to direct Letters Patent to be passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, granting the dignity of a Baron of the said United Kingdom unto General Sir Frederick Sleigh Roberts, Bart., G.C.B., G.C.I.E., V.C., Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Forces in India, and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, by the name, style, and title of Baron Roberts of Kandahar, in Afghanistan, and of the city of Waterford. From Baron Plassey to Baron Kandahar completes the cycle of British Empire in India.

GERMANY seems to be the true land of Rakshases. No wonder, we hear of so many giants in the folklore and mythology of the Fatherland. There are not only giants of the male sex, but there are also those of the female sex. There is no lack of tall people who measure 5ft. 7in. to 6ft. 7in., but it is men or women above that height that are considered to have attained the dignity of true giantism. The latest show of Berlin is the giantess Rosita, whose height is more than 8ft. with a weight of 350 pounds. Her birthplace is Vienna, and she was born on March 25, 1865, so that she has just completed her 27th year. Her parents are tradesmen living near Vienna, who are of normal size, but their daughter makes a good income by showing herself.

WHY was the elder Baron Rothschild's bank like one of Stowe's Training Schools? Because the walls of the bank were placarded with maxims like the following:—

1. Carefully examine every detail of your business.
2. Be prompt in everything.
3. Take time to consider, and then decide quickly.
4. Dare to go forward.
5. Bear troubles patiently.
6. Be brave in the struggle of life.
7. Maintain your integrity as a sacred thing.
8. Never tell business lies.
9. Make no useless acquaintances.
10. Never try to appear something more than you are.
11. Pay your debts promptly.
12. Learn how to risk your money at the right moment.
13. Shun strong liquor.
14. Employ your time well.
15. Do not reckon upon chance.
16. Be polite to every body.
17. Never be discouraged.
18. Then work hard and you will be certain to succeed!

It is stated that the personal estate of the late amiable Leader of the House of Commons, Mr. W. H. Smith, has been sworn at £1,776,042. The executors are Mr. William Lethbridge, of Courtlands, Devon, barrister-at-law (his late partner), his brother-in-law, Sir Juland Danvers, of 103, Lexham Gardens, K.C.S.I., the Right Honorable George Cubitt, M. P., and the Honorable William Frederick Danvers Smith, Mr. Smith's only son, upon whom and his first and other sons in tail male Mr. Smith entails the mansion house of Greenlands, and all his real estate in Buckinghamshire, Suffolk, Devonshire, and elsewhere, subject to the use and enjoyment by his wife, now Lady Hambleden, of Greenlands, during her widowhood. The testator bequeaths to his son, when twenty-five years of age, his house in Grosvenor Place (but subject also to Lady Hambleden's use and enjoyment during her widowhood) and the plate, pictures, objects of art, articles of vertu, furniture, and household effects and outdoor effects at Greenlands and in Grosvenor Place, excepting his presentation plate and other presentations and certain chattels and pictures, which are to devolve as heirlooms with the settled real estate. Among the reserved articles are the portraits of Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Salisbury, by Sir J. E. Millais; of the late Lord Iddesleigh, by the late Mr. Edwin Long; of Lord Cross, by

Professor Herkomer; and of Lord John Manners now Duke of Rutland, by Mr. Oulss.

Between real and personal property, Mr. Smith must have been worth more than two millions or about three crores of Rupees.

NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE Education Bill has produced a crisis in Germany. It was hotly opposed and passionately persisted in. The Emperor advised those who saw any occasion for disagreement with any Government measure, like true patriots, to leave the Fatherland. This Bradenburg manifesto was followed by sterner opposition to the Bill; by a prosecution, on a charge of *lèse majesté*, against the *Cologne Gazette*, for years the recognized organ of the German Foreign Office, for an article headed "A Fresh Move," in which the writer lamented the "melting away gradually during the past few years" of "the splendid inheritance bequeathed to his grandson by the great and good Emperor William I"; by the confiscation of the Berlin *Neueste Nachrichten* of Feb. 29, for reproducing an article in a London paper containing some caustic remarks on the Emperor's attitude. It seems though that the youthful Emperor relents the attitude taken by him. A Berlin telegram of the 18th says that the Emperor William that day deprecated in Council the forcing of the Education Bill with the support only of the Clericals. This was a surprise to the Government supporters of the Bill. Count Zedlitz Trützschler, the Prussian Minister of Instruction and Worship, has since resigned. General Caprivi too has ceased to be the Prussian Premier, though he still continues as Imperial Chancellor and Prussian Foreign Minister. The Bill is in serious peril, and will probably be abandoned.

THE Emperor has appointed Count Von Eulenburg of his Household at once Grand-Marshal of the Court and Household and Grand-Master of Ceremonies, as Prussian Premier. We hope this gentleman is something more than a mere court favourite.

THE Emperor is not yet recovered from his illness. He remains in the country abstaining from all business.

GERMANY is abetting the Russian persecution of the Jews, by closing her eastern frontier against their exodus from the Czar's dominions.

HER MAJESTY has left for Hyeres.

It was reported from the Cape that a force of six thousand negroes had threatened to attack Quilimane. To resist the advance, the Portuguese armed the natives there and despatched from Mozambique a gunboat with hundred soldiers. A British warship H. M. S. *Albatross* has been ordered there for the protection of British subjects.

THE British expedition to Timbo, in Senegambia—the stronghold of the unruly and raiding Chieftain Carimoo—has met with a repulse, Captain Robinson, of the Royal Engineers, being killed, Major Brown severely wounded, and Major Moore, Captain Campbell and twenty of the Police slightly wounded. A fresh attack will be made with the aid of friendly tribes. Such is the report of Sir J. Hay, the British Governor of West Africa.

LORD Salisbury having refused to renew the *modus vivendi* in the Behring Sea, President Harrison threatens force for protection of the rights of the United States against poachers.

THE Manchester Police Court has committed Sergeant Holden for trial at the sessions, on a charge of selling to the French Government plans of the Malta defences. It was stated at the enquiry by the Magistrate that, through this Sergeant, France was in possession of every detail of the Malta defences.

MR. Hastings, M. P., sentenced to five years' penal servitude for fraud, has been expelled from the House of Commons.

LORD Dufferin has taken charge of the English Embassy in Paris. He was received on the 21st by the French President, when speeches of the most cordial nature were exchanged.

ON the motion of Mr. Thomas Butt, the House of Commons has rejected, by a majority of 112, the Bill, supported by Mr. Chamberlain, for limiting a day's labour in the mines to eight hours.

ON March 22, Mr. Bland introduced in the American Congress his Silver Bill, for free coinage of the metal. Senators Williams and Harter opposed it, the former proposing a Monetary Conference instead. The debate continued till the 24th, when a motion to shelve the Bill was rejected by the casting vote of the Speaker. The next day, at midnight, after a most disorderly sitting, the House of Representatives adjourned without voting the Bill.

IN Paris, the Police arrested an Anarchist who was seeking service in a nobleman's house. Letters of cypher were found on his person proving his intention to poison the household. They have come upon a large anarchist bomb manufactory.

THE Viceregal Legislative Council held its last sitting of the present Calcutta session yesterday. The Hon'ble Sir Philip Hutchins presented a further report of the Select Committee on the Bill to extend the jurisdiction of the Madras Court of Small Causes. Remarking on the speech of the presenter, the Hon'ble Mr. Chentsal Rao, of Madras, assured the Council that "the Native public, whose requirements the Bill is chiefly calculated to satisfy, will be anxiously looking forward to the early passing of the Bill, and will heartily welcome it as a real boon conferred on them."

The two measures—the Court of Wards' Bill and the Bill for the Regulation of the Bengal Military Police—in charge of the Hon'ble Sir John Ware Edgar, were considered and passed. Both of them received the same day the assent of the Governor-General and are published in to-day's *Gazette of India* as Acts IV and V of 1892, being respectively, An Act to amend the Bengal Court of Wards Act, 1879, and An Act for the Regulation of the Bengal Military Police.

The Bill to amend the Indian Limitation Act, 1877, was postponed to the next Simla session.

The Hon'ble Dr. Rashbehary Ghose obtained leave and introduced a measure for a simpler and speedier closing of partition proceedings—a Bill to amend the Law relating to Partition. The Statement of Objects and Reasons runs thus :—

"The present statutory law on the subject of partition, apart from various local laws dealing with the partition of land paying revenue to Government, is contained in sections 265 and 396 of the Code of Civil Procedure. Section 265 simply enacts that the partition or separation of a revenue-paying estate shall be made only by the Collector, and need not therefore be noticed further, as the present Bill leaves untouched all local laws dealing with the partition of such property. Section 396 lays down the procedure which should be adopted in the partition of lands not paying revenue to Government. That section, however, only authorizes the Court to divide the property, and in some exceptional cases where an equal division is not practicable to award a money compensation for the purpose of equalizing the value of the shares. But as the law now stands the Court *must* give a share to each of the parties and cannot direct a sale and division of the proceeds in any case whatever. Instances, however, occasionally occur where there are insuperable practical difficulties in the way of making an equal division, and in such cases the Court is either powerless to give effect to its decree, or is driven to all kinds of shifts and expedients in order to do so. Such difficulties are by no means of very rare occurrence, although in many cases where the parties are properly advised they generally agree to some mutual arrangement, and thus relieve the Court from embarrassment.

2. It is proposed in the present Bill to supply this defect in the law by giving the Court, under proper safeguards, a discretionary authority to direct a sale where a partition cannot reasonably be made and a sale would, in the opinion of the Court, be more beneficial for the parties. But, having regard to the strong attachment of the people of this country to their landed possessions, it is proposed to make the consent of parties interested at least to the extent of a moiety in the property a condition precedent to the exercise by the Court of this new power. In order at the same time to prevent any oppressive exercise of this privilege, it is proposed to give such of the shareholders as do not desire a sale the right to buy the others out at a valuation to be determined by the Court. The power, moreover, which it is proposed to give to the Court will be a discretionary one to be exercised on a consideration of all the circumstances of the case. It should be added that, where the Court is obliged to direct a sale, a right of pre-emption is given by the Bill to the parties similar to that conferred on shareholders by section 310 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

3. It is also proposed in the Bill to give the Court the power of compelling a stranger, who has acquired by purchase a share in a family dwelling-house when he seeks for a partition, to sell his share to the members of the family who are the owners of the rest of the house at a valuation to be determined by the Court. This provision is only an extension of the privilege given to such shareholders by section 44, paragraph 2, of the Transfer of Property Act, and is an application of a well known rule which obtains among Muhammadans everywhere and by custom also among Hindus in some parts of the country.

4. The other sections of the Bill only deal with matters of procedure and do not call for any detailed notice."

The Doctor has not moved in the matter too early. He will confer a lasting benefit on his countrymen, if he can pass a law which will save them from the ruin of excessively expensive partition proceedings. It is too late perhaps to stop partition of joint property, but the easiest and simplest means must be found for such division of ancestral property.

LIFE in British Beluchistan, especially in mid winter, is like life on board ship on a long voyage. In that dry barren land, as at sea, people are denied the advantage of that vegetable diet which is so needful for healthy sustenance. The Bombay troops confined there, have been too much restricted to animal food of the kind issued to sailors on board. No wonder, they suffer from the nasty sea disease, scurvy. To prevent this, the General of the Division proposes to issue rations of wholesome food to his men, whether soldiers or camp followers, who now receive money payments for their diet and purchase their own supplies. The subject is before the Government of India. There is on the face of it nothing objectionable in the recommendation of the local military authorities; in fact, it is a matter of course. But, before according their sanction to the proposal, it would be as well to enquire what the men most deeply concerned have to say to it. For anything that we, or even the Government, know to the contrary, the proposed departure may have its peculiar inconveniences to the native troops. Perhaps, it were better to exhaust other means of melioration before introducing a change from pecuniary rations to rations in kind. The first step to take under the circumstances that suggests itself to us, is to appeal to the intelligence of the men. They should be taught the primary laws of health in connection with diet. A simple statement of the physiology of eating and drinking and of the origin of scurvy and its simple cure and a list of wholesome dietary, should be circulated among them in their vernacular. Before ordering the change, Government should make sure of their capacity to make it beneficial. What are they going to do? what food to issue? what are their resources for a constant supply? It is easy to talk of fresh vegetables as a preventive against, as well as cure for, scorbutic complaints, but it is not so easy to supply them to an army in such a country as Beluchistan. Are they going to draw their supplies from the local market, or to bring them up from a distance by rail? Without pretending to special knowledge, these inquiries seem to us on reflection as necessary ones. Perhaps, after all, Government will be driven to recourse to the juice of lemons to preserve the troops from scurvy. If it should come to that, why not at once, without any more ado, teach the men the virtues of this acid and of similar acid fruits and insist upon their consumption of these in proper quantities to guard against the evils of a too exclusively animal diet. If this is done, no change will probably be needed.

THE last subject of the *Indian Planters' Gazette* Portrait gallery, is Mr. William Jackson, the wellknown patentee of tea machinery. He was born in Aberdeenshire, in Scotland, in Lord Kintore's estate of Kenthall, in 1849. His father held a farm under that nobleman. He however died when Willie Jackson was six years of age. The boy was brought up in the iron-engineering line, being at first introduced to the workshop of George Murray & Co., at Banff, on probation, and afterwards was apprenticed to the wellknown Hall Russell & Co., of Aberdeen. After completing his term with them, he, at the invitation of his elder brother John, who was manager of the Scottish Assam Tea Co., came out to India, for the purpose of doing business in Calcutta. Finding no opening here, he went to Assam to assist his brother in the tea industry. There he brought his engineering knowledge to account, by inventing a machine for rolling the leaf on tables better, with saving of time and labour. This succeeded so well that he took out a patent and reverted to his original profession, confining himself to the improvement and supply of tea machinery—a new thing in engineering. It was, specially at the outset, uphill work. He

could not get the iron-founders in Great Britain to make his machines—they were so navel. The conservatism of the British extends even to business in the veriest details. The English and Scotch engineers would not take Mr. Jackson's orders, saying they had never heard of such a thing as tea machinery. With patience and perseverance, however, he overcame indifference, and induced a great firm to undertake his invention. And one piece of good luck led to another. In fine, he succeeded at last. The brothers Jackson gave up service and entered into partnership on their own account to supply tea machinery. They had the finest prospect before them. But now a new difficulty arose. Mr. William Jackson was drawn into the courts to maintain his rights as an inventor against Mr. Kinmond. And the business was wrecked on this long and arduous litigation. The partnership was dissolved. John went to try his fortune in America, and William was driven to begin life anew in India. He again succeeded. The first introducer of machinery in tea manufacture, he went on improving on his methods, until he invented the most useful and economical tea manufacturing machines. His patents are in use not only in Assam among his old friends, but in all the tea districts of India and of Ceylon.

The *Planters' Gazette* gives a characteristic story of Mr. Jackson's griffinhood. When he first went to Assam, he reached by steam-packet Kookleamook. Thence he had to make his journey by a dug-out canoe. He started after 4 in the afternoon, and was poled for two hours through a shallow lake, till he came to a halt at an extensive mud bank which was much stirred by buffaloes wallowing there.

"Here an elephant was waiting him which was brought alongside the boat and caused to kneel down in the mud for Mr. J. to mount.

On attempting to do this, however, the monster beast trumpeted so loudly, that Mr. Jackson made a bounding leap, and landed himself headlong in the mud and water as far from the beast and boat as he could, out of which mess he was lifted by the coolies and put on the *kattie*, and in this state reached Mazengah about 10 P.M., little or none the worse of the fright he had got."

We are relieved to hear that Sir Edwin Arnold has recovered his health. *He has left New York for the West and the East—which is only the farthest West—for he intends to come to India. The unenlightened among our countrymen, and these unfortunately include our Pandits and Moulvis, who still stick to the Ptolemaic astronomy and believe that the earth is a flat fixture, may well be invited to reflect on the fact that this British Bard is coming from the West—England—by the West. Sir Edwin is accompanied by several gentlemen as far as California. Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the iron millionaire of Pittsburg, is of the company.

THESE Whitemen are equal to any enterprise—in their own belief at any rate. It is said that Sir Edwin is coming out on an important mission in Asia. This is nothing less than to effect a reconciliation between the different scattered and conflicting forms of Buddhism now current, specially between the Northern and Southern Schools.

EVEN in England at this fag end of the Nineteenth Century, the fear of kidnapping still haunts the popular imagination. Or else, we should not see it so frequently suggested by way of accounting for persons *non est*. Just now, there is a case in point. The manager of a bank in Somersetshire has disappeared under mysterious circumstances. Mr. Lidderdale—such is his name—had courted a lady and finally agreed to marry her. The union was to be effected at Ilminster and the day too was fixed, when Mr. L. left Somerset with £1,000 in notes in his pocket. It was supposed he had gone to London to make purchases and arrangements for his approaching wedding. At any rate, the lady had no suspicions and she pushed on the arrangements for the marriage. As the appointed day neared and no news of Mr. L. arrived, friends and she, above all, grew anxious. Still she cherished a romantic expectation that, after all, he would keep his word and turn up in due time to make her his own before the altar. Poor lady, she was doomed to disappointment. She felt like "Mariana in the moated grange," and sighed.

She only said, "My life is dreary,

He cometh not," she said ;

She said, "I am weary, weary ;

I would that I were dead !"

As there was no known cause for his suicide, the theory of kidnapping was early started. Latterly, however, appeared a short, too short paragraph announcing the sudden death of Mr. Lidderdale from a

yatching accident. No particulars were given, the Police were employed to fill in the outline, and, above all, to verify the news. But the Police failed to trace the person who communicated the news of Mr. Lidderdale's dying on a yatch voyage.

By the latest accounts, Mr. Lidderdale's whereabouts have been discovered by his people. There is now no doubt that his absence is voluntary.

ONE story brings to mind another. The disappearance of the banker of Somerset, Mr. Lidderdale, on the eve of his marriage, reminds "The Chiel" of the *Licensed Victuallers' Gazette* of the analogous disappearance, many years ago, of the Rev. Benjamin Speke, brother of the famous discoverer of the source of the Nile. He writes :—

"The eccentric clergyman was engaged to be married, but suddenly disappeared in the most mysterious manner. He was last seen in Warwick-street, Pimlico, and somewhere in the neighbourhood his hat was found. As the reverend gentleman had not up to that time shown any remarkable symptoms of eccentricity, and as there was no known cause why he should wish to efface himself from society, his friends rushed to the conclusion that he had met with foul play. The public, too, was of the same opinion, and the most sensational rumours were afloat. Amongst other suggestions I remember was one to the effect that the victim had been decoyed into a butcher's shop, where there was a movable swinging block—a la Sweeney Todd—beneath which ran the main sewer, into which the body of the murdered man could be dropped. It was seriously urged that this was a probable solution of the mystery. As day after day passed without any news of the missing man—although a very large reward was offered for any information as to his fate or his whereabouts—public excitement increased to an extraordinary pitch, and even the most sober-minded people began to think that an atrocious crime had been committed. And what, after all, was the solution of the mystery? Why, the Reverend Mr. Speke was discovered somewhere in Cornwall, if I remember rightly, wandering about disguised as a waggoner. He had gone a little 'off his chump,' it appeared, at the prospect of marriage, and, rather than face his bride at the altar, had bolted, and tried to hide himself. This was, indeed, 'a lame and impotent conclusion' to a sensational romance. There was a clever epigram written at the time on the event, which is worth quoting. It will be remembered that Captain Speke, the explorer, met with a tragic death; he either accidentally or purposely shot himself (it was never I think, quite decided whether or not he committed suicide). The epigram ran thus :—

"The Brothers Speke have made a stir,
And Fate round both has hovered ;
One dies—the great *discoverer* ;
One lives—the great *discovered*."

SIR Edward Braddon, the Tasmanian Agent-General, who has been writing up Australia against her detractors, says that when he sat in the Colonial Assembly, the Speaker, Dr. Butler, an old man, used occasionally to fall asleep during debates. One day, when the slumber of the Chair was audible to the whole House, Mr. (now Sir Edward) Braddon arose, and commenced his speech addressing the Chair as "Mr. Sleeper !" The whole House burst out into loud laughter, awaking the old gentleman, who, without inquiry or ado, proceeded with business, as if nothing had occurred.

OUR readers will remember the great eruption of Krakatoa in 1883 which was noticed at the time in *Reis and Rayyet*. The authentic particulars which have stood the sifting of many and long inquiries, throw into the shade all volcanic eruptions on record from the beginning of the Christian era. The first great event was the famous eruption of Vesuvius, in A. D. 79, so graphically described by the younger Pliny in a letter to Cornelius Tacitus in which the writer's uncle the great Naturalist lost his life, and Herculaneum and Pompeii with several smaller towns on the hill slope were buried under pumice stones and ashes. We leap over seventeen centuries without any cataclysm of similar magnitude and come to 1783, when from Hecla and Skaptar Jokull, contiguous mountains in Iceland, lava streams flowed to the Ocean about 50 miles distant. The third in order was the outburst of Galunggung, in 1822, which devastated a considerable area of land in Java. But none of all these natural events can compare with the disaster of Krakatoa. It happened on August 23, 1883, at about 10 A.M. This little island was situated in the straits of Sunda between Sumatra and Java. There were no premonitions beyond subterranean rumblings, which indeed are common enough in a volcanic region. On a Sunday morning, there suddenly rose an ascending column of dust which spread to a distance of about 80 miles, accompanied with vivid play of lightnings around it. This awful darkness stretched to a circle with a diameter of about 400 miles, while comparative dinness was present to a distance of three times as great. Under the weight of this dust, falling like snow, branches of

rees gave way, and even at Batavia, 100 miles apart, it fell to the depth of several inches. The explosions were even heard in India 1,800 miles away. The Barograph recorded a sudden and distinct depression at about that hour, even in Calcutta. The sound was a continuous roaring as of cannons, and finally the whole island was blown to pieces. The sea was in a ferment. Waves over 100 feet high rolled over shores 30 miles apart, sweeping away everything before them, and blocks of stones 50 tons in weight were carried two miles inland. On the Sumatra side, the waves carried a large vessel three miles inward. The waves travelled everywhere, visibly even to the Cape of Good Hope and thence to the Atlantic. The atmospheric waves went on more forcibly, at the rate of 700 miles per hour. The dust was carried fully twenty miles and the finest disturbed the whole body of atmosphere. The beautiful reddish purple at sunrise and sunset remained nearly six months after the eruption. About 35,000 lives vanished within a few hours from the face of the earth.

To the anxiety of friends, the delight of foes, and the amusement of the world at large, the *Hindoo Patriot* has taken a sudden and right Hanuman—*Anglice* colossal monkey—jump. The anxiety is for the safety of the neck, if not the life, of the high jumper. But the hardy, not to say foolhardy, tumbler is above all fear—of God or man. So, from Monday, March 21, 1892,—volume XXXIX, number 12—without previous, or proper present, intimation, the *Patriot* leapt from weekly to daily publication. Not only was there no notice of intention, there is no notice yet of accomplishment. Even in the article "Ourselves" at the beginning of Monday's issue, in which these Patriotic go-a-heads argue that weekly journalism is now an anachronism, there is no announcement that they had from that day taken to diurnal. There is no formal business notice to the same effect either. The whole thing has all the appearance of a journalistic *coup d'état* of a Cabal of prentice hands, consisting of an editor, a sub, a couple of devils, and an advertisement touter. Nor is there any visible difference to warn the public of the revolution. There is neither material improvement nor moral. The paper retains its wonted form. The same spirit of ignorance rules the body as hitherto. There is a change in the rate of subscription only—an enhancement equalling the rates of the *Indian Mirror*. As might be expected under all these circumstances, the daily *Patriot* commences with a blunder of *Patriotic* proportions. "Thirty-seven years have passed since the late Babu Harish Chandra Mukharji established the *Hindoo Patriot*,"—thus opens the new *Hindoo Patriot*. But HURRI Chunder Mookerjee did not establish the *Hindoo Patriot*, as everybody knows except the ambitious men who have brought his famous organ down to a daily nuisance.

What the great and lamented Hurris Chunder Mookerjee, during the very Mutinies when every hour was eventful, or during the subsequent Indigo Crisis of which he was the centre, did not dream of,—what Mookerjee the Little still living, with the resources of the late Kali Prosunno Singh at command, would not commit himself to,—what neither Kristodas Pal himself at the height of his journal's success did not dare,—that *Sar* Sarbanand has done. Truly—to use an expressive Benglicism—truly, is there magic in that bone, unless it is another illustration of the Poet's remark,

Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.

The *Indian Mirror*, with more urbanity than candour, greets its new rival with *Patriotic* good wishes. We, more suburban, not to say rural, can only say in the quaint language of old Bishop Hall,

Forth, ye fine wits, and rush into the presse,
And for the cloyed world your works address.

MRS. Van Tassell—the fair aeronaut—is dead. She gave her last performance at Dacca. Rising to a height of 6200 feet, she took to her parachute, and, while yet 30 feet from the ground, got entangled in a tree. Unluckily, it was a tall casuarina rather difficult of either ascent or descent. She could not come down without assistance, while the poor natives attracted to the neighbourhood were not sure that the effort of any one of them to climb up and bring her down safe on his back would be appreciated. So she lay suspended in the air. While in this state, first a knife, then a *dao*—to cut herself away from her entanglement—and a rope—for her to descend by—were sent up. Poor girl, she was far too exhausted, and perhaps flurried too, to make any use of these. The next device was to hoist up a bamboo by way of an apology for a ladder. It was not, however, strong enough

for her weight, and she fell to the ground with her face downwards. She was removed in a state of unconsciousness, and died the next day.

The *Bengal Times* supplies some interesting particulars of the deceased. What is more satisfactory still, our contemporary is able to give her a good character. Knowing as we do the editor's bias—a thoroughly honourable one—against the whitemen and especially the whitewomen who for money disport themselves as the gaping-stock of the natives of this country, his certificate is peculiarly creditable to the fair recipient. Born at Cincinnati, in Ohio, she was 24 years of age when she died. She was of respectable parentage, her father being an architect by profession, in which capacity he is employed in the Chicago Exhibition. Her mother died long ago. She leaves no family. A gymnast but no acrobat, she, at the age of twenty, took with rare enthusiasm to professional ballooning. Within the four years of her career, she ascended 300 times including 4 parachute descents, in the last of which she received her unlucky quietus. Notwithstanding her calling, she was not a frivolous woman but rather of a grave Presbyterian.

What a destiny was this of this daughter of America, perchance a descendant of one of the Pilgrim Fathers, to mingle her dust with the soil of the City of Jehangir in East Bengal!

We sympathise with the poor husband who must now ply his profession alone, without his fair partner and helpmeet in every sense. Mr. Van Tassell is a famous expert, who has the distinction of having been the instructor of Professor P. S. Baldwin. He has announced his intention of crossing the Indian Continent from Calcutta to Bombay by air.

TODAY the Faculty of Arts of the Calcutta University elected Mr. C. H. Tawney, Baboo Ashutosh Mookerjee, Mr. C. E. Buckland, Dr. Mahendralal Sircar, and Mr. A. M. Bose as their next representatives for the Syndicate, the governing body of the University. Principal Tawney, as he succeeds Sir Alfred Croft in the Directorate of Public Instruction, was also elected to succeed him as President of the Faculty.

THE expiring Calcutta Corporation meet for the last time on Thursday next, to pass the Budget for the next official year. The Chairman has notified the results of the elections. They are the same as announced in the papers on the 16th March. The objections recorded were not pressed as they could not, even if allowed, return any of the defeated candidates. The Government nomination of Commissioners is not yet.

THERE has been as much canvassing for the fifteen Government appointments as for the fifty by election of the general body of rate payers. Yesterday, Mr. Risley called for the papers sent up by the municipal Chairman but his office repeatedly reported their non-receipt. The Bengal Secretary in charge of the municipal department seemed to know better, and was not satisfied with the office denial. We are not aware whether the papers have since been sent up, or have found their way to Mr. Risley.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, March 26, 1892.

THE DRAFT BENGAL MUNICIPALITIES BILL.

THE time for tinkering at legislation for country town municipalities in Bengal, has once more arrived. The Bengal Municipal Act III (B. C.) of 1884 is about to be amended. A Draft Bill has been prepared and is in circulation for the opinions of officials and of Municipal Commissioners. The Bill is characterised in some quarters as a retrograde measure. We are not sure that it deserves all the hard things which have been said of it. It is, however, a departure from the principles of the existing law. Indeed, the Bill aims at dealing a blow to what is grandiloquently called local self-government. Some of the changes in the direction proposed, notably in regard to the franchise, are loudly called for. We have ourselves been, it is true, con-

siderably disillusioned of the thing. Painful, indeed, are some of the scandals for which the scheme is held responsible, till in Anglo-Indian society it has become a bye-word of reproach. It is nicknamed "lokil sluff." Admitting the failures, we are not sure, however, that the derision is a just one. We hold that the responsibility for the failures has not been fairly distributed. It is not alone the people who are to blame. The democratic legislation in Bengal has its responsibility too.

There was considerable enthusiasm in this Province in giving effect to Lord Ripon's scheme. In fact, the Bengal Council seemed suddenly possessed with a revolutionary zeal to outdo the rest of the country. It seemed to be a race for democracy. The Council was warned not to make the franchise too low. The warnings came from the most intelligent and experienced men. They were treated with contempt, and the franchise was fixed at Rs. 3 in the Act, while the Government, in the exercise of their executive functions, framed Rules under the Act reducing it further to Re. 1-8. This had naturally the effect of swamping the polling stations with the veriest *canaille*, while people more capable of exercising the privilege kept aloof from the farce. To complete, as it were, the exclusion of more respectable electors, the Rules insisted upon oral voting. The Government have now awakened to the error then committed in regard to the franchise, and another period will probably elapse and another Draft Bill will probably be necessary before other flaws in the Act of 1884 are discovered.

The Government admission that the franchise is too low, must be taken in extenuation of the people's responsibility for actual miscarriages. If you don't give a good tool to work with, you cannot blame the workman as bad. The Re. 1-8 franchise is truly answerable in the main for the ill repute of self-government in Bengal, Behar and Orissa. We will show as we proceed that this was not the only blunder committed in the legislation of 1884. But, so far, it is the only one admitted by Government.

The admission is made in the clearest terms in the Government circular letter of the 17th January last covering and explaining the objects of the Draft Bill. Mr. Secretary Risley writes:—

"In the course of discussions that have taken place as to the best means of improving the drainage and watersupply of Bengal towns, circumstances have come to the Lieutenant-Governor's notice which lead him to think that the present opportunity may properly be taken to restrict the municipal franchise by raising the amount qualifying for a vote in clauses (1) and (2) of section 15 from three rupees to five rupees. The Lieutenant-Governor is informed that many of the most experienced and most sensible Municipal Commissioners, men who take a real interest in the practical working of the law, consider that the franchise in mofussil Municipalities has been fixed too low, and that this, besides deterring respectable men from voting at elections, has caused the votes of those who are in favour of sanitary improvement to be swamped by the votes of a mob who care for nothing but reduction of taxation. It is notorious that in many cases where elections are contested, one or both candidates will go to the poll on a promise to reduce municipal taxation either throughout the town or in the particular ward for which the election has been held. Promises of this sort obviously have the worst effect on municipal administration. They demoralise the voters and reduce the municipal income in an insidious manner which leads to great irregularity of incidence. For, instead of the assessment list being systematically revised, or the rate on the annual value of holdings (section 85) formally reduced—both measures which would attract public notice and excite criticism—the assessment on individuals is reduced in an arbitrary manner and according to their importunity, in the wards where incoming Commissioners have promised to procure reductions. Thus the municipal income is unduly reduced; the powers of the Commissioners to carry out necessary improvements are restricted; elections are liable to be decided by the readiness of candidates to accept dishonourable pledges; and municipal taxes come to be unequally assessed in different wards of the same town. In dealing with section 15, the opportunity has been taken to remove a doubt that has arisen whether the term 'rates' includes fees for cleansing latrines levied under part IX, and fees for cart registration under section 143. In the Election Rules 4 and 5 of 30th June 1886, these so called 'fees'

are treated as rates, and it seems desirable to clear up any doubt that may exist on the point."

The proposal to raise the franchise is good, but it must be pitched higher still to secure the end in view, if a decidedly better class of men to serve on the municipal Commission were to be had. In the mofussil municipalities, there must be a distinctly higher franchise for candidates for election than that for electors. Government may as well turn their thought towards devising an educational or positional qualification for candidates, to prevent low class people, or those who can by no means be called gentlemen, from aspiring for office. There are other proposals in the Draft Bill which are good and necessary.

The chief complaint against the Draft Bill is in respect of the attempt made therein to replace non-official Chairmen by officials. This, it is contended, is contrary to the entire policy and the repeated professions of Government on the subject. That is of the agitator's staple. On such a subject it has no force. It is easily answered by allegation of necessity. The crises which have occurred, or been threatened, in several corporations, may well be deemed sufficient justification for even this lamentable departure. The Government defend the proposal as follows:—

"The law, as it stands now, empowers the Government to appoint the Chairman of every Municipality mentioned in the second schedule of the Act, and to remove the name of any Municipality from the schedule, but not to add the name of a Municipality to the second schedule. Sir Charles Elliott is of opinion that this anomaly should be removed, and that power should be taken to include a Municipality in that schedule should necessity arise. It is quite conceivable that in some cases, owing to the existence of embittered party-feelings and feuds, serious administrative danger will be incurred if the Government has no voice in the appointment of the Chairmen of many of the large Municipalities not included in schedule II. The power which it is proposed to take would of course only be exercised in cases of real necessity; but Sir Charles Elliott has seen enough of municipal administration in Bengal to be satisfied that such cases may readily arise, and that it is essential that Government should have the legal authority necessary to deal with them in a direct and effective manner."

That is not to be drowned by trumpety meetings and dictated resolutions, passed by packed majorities of schoolboys and unschooled old boys.

Sir Charles Elliott has elsewhere said that it was an oversight that the proposed provision was not incorporated in the Act of 1884. Whether the Government should have the power of including as well as removing a municipality from the Schedule is another question, but it is certain the Schedule was settled after great deliberation, and the power of electing their own Chairmen was conferred upon the unscheduled Municipalities absolutely. The party-feelings and feuds are indeed undeniable, but they may be traced to the franchise. The anomalous position of the Chairman under the law, is also answerable for those results, which may be expected to disappear on a thoughtful amendment of the law.

Sir Charles Elliott has, indeed, fully explained the meaning of the measure in his reply to the address of the Puri municipality. He is unwilling to take the extreme step of superseding a municipality for its lapses. He only takes power to change the head. The Bill raises several questions which cannot be disposed of in a single newspaper article. We will conclude the present one by remarking that the Government is anxious to explain beforehand the amendments thought necessary. But we are not sure that the method adopted is the proper one. Why should not the whole mofussil municipal law be recast, instead of being tinkered as proposed, which, while explaining existing doubts, introduces future difficulties, as such tinkering is sure to do. In truth, the Draft Bill does not disclose that a real attempt has been made to solve the difficulties of

self-government in this country. It virtually abandons the problem.

DR. RASHBEHARI GHOSE'S FIRST APPEARANCE IN COUNCIL.

YESTERDAY'S sitting of the Viceroy's Council will be memorable from the unusual, though by no means abnormal, activity of its Additional element. The centre of interest was a single personality. It was not a field-day of debate but a quiet meeting for a monologue. At that meeting, for the first time in a long course of years, a member not belonging to the privileged circle of the Viceroy's ministers moved for leave to introduce a Bill. That outsider was a pure Indian gentleman, a Hindu of Bengal, Baboo Rashbehari Ghose. He was doubly an outsider, being, besides an Additional Member, a new member. He made his *début* on that occasion. But though in this sense he made his maiden speech yesterday, he was not quite a blushing maiden, unused to the company of legislators. For, he had earned his laurels in the Lower House of Bengal before he was translated to the Upper Chamber of India. His speech was the speech of not only a leading practitioner of law but also a man of some experience in a local legislative council. He spoke, therefore, with the full responsibility of a man of the highest reputation. We are glad to be able to convey to him our assurance of his perfect success. His speech was fully worthy of the most friendly estimate of his powers. It is not often that so good an address is heard even in that select Chamber whose walls have resounded with the eloquence—the wit and wisdom—of a Lytton and a Ripon, a Dufferin and a Lansdowne, a Maine and a Stephen, a Trevelyan and a Strachey, a Mansfield and a Durand, a Hunter and a Hutchins. Regarded as a literary effort, we cannot call to mind any one of the great men who have served with distinction in that Council, and whose names confer lustre on it and on the Government of India, who need have been ashamed to deliver it. A maiden speech is nothing if not rhetorical. It need not be puerile or bombastic, but it is expected to be sufficiently elegant and attractive. But Dr. Ghose was precluded from attempting anything dainty or fine even in the most honourable sense. He was virtually forbidden the graces. The law of Partition scarcely admits of humorous or fervid treatment. No doubt Gilbert A'Becket has written a Comic Blackstone, but a grave senator could no more descend to broad farce than to that rather contemptible species of wit which has been likened by high authority to picking of pockets. An epigram on Civil P. Code seems an absurdity. Besides, such opportunities as his subject offered, Dr. Ghose was not permitted to avail himself of by his practical attitude on it. There is, no doubt, a poetry of Partition, but that is open only to the Opposition, and Dr. Ghose is, for the nonce, a ministerialist—aye, indeed, a minister without a portfolio. The political economy of the *Traveller* and the *Deserted Village* is poor to be sure, but they are both fine works of literature, rich in all that constitute poetry. He who

Wrote like an angel and talked like poor Poll,

has constructed out of the enforced emigration of the poor of his rural Ireland, to earn a living in "fresh woods and pastures new," beyond the Atlantic Ocean, Poems which will live, which wrung the praises of those who despised the poor author, which have delighted generations of men and women, and will continue so to delight mankind to the end of time. The

Incidents of wholesale evictions, by unrelenting but irresistible landlords, furnished the Bard with pictures of distress which his genius worked up to harrowing interest. The Law of Partition has its dark spot as the Law of Tenancy—the same unhappy effects are common to both—the same disruption of ties and dissolution of households—the same abandonment of the associations which make life worth the living—the same sacrifice of continuity. A speaker against Dr. Ghose's motion might, out of such incidents, have made an appeal of heart-rending pathos. But that was not the Hon'ble mover's cue. He showed that he was quite aware of the sentimental rock ahead, and he noticed it just to steer dexterously clear of it.

In short, for tempting listeners, he had a difficult rôle to fill.

His subject was essentially a dry one—thoroughly matter-of-fact. But superior intellect and cultivation obey no restrictions, and the author of the classical Tagore Lectures on the Law of Mortgage was used to making the repulsive welcome. Accordingly, his address surprised those who had not known his literary antecedents. He spoke with uncommon liveliness on the unpromising topic which he brought to the notice of his colleagues yesterday. The case for his Bill is given in brief in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, which we reproduce in another column. This argument Dr. Ghose expanded and illustrated with rare brilliance and learned wit, not only giving a lucid exposition of the present law and its difficulties and evils, but replying by anticipation to objections with admirable force and effect.

Altogether, it was a very able and, indeed, striking speech. We are really proud of our member. The country may well be proud of him. The speech has been rather marred in the report, and we therefore do not quote from it, pending the publication of the official minutes. Still, there is enough in the *Englishman's* version to justify our appreciation.

A MAHOMEDAN BOARDING HOUSE AT ALLAHABAD.

On Friday morning (March 11) His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor arrived at Allahabad, and at halfpast-eight drove from his railway carriage at the Station to the grounds of the Muir College. Here there was a large gathering of both European and Native gentlemen, who had taken their places beneath a spacious *shamiana*. The object of the assembly was to witness the laying, by Sir Auckland Colvin, of the foundation-stone of a boarding house for Mahomedan students. The necessity for such a building was fully set forth in the address which was presented to His Honour. "We take it," said the committee, "that a complete education can only be secured by the close and intimate union of religious with secular education, and it is also important that physical development should not be neglected. At Allahabad, however, we found a large number of young Mussulman students who were attending lectures in the Muir Central College, but whose life outside the lecture-rooms was anything but satisfactory. They lived anywhere and anyhow, without check or hindrance, and without any fear of being rebuked for misbehaviour not uncommon to young men. We found them receiving no religious education, and profiting by no organised system of physical training." For these and other reasons the establishment of such a building as has now been commenced, was felt to be a crying necessity. A plot of land within the College compound was granted, and plans for a suitable building were drawn up. Mr. Chapman, the District Engineer, prepared a scheme which will at first provide accommodation for twenty boarders in a building which, architecturally, is almost a *replica* of the west portion of the College. In view of the probable growth of the institution, the plans at present approved permit of the ultimate extension of the building so as to contain sixty students' rooms.

When His Honour arrived at the grounds he was received by Sir John Edge, Kt., Prince Shahdeo Singh, Professor A. E. Gough, M. A., Raja Sukhmal Singh, M. Samce-ullah

Khan, C. M. G., Haji Ahmad Said Khan, M. Habibur Rahman Khan, M. Abdul Jalil Khan, Mr. Abdul Majid, Mr. Abdul Jalil, Raja Syad Ali Khan, C. I. E., Koer M. Lutf Ali Khan, Koer Abdul Ghaffoor Khan, Khawjeh Mahomed Yousuf, and Khan Bahadur Mahomed Ali Khan. Being conducted to a dais His Honour took his seat under a reach cloth of gold canopy. Moulvi Samee-ullah Khan, who is one of the principal supporters of the movement, then requested Sir Auckland Colvin to accord Mr. M. A. H. Hydari permission to read an address.

The address, which was of great length, was then read. It referred to the success of the Anglo-Oriental College at Aligarh as the best example of what combined effort and honesty of purpose could achieve. Alluding to the movement now inaugurated, the address remarked :—

“We regret to learn that some of the existing national institutions in India are opposed to our view, but we are convinced that it is only the abuse of time and opportunities in England which should be checked, and not education there under proper supervision. We propose with the grace of God to put fresh life in the movement, and our Committee will act as an advising body with which parents may consult, and from which students may take help before proceeding to England. We will not rest contented with only looking after and advising young men while in India, but intend to safeguard their interests in England by placing them under proper guardianship there.”

The address, which was printed on white satin, was presented to the Lieutenant-Governor on a salver, and the foundation-stone was then laid. In a cavity of the stone was enclosed a bottle, containing a copy of the address, and newspapers and coins of the realm. The stone having been declared well and truly laid, His Honour replied to the address. He said :—

I have been asked to lay the foundation-stone of your Boarding House and am glad to do so, because the enterprise on which you are engaged is, you say, an example of a revival of the energy and initiative amongst the Mahomedan community in this Province, of which, as you state, the first illustration is to be found at Aligarh; but of which I trust the last will not be traced to Allahabad. I have been especially aware for some time that inconvenience was felt in finding suitable quarters for Mahomedan students at this place; and now that so many Mahomedans are by degrees joining the local Bar and making their influence felt in local society, it is the more desirable that members of their faith who are at the College should be properly cared for, and should feel that they have a collective existence and a collective reputation to maintain. Brought together under one roof, this will be easier probably for them than if they were scattered amongst bungalows here and there in the station. Discipline, moreover, and other influences over young men of their age can be better maintained if all the students are collected in one boarding house than living here and there in Allahabad.

The conditions under which land has been given to build upon in the college compound, have been intimated to you and received your assent. I look to those who are responsible for the undertaking to see that those conditions are faithfully observed. Before you begin the building your plans and estimates will have passed the criticism of the Public Works Department, and so much of the money necessary for the completion of the building should have been actually collected as will ensure its completion within a reasonable time.

No one watches with greater interest than I do the growth of the Mahomedan community in this province. I have served myself under a Mahomedan Government, and I trust I left behind me friends in the country to which I refer. Towards no one, whatever his race or religion, did I entertain warmer feelings of regard than towards that most staunch, but most tolerant Mussulman, the late Khedive of Egypt. I saw him in times of extraordinary difficulty, when his throne and his life seemed to hang daily in the balance. I was in close contact with him at one moment of supreme danger, when I had to communicate to him that the fortifications of Alexandria were about to be bombarded; and when he refused, for reasons which must in the opinion of all men have done him the highest honour, to leave his countrymen, although in revolt against his authority. He was aware at that moment that he must throw himself into their hands—the hands into which he threw himself were those of a rebel army—and take his chance of their good conduct. Perhaps, now that he is gone, I, who saw so much of him and had so deep a regard for him, may be allowed, without unseemliness, to say that neither at that time, when I am sure we both felt he was little likely to be allowed to live over the ensuing two days, nor at any other time during the anxious months that preceded the crisis I refer to, did I ever find the Khedive otherwise than in perfect calm and self-possession; nor did I receive from him any but the most considerate treatment and the kindest possible welcome. The recollection of the late Khedive and my treatment at his hands is a strong tie which has bound me to his co-religionists; the more so that not he only but many of the Mussulman high officials about him extended to me the same courtesy, the same kindness, and, as I hope, the same confidence.

In speaking recently at Aligarh Mr. Straight enjoined on one and all his Mahomedan friends to let no personal differences, no matter what their nature might be, impede or obstruct the carrying on of the great and able work the Aligarh College had already done. Applying his words to a larger area, I would say, let no personal differences, no matter what their nature may be, impede or obstruct the carrying on of the great and able work of Mahomedan advancement and progress in Upper India. A Mahomedan, like every other man, as you say in your address, must suit himself to the times in which he lives; and must so adapt himself in all aspects of his life to the time as to be able to hold his own in it. Your address shows that you are as much alive to this as I or any one else. As centuries pass on, conditions change and the equipment of the former great men of Islam is no longer one which would carry them through all opposition to-day, because the form and spirit of opposition has changed, and therefore the weapons with which it must be encountered. “Other men, other manners,” and if the sword of the house of Timur must be laid aside, there can be retained the energy, the perseverance, the courage and the endurance which gave to that sword its keen edge. What the Mahomedan of the present day has to retain is not the fierce and fanatical spirit of his predecessor; but the great qualities which enabled that fierce and fanatical spirit to dominate the men of its time. Those qualities to achieve success must now be turned to other ends. So long as the British Government in India endures fanaticism can be allowed no license; but peace, as our own stern poet says, hath her victories no less renowned than war. For the sharp sword of a former time there must now be substituted the keen edge of intellectual and industrial supremacy. The battle-fields of life are now in India those of civil and social reform; and the enemy now-a-days is the man who clings with a desperate obstinacy to the philosophies and the formulæ of a past age; and who hopes, with the weapons forged in that age, however blunted they may be by laspe of time and circumstance, to grope his way through the vigorous hosts which he meets in his modern progress. No one knows better than yourselves that the obstacle opposed to the reformer is still, whatever form it may take, or whatever specious guise it may assume, still the same obstacle of idolatry. There are as many images to-day in the world as were to be found in our seventh century in Arabia. There is the idol of a stupid adherence to past modes of education, reasoning and discussion; there is the idol of a bigoted hatred of all that is foreign to the creed or the country of the worshipper; there is the idol of fatuous pride of race, and there is the monster idol of all, the idol of apathy, of supine indifference and fatalistic submission to what is accepted as the “Will of God”; because man prostrate in so-called devotion refuses to exert any will of his own. Dumb, black images, all of them, hideous in their form, preposterous in their pretensions, despicable in their impotence. You, and others like you in other parts of the province, represent the true Mahomedan iconoclasts of to-day; and your task, as you and I are well aware, is no easy one. For you have to deal with thousands bristling with prejudice and ignorance; many of whom are only too eager (having regarded you hitherto as brothers) to turn upon you in your new character of reformers, as traitors and reprobates. To succeed, you must, as Mr. Straight said, agree to subdue all minor difficulties and exclude all jealousies or other unworthy motives. You must work to a common end although you may differ in some respect with regard to the methods you employ. All minor differences should be sunk in the presence of the common object. You have with you the sympathies of every Englishman in the country, and every civilised man throughout the world; and you know that you have the sympathies and the active support of the Government. But do not hide from yourselves the fact that there lies before you an anxious task, and unless you are animated by sincerity and sustained by conviction, you will fail abominably. The bringing together of Mahomedan students in a boarding house of this kind, careful of their own tradition while receiving a Western education, is a step taken in the right direction; and will, I hope, be the formation of a centre from which will radiate tolerance, reasonableness and enlightenment. The more centres of this kind multiply, the greater should be the number of points from which light will emanate into the obscurity which surrounds you. Therefore, from the day you first addressed yourselves to me, I have given you all the assistance in my power to smooth the difficulties in your way and furnish you facilities for erecting this building. Make it, I pray you, an advanced post of reason and tolerance, and not a stronghold of reactionary conservatism, or of mere blind, tenacious holding to a position no longer tenable because turned by the hand of time. If it should ever become that, it would be far better, you will agree with me, that its foundation-stone had never been laid.

THE MALABAR MARRIAGE COMMISSION.

The labours of the Malabar Marriage Commission have come to a close with the submission of its Report to the Madras Government. The two most important questions to which the attention

of the Commission was drawn by the Government of India were (1) whether the marriage customs in Malabar are connected with the religious observances of those who are subject to the Marumakkatayam law, and (2) whether a majority of Marumakkatayam Hindus desire legislation to regulate their social marriage; and if only a minority desire it, whether legislation is necessary for their protection and whether it is expedient. The Report of the Commission deals with these questions fully, and all the members are agreed that the marriage customs obtaining in Malabar have no connection whatever with religious observances. The law of inheritance observed by the Malayalis is quite independent of marriage, and the forms of marriage are not regarded as constituting a religious ceremony, *i. e.*, a *Samaskaram*, or sacrament in the Hindu or European sense of the word. With regard to the second question, whether there is a majority of people desiring legislation or only a minority, all the members of the Commission, including the President, except one, are unanimous in thinking that it is highly desirable in aid of progress and good morals that legislation should be resorted to, as it will on the one hand elevate and ennoble the precarious social marriage into a legal institution, whilst the strong arm of public law will, on the other, protect the domestic circle against the incursions of irregular passions, and thereby remove one cause of acute suffering and one strong temptation to the commission of crime. The dissenting member holds that the social marriage now prevalent in Malabar ought simply to be recognised by law, and that he would court legislation only in the absence of such legal recognition.

The other questions which the Commission has considered in the course of its Report are (1) what is the form which legislation, if any, ought to take, and (2) what effects the legalisation of Malabar marriages would have on the Native States of Travancore and Cochin and on those who follow the Aliya Santava law in South Canara. With regard to the form which legislation ought to take, there is considerable difference of opinion between the members of the Commission, who advocate legislation, and the President. The former strongly recommend the adoption of the Bill introduced into the Madras Legislative Council by the Hon'ble Mr. C. Sankaran Nair, with a few alterations. But the President is of opinion that the new Act should purport to legalise the existing forms of social marriage and not to provide a new form of civil marriage; that marriage to be legalised must be between persons who are permitted to cohabit with each other by custom obtaining in the caste to which they belong; that the form in which marriages may be contracted ought to be described as the one customary in the caste or class to which the woman belongs; that the marriageable age up to which the consent of Karnavans is necessary ought to be twenty-one and not eighteen; and that a declaration of marriage should be signed by both the parties and their legal guardians, and attested by witnesses. As regards the question of divorce, the President is of opinion that it must be of such a nature as to suit the conjugal relations in Malabar and to adequately ensure the stability of the matrimonial union. What, according to him, is adapted to the present condition of Marumakkatayam Hindus is a system of free divorce by judicial process as contradistinguished from an elaborate system of judicial divorce. The Munsiff's Courts are therefore indicated as the best machinery for trying cases of divorce, facts which require local investigation being left to *panchayats* at the discretion of the Munsiffs. To avoid the abuse of the liberty of divorce, two restrictions are proposed, namely, that the application by any person to the Court for the issue of a notice to the other party should be made only with the consent of the Karnavan of the Tarwad, and that an interval of a year, or two, from the date of the annulment of the marriage should elapse before the marriage is dissolved. The civil rights of such a marriage are that the husband could dispose of his property by will; that the wife must of right be maintained by her husband; that the husband could compel his wife to live with him when he has self-acquired property, and that the wife could compel her husband to receive her into his Tarwad. The President is also opposed to the right of the father to be the legal guardian of his children and the right of the wife to succeed in cases of intestacy. The members of the Commission, who disagree with the President with regard to the form that legislation ought to take, view his scheme to be impracticable as there are numerous forms of social marriage prevalent in Malabar and to legalise all of them, instead of one particular form, would lead to unnecessary litigation and complicated difficulties which it is highly necessary to avoid. With regard to the effects of the legalisation of Malabar marriages on Travancore and Cochin, the Commission is not in a position to pronounce any opinion, as the only witnesses examined in connection therewith were the Dewans of the two States, who have expressed only their own individual opinions on the subject. But with regard to the followers of the Aliya Santava law, the Commission recommends that they be allowed the same privileges as those who follow the Marumakkatayam law. The Report of the Commission is now under consideration by the local Government, which will forward it shortly to the Government of India with its own observations.---
Mail.

ALIENABILITY OF ZEMINDARIES.

The following is the letter addressed to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras by the President (the Raja of Venkatagiri) of the Madras Landholders' Association:---

Sir,--I beg to point out an error in para. 8 of the Memorial of the Madras Landholders' Association, dated 5th December, 1890, presented to the Madras Government, praying for legislative enactment for regulating the succession of Zemindaries similar to the Oude Taluqdars' Act I of 1869, as contemplated by several previous Governors of this Presidency from Sir T. Munro downwards from political and other considerations, and as suggested by the Famine Commission which strongly urged against partition of Zemindaries as an "administrative," "social," "agricultural," and "economic" necessity. (Famine Commission Report, Vol. III. Condition of the country and the people of India, page 330.)

Para. 8 of the Memorial, to be corrected runs thus:---

"Although the rule of primogeniture, wherever it obtains, and in whatever case its applicability is recognized, necessarily implies that the inherent quality of inalienability also attaches thereto---the object being to preserve intact ancestral estates for all ages to come, and to safeguard the possession of such estates strictly in the families of the old nobility, with all their traditional attributes of prestige, rank, power and place---it causes your Excellency's Memorialists deep pain and regret to mention that, by a recent decision, the Madras High Court have ruled that even an impartible Zemindari may also be alienated, although they have mitigated the evil of this decision, in some degree, by declaring that such alienation shall not extend beyond the life of the alienor. Even this partial dispossession, for the time being, must have the effect of lowering the status of the property, the dignity of the Lord, and his power for doing good."

In the Kangundi alienation case alluded to in the above paragraph (page 197, Indian Law Reports, Vol. XIII of 1889) where the Madras High Court followed the decision of the Privy Council in *Sartaj Kuari versus Deoraj Kuari*, (page 272 Vol. X, Indian Law Reports, 1888, Allahabad) it was the District Court that declared that such alienation shall not extend beyond the life of the alienor. But the Madras High Court on appeal removed even the partial mitigation of the evil and upheld the alienability of Zemindaries absolutely, and has laid down the dictum that Zemindaries, however ancient or old, are alienable till the custom of inalienability (a negative state of thing) is proved. This unfortunate decision is destructive to the existence and prestige of the landed aristocracy. Though the Memorialists do not deny cases of alienation by Zemindars, yet they affirm that, considering the proportionate extent of alienated property and the frequency of alienation, alienation was only an exception and not the rule. There are no facts to warrant the assumption that alienation was the rule. It is wrong to take service inams granted for services rendered, secular or religious, and lands granted for maintenance to those entitled to it to be alienation; these being held under peculiar tenure restricting the grant. In the whole past history of all Zemindaries, there has never been a single instance of a Zemindari being alienated *in toto* from lawful heirs even as a solitary exception. Otherwise, the Zemindaries could not have possibly descended almost in their entirety in the families of the proprietors except those sold partly or wholly for debts. Yet unrestricted wholesale alienation of Zemindaries are quite legalised by such arbitrary court decisions protested against. The Law Courts have taken the rare and insignificant exception to be the rule and the rule to be the exception. With unaccountable inconsistency they have declared that partible Zemindaries are inalienable according to the Mitahara law to the prejudice of the successors and heirs of the alienor who are co-sharers, and who are entitled to maintenance, while the heirs and successors of the proprietors of impartible Zemindaries are made to suffer by any arbitrary alienation disinheriting the lawful heir and claimant and depriving those entitled to maintenance of their rights.

Even when the Zemindars succeed in getting their succession question settled by legislation, unless their estates are protected from the newly announced court-made law of inalienability, the Zemindars are sure to go to ruin and extinction. The evil is beginning to be felt seriously already as these erroneous decisions are possessed with all legislative force. It is the humble prayer of the Association, therefore, that the Government will be generously pleased to see that the legislation prayed for by the Association makes due provision against arbitrary alienation of Zemindari estates by their proprietors. In pointing out the error in the last Memorial, the Association begs to show the Government how grave and serious is the position of Zemindaries in the face of Court decisions quoted above unless remedied by early legislative enactments.

In conclusion, I beg to remind the Government of the Memorial, dated 5th December, 1890, and of the prayers contained therein, with the corrections above pointed out, fully hoping that they would have an early redress for their growing and increasing grievances and difficulties.

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Sir Rames Chandra Mitra,

Justice Chandra Madhub Ghosh,

" Gurudas Banerji,

Hon'ble Dr. Rashbehari Ghosh,

Babu Hein Chandra Binerjee, Senior Government Pleader, High Court,

Rav Jagadananda Mookerjee Bahadur,

Babu Chandra Nath Bose, M.A., B.L.,

" Pratapa Chandra Ghosh, Registrar of

Assurances,

Rabindra Nath Tagore, Esq.,

Babu Kunja Behari Mallik, of Posta,

Babu Chandi Lal Singha, late President,

National Chamber of Commerce, Banker,

Ray Yotindra Nath Chaudhuri, of the Munsifamily, Taki, M.A., B.L., Zemindar,

Dr. Triulokya Nath Mitra, Pleader, High Court, Charman, Srirampur Municipality,

Babu Chandi Das Ghosh, M.A., B.L., Officiating

Sub-Divisional Officer, Srirampur,

Babu Jadu Lal Mallik, of Pathuriaghata,

Zemindar,

Kumar Radhaprasad Ray, of Posta,

Dr. Nil Ratan Sarkar, (M.A., M.D., &c.),

Ray Bankim Chandra Chatterji Bahadur,

Babu Akkaya Chandra Sarkar, Poet and

Publicist,

Babu Ramanath Ghosh, of Pathuriaghata,

Ray Kanai Lal De Bahadur, C.I.E., &c.,

Babu Kisori Lal Goswami, M.A., B.L., Zemindar,

Srirampur,

Lala Bangsagopal Nandey, Burdwan,

" Banbehari Kapur, Burdwan,

Babu Satya Kinkar Sen, B.L., Government

Pleader, Burdwan

Ray Nalinaksha Bose Bahadur, Chairman,

Burdwan Municipality,

Babu Umacharan Banerji, M.A., Principal,

Raj College, Burdwan,

Dr. Jagat Bandhu Mitra, Vice-Chairman,

Burdwan Municipality,

Babu Sakari Banerji, Member, Burdwan Raj

Committee,

Babu Rajendra Kumar Bose, Sub-Judge,

Burdwan,

Munsi Golan Azduk, Pleader, Burdwan,

Babu Jagannathan Bhattacharyya, Deputy

Magistrate, Burdwan,

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Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1892.

No. 518.

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

LIFE EVANGELS.

SILENT upon the threshold of life's portal
Sits the veiled Isis of the Future—all
That time has yet of bitterness and sorrow
Lies hid beneath that dark, unlifted pall.

Behind us sadly stands a mournful maiden,
With an enchanted mirror in her hand ;
Cypress and violets on her brow are blended,
With daisies ever fresh from childhood's land.

The shadowy Past glides o'er the changeful mirror,
Like sunny tears and clouds o'er April skies,
Or lit by avenging lightnings that have smitten
The heart with agony that never dies !

Thus the accusing and the unknown haunt us—
The hidden woe and the remembered pain ;
But Faith and Duty in the orb'd Present
With angel pinions hide the phantoms twain.

RESIGNING.

"Poor heart ! what bitter words we speak
When God speaks of resigning."

CHILDREN, that lay their pretty garlands by
Most lingeringly, yet with a patient will :
Sailors, that, when the o'erladen ship lies still,
Cast out her precious freight with veiled eye,
Riches for life exchanging solemnly,
Lest they should never reach the wished-for shore ;
Thus we, oh Infinite ! stand thee before,
And lay down at thy feet, without one sigh,
Each after each, our lovely things and rare—
Our close heart-jewels and our garlands fair.
Perhaps thou knewest that the flowers would die,
And the long-voyaged hoards be found all dust ;
So take them, while unchanged. To thee we trust
For incorruptible treasure ;—thou art just.

FRAGMENT.

SAY on, that I'm over romantic,
In loving the wild and the free ;—
But the waves of the dashing Atlantic,
The Alps, and the eagle, for me !

The billows, so madly uprearing
Their heads on the blast-ridden main,
Mock the hurricane, dauntless, unfearing,
And roar back the thunder again.

The mountain, right heavenward bearing,
Half lost in the sun and the snow,
Can only be trod by the daring ;
The fearful may tremble below.

The eagle is high in its dwelling,
Forever the tameless, the proud ;
It heeds not the storm-spirits' yelling,
It swoops through the lightning-fraught cloud.

Tell me not of a soft-sighing lover ;
Such things may be had by the score ;
I'd rather be bride to a rover,
And polish the rifle he bore.

The storm with its thunder affrighting ;
The torrent and avalanche high ;
These, these, would my spirit delight in ;
'Mid these would I wander and die !

Say on, that I'm over romantic,
In loving the wild and the free ;
But the waves of the dashing Atlantic,
The Alps, and the eagle, for me !

NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

BOTH the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor left Calcutta on Monday. Sir Charles Elliott will return on the 9th.

THE Hurdwar Fair had to be broken up early on account of cholera. Pilgrims were stopped on the way and those already arrived were sent back. To effect the last measure, the bunniah's shops were closed.

ON the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, they have successfully tried the experiment of lighting the trains with gas.

IT is expected that the railway line from Joppa, a seaport town on the Red Sea, to Jerusalem will be opened in the next spring. When will there be a railway from Jedda to Mecca ? The pilgrim traffic is far more heavy at Mecca than at Jerusalem.

SIR Charles Paul having gone on leave, Mr. J. T. Woodroffe succeeds him both as Advocate-General and member of the local Legislative Council. The barrister goes with his solicitor. Baboo Gonesh Chunder Chunder's appointment as an honorable Councillor of the same Chamber is simultaneously Gazetted.

MR. Mahadev Govind Ranade and Mr. Javerilal Y. Umiashunker having completed their terms in the Bombay Legislative Council, Mr. Nulkar of Poona and Mr. Chotilal of Ahmedabad have been appointed in their places. Unexceptional selections.

Equally good is the appointment of the Maharaja of Vizianagram to the Madras Council.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

DEATH has of late been busy among the British plutocracy, unless plutocrats are multiplying at an abnormal rate. Already, in the quarter, we find that four estates each exceeding a quarter of a million had been proved prior to Mr. Leyland's: those of Mr. Barclay, of Gurney's Band; Mr. Hampson Jones; Mr. S. J. Brown, of Brown Janson and Co.; and Canon Bridges, of Winchester, who enjoyed the reputation of being the wealthiest clergyman in the English Church. The personality only of Mr. W. H. Smith comes up to some 2 crores (£1,764,000) and the wealth of the Duke of Devonshire must be larger still. The other great fortunes are those of Mr. Cox and Mr. Gilroy, the two greatest Dundee jute manufacturers; Sir James Spaight, the rich man of Limerick; Mr. Punchard, the greatest of foreign contractors; the Marchioness of Westminster; Mr. Whiteley, Sir Gilbert Greenall's partner in beer and the Bible; Mr. Ralph Brocklebank, a Liverpool shipowner; Mr. Hugh Rose, the Scotch drysalter; Sir J. P. Corry, the Belfast shipowner; Mr. Magniac, of Jardine, Mathieson, and Co., who died intestate; Mr. Tarn, of the well-known Newington establishment; Mr. Wertheimer, of Bond-street. Not a bad prospect for the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

A GOOD anecdote of the grandfather of the present Czar is told in a European magazine. The Emperor Nicholas, one day riding through a village near Moscow, accidentally dropped his whip, and beckoned to a peasant lad to pick it up for him. Undismayed by the grand cavalcade, the boy came up to him, and delivered the whip with the question "Who are you?" Struck by the youth's boldness, the Czar said, "I am the Emperor." What was His Majesty's amazement when, "Well," retorted the boy, "if you cannot take care of your whip, how can you take care of your subjects?" The great and good Nicholas ordered the lad to be brought up at his expense to any profession he might choose, and to-day Ivasovsky is a distinguished painter. The son of Armenian peasants, he is probably the greatest artist of his race.

THE Commissioner of Police has notified that between the business hours, from 9 A.M. to 6 A.M., on all days, except Sundays and general holidays, no vehicle shall be allowed to stand in certain thoroughfares in the town except in the manner specified. The notification concludes with a warning that every person disobeying the order is liable to a fine not exceeding Rs. 100. The order, penal as it is, ought to be made more generally known than by mere publication in the Gazette.

THE Government of India have ruled that, under the Indian Merchandise Marks Act, 1889, shawls need not be stamped on them their length, inasmuch as they are not piece-goods and the phrase "woollen goods" under the classes of goods included in the expression "piece-goods," includes none but "woollen piece-goods."

MR. Justice Parker, of Madras, has held that a minor Zemindar could not recover moneys due to his estate without first obtaining a succession certificate.

AT the instance of the Court of Wards, on behalf of Gungur, a Zemindar, in execution of a decree for Rs. 3,000, the District Court of North Arcot had committed one Pachamiah to civil jail at Vellore for six months. Two months before the expiration of the period, and while the debt remained unsatisfied and there was no failure to pay in the subsistence allowance, Pachamiah was released. The Zemindar has now sued the Jail Superintendent, Mr. Cavendish, for the decretal amount. The defendant denies negligence, the release having been made under a *bona fide* mistake.

A NUMBER of persons is again on trial at Rampur for the murder of General Azimuddin. Two of them, Ghazzan and Bhonda by name, have, on offer of pardon, turned Queen's evidence. The former, originally a resident of the Peshawar district, deposed that he was twice tempted with money—first by Abdulla Khan and then by Mustafa Khan—to murder the General. He was one of those who had fired upon him. He was under arrest since the day after the murder and had tired of his life in custody. He was corroborated by Bhonda who too formed one of the firing party.

Abdulla had early been suspected as the instigator of the murder.

Nawab Hyder Ali Khan, brother of the late Chief Kulb Ali Khan, on being examined, said:—

"Abdulla Khan was at one time Settlement Officer and Magistrate in Rampur, and was related to many families of position. Witness now lived at Bilsee. He knew Azimuddin, whose first appointment was to look after State visitors for which he received Rs. 100 per month. After Kulb Ali's death Azimuddin was the chief power in Rampur. The Nawab was not capable of ruling, and Azimuddin received Rs. 2,000 per month and Rs. 500 as his daughters' allowance. In 1889 witness's disagreement with the State was settled through Azimuddin, and his claims were paid. At the end of February 1891, Abdulla Khan came to see witness at Bilsee, and in conversation said that his son Saidulla had lost his appointment through Azimuddin, and he himself had had to leave Rampur, though still he was being persecuted. He added: 'We are Pathans, and if this continues I will surely kill him, even if it costs my life.' Witness replied that this was a very improper thing for an old man to say. Witness that night mentioned the conversation to his Agent, Mr. Hamilton. Next morning Abdulla said that he had spoken in anger, but would not do such a thing."

It appears from the evidence of Mushtafa Ahmed that

"In 1887, Abdulla owed the State Rs. 16,000 as revenue. It was proposed by the Council to forego the claim, but this was not agreed to. Subsequently, when called upon to pay, Abdulla replied that he owed nothing. If the State and General Azimuddin chose to do so, they might sell his property and life, but he would pay nothing himself. Abdulla's houses were then sold, but subsequently the sale was cancelled, and the property restored. Saidulla was dismissed from the service by Azimuddin, and Abdulla was dismissed from the Council. Abdulla and Hyder Ali Khan intrigued against Azimuddin, who found it out, and stopped their plans."

OF the charges now being enquired into against Mr. P. Ram Chandra Rao, acting Sub-Collector, Madura, a graduate of the Madras University and a Statutory Civilian, the principal are that he received from a Zemindar a large silk umbrella for presentation to a temple, and Rs. 1,500. Another charge has been abandoned, that namely, of having received gifts of food when in camp.

SHAIK HUSSAIN, a butler in the service of Executive Engineer Le Quesne, Nira Canal, ran amok on the 12th March, at a village in the Hindapur taluq, Poona district. The butler had fallen out with a brother servant—a Goanese cook—and, in the heat of the moment, suddenly seized a rifle from his master's kit he was carrying and shot him dead. He then ran off, taking with him two of his master's sporting rifles and some ammunition. He was followed by several villagers. Finding escape impossible, Hussain took his stand on the side of a public road and fired on his pursuers, wounding two of them. He was ultimately seized and secured. The Sessions Court of Poona on the 28th found him guilty of murder and passed the sentence of death. The defence taken was drunkenness.

THAT precious planter Nickels, of Jubbulpore, having been once spotted by the Police or the District authorities, had better not be in a hurry to esteem himself safe. At any rate, before he has had time to breathe freely after his escape from the N. W. P. High Court on the charge of destroying a rival factory, he has received a summons from the Magistrate of Jaunpore to answer to an accusation of abetting an offence under section 211 of the Penal Code. He is charged with having, last year, bribed the brother of a man bitten to death by a cobra to break a couple of the ribs of the corpse, and to report at the police station that the man had died from the effects of a severe beating that he had received at the hands of the *tehsildar*. On enquiry, the report made against the *tehsildar* was found to be without foundation, and the lying brother was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment. And now the alleged instigator of the calumny against a public servant has been called upon to clear himself.

INDIAN litigation has taken a new departure in the Panjab. An unprecedented scene lately occurred at the District Court of Rawalpindi. On the court's decision being made known, the winning party expressed his elation by a taunt at the loser which so exasperated him that he did not scruple to commit a serious contempt of court. He retaliated with blows, which the victorious suitor was not slow to return. In short, there was a general scuffle between the plaintiff and the defendant and their respective friends and adherents. Luckily, there has not been loss of life, still men on both sides have been severely hurt, of whom two have been taken to hospital.

THE *Advocate of India* writes:—

"An English correspondent of the *Madras Mail* is at great pains to prove that Warren Hastings was not the son of fifteen year old father. His pen and research, we think, would be better employed in disproving, if that be possible, the accusations which Burke and Macaulay have brought against the man who caused Nannimar to be hanged, and did several other things worthy to be recorded of a Roman Proconsul."

In the *Fort St. George Gazette* of the 22nd instant, appears a notification authorizing the affiliation to the Madras University of the Law College, Madras, up to the Bachelor of Laws standard, with effect from May 1891.

"THE Foresters: Robin Hood and Maid Marian," Lord Tennyson's new drama, was to be published by Messrs. Macmillan and Co., on March 27.

..

THE Government representatives on the Calcutta Municipal Board are:—

Mr. C. C. Stevens, C.S.
 „ Elias Gubbay.
 „ J. E. D. Ezra.
 Maharaja Sir Narendra Krishna Bahadur, K.C.I.E.
 Nawab Abdool Luteef, Bahadur, C.I.E.
 Prince Jehan Kadr Muza Muhammad Wahid Ali, Bahadur.
 Sahebzada Muhammad Bakhtiyar Shah.
 Surgeon-Major R. C. Sanders, M.D.
 Maulavi Muhammad Yusuf, Khan Bahadur.
 Babu Jai Gobind Laha.
 Mr. Harjeebhoy Manackjee Rustomjee.
 „ J. Lambert, C.I.E.
 „ W. K. Eddis.
 Rai Durgagati Banerji Bahadur.
 Nawab Saïyid Amir Hussain, C.I.E.

The Calcutta Trades Association have returned Messrs. R. Y. Remfry, W. H. Phelps, E. F. Longley and F. D. A. Larmour. The Chamber of Commerce will return four and the Port Trust two. These twenty-five with the elected fifty will complete the full complement of the Calcutta Corporation.

..

"ELECTROCUTION" or execution by electricity being discredited in New York, as brutal, hanging by machinery, the invention of a Colorado man, has come to the fore.

"The instrument is the only one in the world, and is in a stone building a short distance back of the cell rooms within the penitentiary walls at Canon City, Colorado. Entering the front room you notice a noose hanging from the tenfoot ceiling. The rope runs to a rear-room over a set of pulleys, and is fastened to a pig of iron weighing 500 pounds. The pig rests on a collapsing shelf, which is kept in place by a trip lever, on which hangs a receptacle holding fifty-six pounds of water. In the bottom of the vessel is a plug, which is attached to a chain. The chain passes down through the floor, around a pulley, and is hooked on to a rod which stands upright under a raised portion of the floor of the execution room. This surface is kept from touching the rod by means of four spiral springs. On the wall of the room is a white disc, on which is a red mark, and a black hand points downward. When the man condemned to die steps under the noose his weight forces the raised floor surface down the rod, which gives the chain a pull, and plug drops out of the water receptacle. This starts the flow of water, and at the same instant the black hand on the disc on the wall travels upwards. When it reaches the red mark the witnesses know that the water vessel is empty, and the trip lever, fifty-six pounds lighter, is forced upwards by a spring, the heavy weight drops, and the murderer hangs in the air. All this is done silently; not a creak or a snap is heard. This machine has never yet failed to break a man's neck."

..

MANDALAY has escaped being burnt down. There was a fire on Wednesday, the particulars of which are thus given in the *Englishman*:—

"The fire originated in a dwelling house in 27th Street, near China Street. The exceptionally high wind soon carried the flames in a northerly direction. The fire engines were quickly on the spot, but they were unable to cope with the fire, which extended with amazing rapidity across B. Road. All wooden and mat buildings were consumed, also several brick and pukka buildings, including the Telegraph Office. The fire then spread to E. Road, but the hotels and the National Bank in that road escaped, though the flames were borne against the doors and windows by the wind. The fire then ran along West Moat Road as far as Dyer's Brewery at Obo, a distance of at least two miles. Luckily the wind was not blowing in the direction of the town, or Mandalay would be now a thing of the past. The fire is still (Friday morning) burning, but so long as the wind continues with its present moderate force there is no fear of further disaster. The loss of property is immense, and it is feared that many lives have been lost. Large crowds of people are now collected be-

sides the moat with their goods and chattels without any shelter. There are conflicting reports regarding the origin of fire.

"Telegrams of this morning (April 1) state that two new fires of a serious nature broke out on Thursday afternoon at the south end of the South Moat Road in Mandalay, spreading with alarming rapidity to the villages behind the Fort wall, burning hundreds of Burmese houses, and ran for about two miles past the incomparable Pagoda, burning monasteries between the north end of the city and the Mandalay hill, and making hundreds of families homeless. The transport lines at one time were in serious danger, but were saved by General Gossett and Staff, and a large force of the military there. Captain Alban with his Military Police has worked day and night on Wednesday and Thursday saving property from the looters. The fire is still burning. The second fire originated in the Burmese houses, south of the Race Course, and demolished blocks of houses. This fire, though at first incendiarism was suspected, is now clearly shown to be due to sparks of a cheroot igniting some Indian corn. The Burmese are reported to be taking the whole matter quite philosophically, though thousands and thousands are homeless."

NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE General Elections in England may come on in June or July next.

THE House of Commons is still aristocratic and vain enough to submit to the honesty of receiving regular payment for its services, instead of individually relying on pickings and indirect gains of sorts. But the old arrogance is decidedly on the wane. On the night of the 26th March, it rejected by a majority of sixty-five votes a resolution for paying the Members, moved by Mr. Fenwick, Member for Wansbeck.

MANY expelled Russian Jews have found their way into England, and more are expected. This has caused alarm. Surely, there is no room for a fugitive race in that small country, and warning has been given to that effect in Russia.

IN the House of Commons, on March 28, Mr. Curzon moved the second reading of the Indian Councils Bills. Mr. Schwann moved an amendment demanding the elective principle. Mr. Gladstone supported the Bill, saying that he deprecated binding the Government of India by a positive expression of opinion based upon incomplete information. It was necessary, he said, to avoid the danger of being subservient to the interests of any particular classes or cliques in India, and whatever support Government intended to give to the election principle must be genuine. The amendment was withdrawn and the Bill read a second time without the House dividing. The principle having been adopted, however, Mr. Maclean has given notice of an amendment in Committee to make it inoperative. He will move that the Viceroy shall not adopt the elective principle without the consent of Parliament. In the present temper of the House, we may take it that the Bill will be steered clear of the new little rock ahead.

Mr. Maclean is also against the Indian Officers' Bill. He has given notice in the House of a motion for shelving it.

THE United States having followed up the President's threat and detailed eleven warships for preventing poaching in Behring Sea, Lord Salisbury consented to the renewal of the *modus vivendi* as soon as the Arbitration Treaty was satisfied, subject to the mutual assessment of the damages to sealers arising from the prohibition placed upon their operations. The reply has satisfied President Harrison, and the Senate has ratified the Treaty.

THE Emperor William has returned to Berlin in renewed health.

The Education Bill has been dropped. Great is the wrath of the Catholic party, who are deserting the Government.

Prince Bismarck is reported to have said that the Emperor William, as a reformer, had displeased all parties, impaired the prestige of the Hohenzollerns, and got into a state of mind justifying alarm.

THE Paris Anarchists have revenged themselves on the Prosecuting Counsel in the recent anarchist trials. There was a dynamite explosion at his house, utterly demolishing its interior and injuring fifteen inmates.

THE author of the dynamite outrages is under arrest. Forty foreign anarchists have been expelled from Paris.

THE Chamber of Deputies has passed without debate the Bill for punishing dynamite outrages with death. The Senate too has accepted the measure.

FOR sermons preaching politics, the French Government have threatened to close all Churches. They have further resolved to expel Father Forbes, a Scotch Jesuit, for the insulting way in which he spoke of the French Army in his discourses. It is said that the Marquis of Dufferin will interfere in the matter.

IN Australia, the distress of the unemployed is increasing. At Sydney, they are being housed in the old Exhibition Building.

IN view of the impending Presidential election, the Bland Silver Bill has been dropped. Mr. Stewart will move in the Senate on Monday next for rediscussion of his Bill for free coinage of gold and silver.

THE Poet of Democracy, Walt Whitman, author of *Leaves of Grass* and other rhapsodies in prose and unrhymed verse, the incomprehensible immoralist, who had long been ailing, has died in his native America.

THIS will be a memorable week in India. It has been a Guy Fawkes Week, and it would not be amiss if hereafter loyal and truly patriotic citizens kept every 27th of March as a sort of Guy's Day. There was no immediate danger, to be sure—no actual Gun Powder Plot to blow up the Viceroy together with all his Councillors. It was only a question of time, though. The danger was there all the same—all the surer for being deferred. In place of immediate violence or sporadic outbreaks, the aim was to destroy by slow poison circulated through the minute capillaries of the entire body politic. But, fortunately for the cause of order, all plots are extremely liable to exposure, and this multitudinous cabal was doomed from its inception. There is not the slightest cause for wonder that it has exploded.

FOR sometime, vague rumours had been afloat of certain infernal bombs manufactured in the Congress laboratory by its Vulcan, which would at last fire up the damp zeal of Young India into an irresistible demand for rights and burn down the fabric of British Indian Rule and humble to the dust the pride of the Civil Service. The first public announcement was made by the enterprising *Morning Post* of Allahabad. On the 19th March, our contemporary wrote:—

"We hear that Mr. A. O. Hume's parting shot at the Government of India takes the form of an incendiary 'private and confidential' letter addressed to the Standing Congress committees. In it the English are held up to execration, and it is affirmed that the time will come when their throats will be cut like sheep. It is altogether a peculiarly offensive and outrageous epistle, and the authorities will certainly fail in their duty if they do not arrest the writer for sedition. There is plenty of time, as Mr. Hume does not sail from Bombay till next week."

We quoted that in our last as a sensational paragraph, scarcely believing that, after his previous experiences, Mr. Hume would do such a wrong to India and England and compromise the Congress itself. But the matter was far too important for pooh-poohing, or even mere indifference, and we thought it our duty to give our Allahabad brother's statement circulation in order to draw out the truth and warn Government of a possible danger. The Congress journals denied the imputation and abused the *Morning Post* and some other papers which had presumed to doubt the honor of the Congress and its "boss." Of these papers, the *Madras Mail*, edited by Sir Charles Lawson, the leading European journal of the Southern Presidency was one. And it was taken to task by the Native Press there. On the 27th March, the *Madras Mail*, in the South, and on the 28th the *Morning Post*, up in the North, answered the abuses heaped on them by publication of the full text of Mr. Hume's Private and Confidential despatches to each and every member of the Congress, showing that they had not in the least misrepresented.

The publication produced an immense sensation. The Congressists were alarmed. Their press adopted conflicting methods of tiding through the crisis. The *Statesman* and the *Amrita Bazar* reproduced

the letters, but the *Indian Mirror*, which reproduces everything—good, bad or indifferent—as though by instinct led, ignored not only the correspondence but the event itself. The appearance of the Hume Plot in the *Morning Post* was followed by an article in the *Indian Mirror*, in a strain of hue and cry against traitors in the national camp who betray its secrets. The *Indian Mirror* had derided the *Morning Post's* news of the 19th March as mere "bosh." But the "bosh" has come true. And now when the Allahabad journal publishes the text of the Hume correspondence, the Calcutta writer whines and, without one word of acknowledgment or admission, complains like a schoolboy that the *Morning Post* has taken a mean revenge. The whole treatment of the business by our Calcutta contemporary is characteristic and discloses the weakness of the cause. "We have nothing to do," says the *Mirror*, "with the spirit or letter of Mr. Hume's writings. Mr. Hume and his friends know, we presume, what they are about."—the said friends including, we presume, the editor of the *Mirror* himself. Nero fiddled while Rome was burning. Here we have a musician—God save the mark!—enjoying with his instrument while his own house is in flames. For the rest, the writer exhausts himself in an impersonal jeremiad against some supposititious enemies in the councils of the arch-congressists who have presumably been doing something dreadfully nasty. Up to this, our contemporary has kept the secret of the Hume exhortation to the country. He is evidently resolved to sit down the irruption.

The sensation is not confined to Bengal. It is common to the empire. In the South, Mr. Hume's manifesto, which we publish elsewhere, has drawn a protest from Dewan Bahadur Ragoonath Row. He writes to the *Madras Mail* denying the sullen discontent among the rural classes to the extent alleged by Mr. Hume—or to any dangerous extent.

LORD Roberts had been to Nepal. This is the first visit of a British Commander-in-Chief to Khatmandu. Ten years ago, when the British Minister was virtually a prisoner confined to the Residency and the roads near it, the proposal could scarcely have been made without offence. But with each revolution in Nepal, as in other native States, British influence gains.

NO sooner was British authority established in Manipur, than measures were taken to bring it within reach of the outside world. Here is the latest news of an important operation in that behalf:—

"The Nichuguard gorge on the Manipur-Assam road has been successfully pierced by a cart road by the Madras Pioneers and Sappers, specially brought up for the purpose, and carts have gone through to-day to convey the baggage from Depufam camp on the return of the troops to India. The first detachment of the 1st Madras Pioneers leaves for Shikanghat to-day, for embarkation there on April 30th. The work was commenced in the middle of November and 21,000 lb. of dynamite have been expended, and about five million cubic feet, chiefly of rock, excavated since that time. Strong wooden bridges have been thrown over the principal nullahs by the Queen's Own Sappers and Miners, who have also bridged the Kuki river, 390 feet wide."

This is the first fruit of civilised administration. Manipur is no longer the inaccessible region beyond the Eastern frontier of Bengal that only yesterday it was.

WE have received a letter from Chittagong containing the following:—

The Kookies have done very mischievous work up in Lushailand. The extent of the mischief is not yet fully known, but that it is of no mean character is evident from the somewhat gigantic preparations that are being made to bring them to their senses. A detachment of 200 sepoy from the 3rd Native Infantry came here on the 23rd for moving up to the hills.

GREAT was the excitement among the Mahomedan community at Delhi lately, at the news that one of their learned, Maulvi Hafiz Ahnada, had after all been convinced by the arguments and the earnestness of the Rev. G. A. Lefroy, of the Cambridge Mission, whose acquaintance he made while the latter was engaged in street preaching in the Chandi Chowk, and had decided to adopt the Christian faith. A day had been fixed for the Maulvi's public baptism by the reverend gentleman at St. Stephen's Church. As the excitement among the Mahomedans threatened a disturbance on the occasion, application was made to the police and special protection promised for the ceremony. Meanwhile, the Maulvi's friends besieged him, and at the last moment

he backed out. A great crowd assembled on due date and hour, at St. Stephen's Church, but there was no baptism, and nothing to quarrel about, so the people quietly dispersed, agreeably disappointed.

THE cry of distress comes from almost all parts of the country and almost all districts. And the distress is on the increase. There has been no rain to speak of anywhere. The want of water is producing cholera in many parts. The District of Nuddea is specially suffering. At our door, in the North Suburban Town, many deaths have occurred during the week.

LORD Lansdowne arrived in Bombay on Wednesday and was accorded an enthusiastic welcome. Next day, he opened the Tansa Water-Works. These works have cost a crore and-a-half of rupees, being commenced in 1886 and completed in 1892. They are remarkable as a feat of engineering. The Viceroy, in his reply to the address of the Municipal Commissioners, said:—

"The reception they had given him was something more than a mere personal compliment. He regarded it as an indication of their desire that the supreme Government should be associated with them in their rejoicings at the completion of the work, which, though local in its character, was one of such magnitude and conferred such benefits upon the community. It was so important that they might well be allowed to consider it as falling outside the category of ordinary Municipal undertakings. The address referred in appropriate terms to the dimensions of the work, the completion of which they were celebrating. They had every reason to be proud of the achievement. It had been carried out in the face of great physical obstacles. They had not a perennial stream at hand whence by a simple process of diversion their city could be furnished with an abundance of water. They had no lakes like Loch Katrine from which the city of Glasgow draws an unfailing supply. The climatic peculiarities of India imposed upon them the onerous condition of providing a storage reservoir sufficiently large to collect during the rainy season a quantity of water adequate to provide for their wants during the remainder of the year. They had had to go far afield, over fifty miles, to discover a suitable catchment area in which to imprison the monsoon rainfall, while the subsidiary works connected with conducting the water from the lake to the city had involved the construction of aqueducts, bridges, tunnels, and other large works of hydraulic engineering. It was no small thing to be able to say that in order to procure for Bombay a supply of pure water they had erected the largest masonry dam, which had resulted in the creation of a lake with an area of nearly six square miles. Their efforts were likely to be crowned with a measure of success greater than was anticipated by the most sanguine supporter of the project. The quality of the water was undeniable, and, as regarded quantity, the works were expected to provide a daily supply of 17,000,000 gallons, but would as a matter of fact provide 21,000,000, or 40 gallons per head of the population. He believed that no city in the world, considering its requirements, would be more liberally provided with pure water than Bombay."

Lord Lansdowne thanked the Corporation "for their kindly reference to Lady Lansdowne, who was on the point of leaving the country for a few weeks possibly, owing to a fear that some evil disposed Member of Parliament might move an amendment to the Bill now before the House with the object of rendering it illegal not only for the Viceroy but for his wife to absent herself from her post." That would have done for an after dinner joke, but it was scarcely in the best taste on the occasion. It does not become the Viceroy to disparage the honest opposition of members of Parliament to the measures of Government.

Next day, that is yesterday, in the afternoon, the Viceroy reviewed the East India Squadron in the Bombay harbour. The festivities in honor of the august visit closed with a display of fireworks on the Kennedy sea-face.

Today, Lady Lansdowne leaves for England.

PREPARATIONS are making at city Bhagalpur for a fitting reception of the Lieutenant-Governor now on tour in that district. At the instance of Rai Bahadar Shib Chunder Banerjee, a Reception Committee has been formed at a public meeting. Sir Charles Elliott is due there on the 7th, where he stays one day, returning to Calcutta on the 9th.

THE Government of Bombay having passed a resolution that the services of the officers and clerks employed in the political department of the Secretariat, should in no case be lent to the Native States, the *Advocate of India* says:—

"Mr. Lee-Warner, who is responsible for this order, believes and rightly we may suppose, that a training in our Political Department makes a man far too knowing to be employed anywhere else; especially in some Native States where an unscrupulous man with his possession of our political secrets would prove a veritable thorn in our side."

A futile restriction. Nothing can prevent Government *employés* from clandestinely selling their information and advice, if so minded. The Bombay Resolution will only have the effect of promoting irresponsible service. The best thing the Government can do, under the circumstances, is to abolish secrecy as a rule. There is nowadays no necessity for secrecy, even in the Political Department, except in peculiar circumstances of extreme rarity.

ANOTHER curer of Leprosy has come to the fore. Mrs. Algar, the wife of an officer at Sialkot, is the claimant, and she is supported by not one but three Fathers of the Romish Church, Messrs. Leo, Lieven, and Edmendor. These gentlemen, who are now at Lahore, testify to having witnessed two wonderful cures accomplished in their presence by Mrs. Algar. This lady saviour is said to have righted in no time a native who had been suffering from water leprosy for a period of fifteen years and had lost two of his fingers, and another native who had been afflicted with this malady for about five years. What "water leprosy" is, will probably confound the Faculty to tell. This is the first time that we come across the word—in the Anglo-Indian press. We acknowledge the appropriateness of the term. The whole business is of water—watery. Before the lady wizard or—if that word should be thought to carry any offensive suggestion—magician, the fell disease is simple as water. At touch of her nostrum, like water, it evaporates.

EDUCATED Indians need not repine for employment. Lord Wenlock has solved the great problem. Speaking at the Christian College anniversary, the Governor of Madras emphasised on the necessity of material and moral progress side by side. He had observed that the higher classes were educated at the expense of the lower, who can no longer be neglected but must be fitted for the position they should occupy. Primary education must therefore be extended. He advised the soundly educated for whom there appeared to be a lack of openings, to take to agriculture and make a special profession of it. By going back to farming, they would do the country generally much good.

Native Opinion has one long paragraph by way of a leader on the appointment of Mr. Crawford, of the Bombay Civil Service, at present Judge of Tanna, by the Gaekwar of Baroda to high office in His Highness' service, for the especial purpose of drafting a Penal Code and other laws for that State. Apart from its architectonic peculiarity, this single-paragraph article is a statement of great ability, marred by the constant repetition of one unfortunate, not to say barbarous, word, and one curiously unsound opinion. That opinion is contained in this sentence, to wit:—

"Mr. Dosabhoj Framjee has drafted a Penal Code for the Bhownagur state and there are equally able natives, if not abler, who can accomplish that not very difficult feat with equal success."

What! has the making of a Penal Code come to be regarded as such a joke? So far from a great jurist being a *rara avis*, it would seem that Solons and Lycurguses, Livingstons and Macaulays are in Bombay common as black crows in the East.

THE retiring Municipal Commissioners at their last meeting on the last day of their term, on Thursday last, passed the Budget for the official year just commenced, without altering the rates. The rates will therefore stand thus:—

General rate...	...	...	9½ per cent.
Water rate ...	...	...	6 per cent.
Lighting rate ...	...	...	2 per cent.
Sewage rate ...	...	...	2 per cent.
or a total of ...			19½ per cent.

With the exception of the General, all other rates are levied at their highest. The General is capable of expansion to thirteen, and the Chairman advised the raising it by half to be on the safe side and to avoid, if possible, a sudden high rise in the next year.

The meeting would not sanction the increased emoluments to servants and officers recommended by the General constituted into the Budget Committee. At the instance of Baboo Norender Nath Sen, it was decided to refer back the increases to the General Committee that will now be formed, for thorough sifting of the claims allowed by the retiring Committee. With this attitude of the meeting, it was not deemed advisable perhaps to bring forward the propositions in

the list of business for the increase of Rs. 100 a month to the salary of the Vice-Chairman, and horse allowance of Rs. 50 per mensem to the Senior Assistant Assessor and to each of the Assistant Assessors.

A protest was raised by Pandit Prannath Saraswati, seconded by Babon Shewbux Bogla, against the cruel destruction of stray dogs in the Calcutta streets. It was suggested that these animals should not be killed by battering their heads but caught alive and sent to the Pinjrapole, or killed by chloroform or other easy and less cruel methods, or made over to their owners on certain conditions.

Mr. Apar drew the attention of the meeting and through it of the Government to the unworkableness of the Fire Brigade engine during the recent fire at Shibpore in the mills.

The meeting quietly confirmed a resolution of the General Committee granting permission to the scheme of building for a new office for the Standard Life Assurance Company involving the bridging of Vansittart Row. The bridge will be over a blind lane, and will replace what is at present no better than a mews. It would have been better still if the sanction were not unconditional. A stipulation for its removal by the Company on any future requirement by the Corporation would have been all right.

A CASE which, from the position of the parties concerned, created some sensation in the Hoogly District, has been occupying the local courts for some time. It arose out of a land dispute in the old town of Serampore and came originally before the Subdivisional officer, Mr. Windsor. The well-known High Court Pleader Baboo Troylokha Nath Mitter, Doctor of Laws, Chairman of the Serampore Municipality, had obtained from the Hoogly Civil Court a decree against one Sarat Chandra Chatterjee. By virtue of it he entered into possession of certain premises and proceeded to make some alterations, removing windows and corrugated iron railings. One Mr. Gerald claiming as tenant of Sarat Chunder Chatterjee obstructed the operation and finally charged not only the men but also Dr. Mitter with theft of the iron railings, &c. A young Civilian blade is not, as a rule, scared away from perpetrating any enormity against a native however eminent, but to cry "thief" against a man of Dr. Mitter's standing seemed to Mr. Windsor too much of a good thing even as a Civilian freak. So he reduced the charge to one of mischief. The case was ably argued before him, counsel from Calcutta having been engaged on both sides, but the defendants had scarcely fair play. A single circumstance will show the spirit in which Mr. Windsor heard it. He would not call any witnesses for Dr. Mitter unless he deposited Rs. 40 for expenses of each. However, there being nothing against Dr. Mitter, he was acquitted, but his men were convicted and fined.

The case was next taken up to the Judge of Hoogly. Mr. P. Mitter, barrister-at-law, a gentleman who had earned a reputation for able and fearless advocacy in the Backerganj District, appeared to support the conviction, while the eminent advocate Mr. Manomohan Ghose with Babu Kali Charan Banerjee, Pleader, and others appeared for the prisoners. It would appear that the Serampore Magistrate defended his action on the ground that the affidavits filed before him by Baboos Gonesh Chunder Chunder and Kali Charan Banerjee were a tissue of falsehoods from beginning to end. That is a fine statement for a young officer to make against two wellknown practitioners, one of whom is an Honourable member of the Bengal Council. But Civilian "cheek" can go any lengths. Be that as it may, the mature Civilian Judge of Hoogly has not been able to countenance the proceedings of the scape-grace of the Service. He is of opinion that there is no evidence to sustain the conviction, and he will recommend the High Court accordingly.

But supposing a poorer or less influential man than Dr. Troylokha Nath Mitter were concerned? He would simply have been a victim of Civilian incompetence, without redress.

As a mark of distinction and favor, the Maharaja of Mysore has allowed Mr. Ramchender Iyer, 2nd Judge of the Mysore Chief Court, the privilege of appearing in Durbars without the *Kumerbund*. It may be taken as an honor, but it detracts from the dignity and grace of the assembly, and ultimately recoils on both the giver and the recipient. Now that the British affect the Mogul and hold Durbars, they should prohibit attendance without the *Kumerbund*.

BABU Bany Madhub Mookerjee having retired, Babu Abinash Chnder Ghose has been promoted to the Chief Interpretership of the High Court, Original Side. Moulvi Budrudin Hyder from the Calcutta Police Court fills the vacancy created by the elevation of Babu Ghose.

It was time enough for these latter gentlemen to have a lift. Time enough too for a better style of interpretation in the High Court than has been known since the Browns and Larymours left, to make room for ignorant Baboos, adopted children of Judges, and so forth.

Mr. Budruddin Hyder's translation to the High Court is a distinct loss to the Police Court. He was Sir Rivers Thompson's "strong man" to coach the Honorary Bench. Who will take his place we wonder?

THE appointment of Mr. Woodroffe to act for Sir Charles Paul going on long furlough, has been Gazetted. The office of Advocate-General of Bengal—equal to that of the Attorney-General in England—is so important that the change in the *personnel* thereof claims more than a passing announcement. We confess the succession comes upon the public with some surprise. But it is no surprise of protest or of the slightest doubt as to the propriety of the dispensation of patronage by the powers that be. Mr. Woodroffe's reputation for exceptional ability is too well established for cavil. His success at the bar has been unparalleled. His practice is simply enormous. Hence, indeed, the surprise. Nobody expected that Mr. Woodroffe would care to go into harness, any more than the other great defender of the liberty and rights of the subject, Mr. Jackson, would care to be shelved to the pench of the High Court. The official emoluments of the post could not be an object to him. In all probability, Mr. Woodroffe as Advocate General will find his income reduced, for as chief Prosecutor for the Crown he must forego the uninterrupted succession of magnificently paid briefs which the accused have been wont to pile on his lap. He has been known to make in a month or so what at the official rates of payment he must not hope to make in six months or perhaps a year. If he thought fit to take office, the Government would be only too glad to secure his services. They could not, under any circumstances, refuse a barrister of his high reputation who is also senior to all possible competitors. In such an event, the Administration might well have been suspected of religious bigotry in setting their face against a staunch Romanist and well-known liberal supporter and, indeed, princely endower of the Catholic Church. It is perhaps with an eye to his future at Home, that Mr. Woodroffe accepts the to him somewhat barren honor of the office of Advocate-General. But that is his concern, and we need not pursue the why and wherefore. The public concern is that his taking office weakens the unofficial side of the bar. There is one consolation, however, that so able, staunch and fearless an advocate as Mr. Jackson had, after an absence of several years, returned, before Sir Charles Paul applied for leave.

Mr. George Yule is dead. The private schools in Calcutta had a holiday in sad memory of the deceased, who had latterly identified himself with the Congress movement. The schools cannot but be grateful to him for the distribution among them of the poundage during his shrievalty.

But Mr. Yule was something more than a charitable member of society. He was a politician of calibre whose politics were not anti-native. He was probably the only non-official European who repudiated the doctrine of India for the British above all. A fearless canny Scot holding the view that he did, he joined the Congress, at whose session at Allahabad he presided, delivering a memorable statesmanlike address. His death weakens the Congress and is a loss to the empire and the British and Indian races.

THE High Executioner of Great Britain—James Berry—has resigned his odious but necessary office. With his experience of over 200 executions, he considers himself the master of his art and the situation, and it were *infra dig* for him to brook an adviser or a dictator by his side. He writes to the Home Secretary, "My reason is on account of Dr. Barr interfering with my responsible duty at Kirkdale Goal, Liverpool, on my last execution there." For the poor medico he has all the scorn of an expert for an amateur. He does not reflect that your doctor is a better hand at killing than in saving. But this Dr. Barr was simply good for nothing. It appears that Berry had arranged for a 3ft. 6in. drop, the medical attendant, however, without

consulting him, decided upon, and, against his advice stuck to, a 6ft. 8in. drop. As Berry had foreseen, the prisoner was decapitated on the fall of the drop. Berry, though hardened in his awful trade, had conceived a repugnance to capital punishment. He took this opportunity to wash his hands clean of a business which had grown distasteful to him. It is said he has received guarantees for 145,000 dollars for twenty lectures in America on capital punishment. At present, he is on a lecturing tour in England on his own account.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, April 2, 1892.

THE HUME MANIFESTO.

WHEN exactly ten years ago, Mr. Allan Octavian Hume, plucked in the competition for the prizes of the service, retired in a huff, who ever thought of the possible *finale* of that desertion? Who ever thought that he contemplated plunging from office into the thick of the opposition?—That he would even create an opposition if none existed—for the pleasure of confounding his British brethren and previous colleagues?—That he was prepared to set on foot a mischievous agitation with ramifications spread throughout this vast Empire and extending even to Great Britain? Still less could any one imagine that, in the vindictiveness of disappointment of a vain old man, he might tempt the enthusiasts who follow his lead out of their duty to the state and involve the land in the horrors of civil war. Some of these things have been done, however, and it will not be from any absence of will or want of rashness on his part if the programme is not completed. If all or any part of this could have been anticipated ten years ago, it would certainly have been worth while keeping the enraged man in the service at any cost. A membership of the Supreme Council of the Government of India, for which it was understood the gentleman pined, would not have been thrown away for securing peace. It is even said, and his habitual rate of self-estimate makes it highly probable, that he harboured aspirations after the Lieutenant-Government of the North Western Provinces. If so, it would not have been too costly a sop to the grim Cerberus. He might almost have commanded terms. Who is there now, if he could have guessed all that has taken place, that would not, in 1882, have made this unhappy gentleman the ruler of a British Province, even the Governor of Madras or Bombay, if that would have contented him? That certainly would have been the less evil. There can be no question about the advantage of muzzling a mad bull instead of allowing it to go away and roam at large, in Brahmani bovine fashion, upturning sweetmeat shops and running amok through the crowded Chowk. The sweets and responsibilities of office are a wonderful specific, for subduing the fever of patriotism and extinguishing the fire of philanthropy.

Throughout his long service of thirty-two or thirty-three years, from 1849 to 1882, Mr. Hume gave no reason to suspect that he had any love for the people of India or thought any evil of his fellow servants in the Government. In the high position of a Governor or a Lieutenant-Governor, he would have been disposed to still greater complaisancy. Under any circumstances, he could not have done serious mischief. We have seen how, in the Government of Bengal, Sir George Campbell was curbed. Governor or no Governor, the British administration is a self-

acting machinery which goes on tolerably. Even a mad Civilian at its head cannot work a tenth of the harm that he can effect when left out in the enjoyment of the full freedom of the liberal law of England, but without the restraints of official usage and etiquette, or the influence of brother officials.

Such are the reflections that naturally arise on a perusal of the correspondence whose appearance is the political event of the week. The Congress "boss" is incorrigible. He comes of a fine British stock, and he was always known for his courage. But it is useless to acknowledge the courage of one who has developed the highest imprudence. He is no longer bold, but simply rash. Perhaps he is weary of life. Overtaken by one reverse after another, he may well be. Virtually driven from office in the maturity of his powers, he took refuge in such amiable "fads" as vegetarianism and such questionable games as Mahatmaism. These could scarcely afford consolation to one who, for more than thirty years, had been busy in the excitement of the exercise of command. Then the Mahatmas jilted him, and occultism proved a poor illusion. Then he fell back upon the more congenial work of coaching the native politicians and advising the Government. Throughout the weak Viceroyalty of Lord Ripon, he posed as interpreter between the natives and the Viceroy, and, shall we say, sold the former in the Ilbert Bill Controversy? Many were the projects which in those days issued from the brain of this Anglo-Indian Sièyes, which, with one exception, came to nothing. That exception was the Telegraphic Union to counteract the misrepresentations of the *Times'* Calcutta Correspondent. Then came the hit of the Congress. He found it just the thing, and has been working at it with untiring devotion all these years. But this too has been a disappointment, and now he is leaving the country, he cannot contain his soul and is out with it. Instead of blaming his own hurry before time and maturity for the failure, he condemns everybody right and left, all round. Having made so much sacrifice without fruit, he is loath to abandon the dear thing. He is still ready to help it from England, if he sees a chance. But the people must give him assurance that they care for their rights and, above all, must pay for the agitation that British men, whether mercenaries or philanthropists, are ready to conduct in their behalf. He is not again going to be done out of his money, as well as out of his time and energies. This is the object of his letter. In order to rouse the Congress men, he kicks them, and calls them names. He not only abuses but threatens. Slaves they are and slaves they must remain, says he, unless they act up to the Hume *mantrams*. He threatens not only the ruled but also bullies the rulers. To make the latter submit to the demands of the Congress, the General Secretary of the Congress rants against them like a virago and terrifies them like a Calvinist preacher.

It is difficult to keep temper under such a wrong as the Hume correspondence is against both the people and the state. It compromises our countrymen and weakens as well as exasperates the ruling class. And all this most gratuitously. Had there been the slightest ground for such an *anathema maranatha* against the British Government, we might understand, and might in some measure excuse an excess of zeal. But there is no colourable pretext for the diatribe.

Not but what there are many abuses in adminis-

tration, as there will always be. But they are none of that serious character which would justify us in regarding this land—in the language of Mahomedan Law—*Darul Harb*. Beyond the fact that the Government is foreign and that, in consequence, the Indians are commercially somewhat depressed and have not enough of high careers open to them, there is nothing to complain of. Not only are they free from the countless forms of misrule, rife in Oriental countries, but they are distinctly better governed than the Europeans of the Continent. Under the circumstances, Mr. Hume's indictment is not only most unjust but most imprudent. It will only set the rulers and the ruled against one another. It will prick the people into discontent and disaffection. At its best, a foreign Government cannot possibly escape jealousy and misunderstanding. Mr. Hume will certainly intensify the feeling where it exists and create it where it is not. And this is the great friend of the Indians!

But Mr. Hume is past counsel. This is not the first time that he has been caught in the act. It is now four years since, a similar scandal threatened to kill the infant Congress. Pamphlets of an inflammatory character had been circulated by the Congress. It was those pamphlets that alienated from the movement such a well-trying, if not flattering, friend of the people as Sir Auckland Colvin, author of the stirring essay in the *Pioneer* which, after the disaster of the Concordat, once more buoyed up the native cause to the surface, and estranged such a life-long Liberal as Lord Dufferin. They naturally kept back the more prudent natives. Those pamphlets were the subject of much controversy. The native chiefs of the Congress, justly fearful of the fate of their infant institution, were ready to repudiate the seditious publications. Not so Mr. Bonnerjea, who took the old man under his ægis and saved his *amour propre*. A superior man would have bowed to the storm, instead of trying to wriggle out of it. At any rate, that lesson ought to have sufficed for both Mr. Hume and the Congress, if that thing has any existence independent of him. But it did not. Here now we have a performance by Mr. Hume before which all his previous performances, whether in his own name or in those of imaginary Maulavis, pale into nothingness. He knows that he is above the law, or else, on that first occasion, he would at least have made the acquaintance of a Magistrate. So he does not care to mince matters. Others are proud of giving a bit of their minds, if opportunity offers. Mr. Hume has gone the whole hog—of his moral consciousness.

Mr. Hume might seem to be tempting the Fates, but he is not tempting. He would be glad enough to be a martyr, but there is no chance of that. And he knows it. Over and above the fact that an Englishman in India is practically above the law, the novelty of his conduct gives Mr. Hume immunity. The very extravagance of his conduct is his best safety. It seems ridiculous to accuse an Englishman of perpetrating or abetting treason against the British Dominion in India. The ridiculousness becomes all the greater when that Englishman happens to be a retired high official drawing pension. Hereafter, such cases will occur from time to time, but just now Mr. Hume is the sole offender. And the cautious, unimaginative, and unlogical British mind cannot move unless supported by precedents. Mr. Hume is aware of his strength too. He is the

head of a formidable organization, which, though it cannot attain its political objects, can make matters unpleasant for any official or administration. If he is touched, he will make the welkin ring with his wrongs. Who will care to disturb the vast hornets' nest which the Congress Committees in India and England together constitute? Relying on his position, therefore, as well as on the weakness of the administrations too often demonstrated, Mr. Hume has turned as outrageous as possible.

Had there been at the helm a statesman with the nerve, experience and prestige of a Dalhousie in his latter years, with Lieutenants like Ashley Eden, and Chief Kazies like Barnes Peacock, Mr. Hume would probably have been more discreet. As it is, he has been free to think aloud at the top of his voice in the marketplace. And his unchallenged privilege will emphasise the injustice of the recent prosecution of the *Bangabasi*.

With his usual bad taste as well as bad tact, Mr. Hume would implicate his friends, trying to utilise the kindness that in private humours an old man of many virtues and accomplishments into public support of all his extravagances. Surely, men like Mr. Bonnerjea could publish as well as Mr. Hume, if they thought it necessary, instead of asking him to proclaim their views. A lawyer would be the last person to allow another man to represent him on vital questions of the last moment involving endless *nuances* of thought and policy.

MR. A. O. HUME'S MANIFESTO.

TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS PARTY.

DEAR SIR,—I have had so many letters asking me whether any permanent memorial to the late Pandit Ajudhia Niah is in contemplation as also, what I think about the matter, that it seems to me best to write a short circular letter on the subject.

In my opinion, in the present state of the country, it is not desirable to attempt memorials to any one. We so grievously need money for the national cause that we should give to this every rupee we can spare, and not fritter away our resources in half-a-dozen different channels. No matter how deserving are individuals or institutions, these are of little moment compared to the national cause, upon the triumph of which depends the comfort, prosperity, nay the very lives, of countless millions.

A very large number of you seem almost as blind as the Government. You do not, especially the rich and well-to-do, realize that the existing system of administration is not only ill-adapted to the wants of the country, is not only pauperizing the people—you all know and heartily deplore these facts,—but is inevitably preparing the way for one of the most terrible cataclysms in the history of the world.

The people are very patient, very mild and humble, but so were the people of France only twenty years, nay only ten years, before they rose and murdered their Sovereign and, practically, the bulk of the better classes; they are very ignorant and absolutely devoid of definite aims and leaders, but so were the masses in France. It was Hunger and Misery, those great leaders and teachers that changed at last, apparently in a day (though the change had been going on unseen for years), that crowd of sheep into an army of wolves.

All history shows that, however peaceful a population, a time comes when starvation, injustice and despair instill into them a new nature and drive them into violence and crime.

Those of you who have gone deep into the roots of the question know that the cup of the misery of scores of millions of our masses is well nigh full, and that day by day Poverty, the mother of Anarchy, is pressing with a heavier and heavier hand upon an ever-growing portion of our population.

As surely as night follows day, must a terrible rising evolve, sooner or later, out of this state of affairs, unless we can remedy existing evils and redress the more prominent of our paupers' grievances.

Do not be buoyed up with the false hopes. Providence in its mercy may delay the catastrophe, but come it must, and come it will, and it may be sooner and not later.

Do not fancy that the Government will be able to protect you are itself. No earthly power can stem an universal agrarian rising in a country like this. My countrymen will be as men in the desert, vainly struggling for a brief space against the simoon. There will

be no foe to meet in the field, but rail and road will become impassable, bridges will be wrecked, telegraphs cease to exist, supplies be arrested. Thousands of the rioters may be killed, but to what avail, when there are millions on millions who have nothing to look forward to but death--nothing to hope for but vengeance; as for leaders--with the hour comes the man--be sure there will be no lack of leaders.

This is no hypothesis--it is a certainty. Recall what you know of the growing poverty and sullen discontent amongst the masses, and reflect for yourselves, those amongst you who have read history to any purpose, what such a state of things ever has led to and ever must culminate in.

Now, we can only avert this general ruin by those radical reforms in the administration which the Congress has, after years of patient labour, all the ablest and wisest Indians, declared to be essential. Even these alone will not suffice, but they will do much, and they will substitute hope for despair in the hearts of the masses, and give us time to work out those other changes and reforms which are required for a peaceful solution of the terrible problem that our Rulers' failure, to realize the real position of affairs, has created.

But here in India we pray, we argue, we protest, to men who cannot or will not hear, cannot or will not see. Our only hope lies in awakening the British public to a sense of the wrongs of our people--to a consciousness of the unwisdom and injustice of the existing administration. The least that we could do would be to provide ample funds--for sending and keeping constantly in England deputations of our ablest speakers to plead their country's cause--to enable our British committee to keep up an unbroken series of public meetings, whereat the true state of affairs in India might be expounded--to flood Great Britain with pamphlets, leaflets, newspapers, and magazine articles--in a word to carry on an agitation there, on the lines and scale of that in virtue of which the Anti-Corn Law League triumphed.

As a fact, however, but a small sum, comparatively, is provided--a wholly inadequate sum, and even that, though promised, is paid so tardily, thousands of letters, circulars, and reminders are needed to get in even this ineffectual contribution.

Now, perhaps, you will understand, why I say--"For God's sake waste no money on memorials or any other minor enterprise; give every farthing you can spare to the general cause." It is not your patriotism I appeal to only, but to your dearest interests; your homes, your little properties, your lives and these, it may be, even of all dearest and nearest to you, are at stake. Cherish no false hopes. You are the creation of Great Britain--of British learning, history and literature, and with British rule you stand or fall. On the peaceful continuance of that Rule depend all that is dear to you in this life, all your earthly hopes, but that peaceful continuance can only be ensured by securing those fundamental changes in the policy and practice of the administration that you have advocated in Congress. You all know this, you feel its truth in your hearts as strongly as I do, and yet you twaddle on about memorials here and memorials there, and I can hardly spur you into paying even that miserably inadequate subsidy which you yearly promise so cheerfully to the national cause!

I know that there are a few of you who, living on pittance of £100 to £300 a year, do contribute, relatively to your means, most liberally, but I marvel at the short-sighted avarice of so many of the rich who grudge what for them are truly paltry sums. Are they, too, like our Rulers, wholly blind to the signs of the times? Is it impossible for you to make them realize that it is they themselves and their beloved treasures that would be the first to fall victims to the cataclysm? That they are grudging a few hundreds or thousands to the only cause that can save their lacs and crores? Or do they comfort themselves, as some of the most far-seeing of our rulers do, with the hope that "it will last our time?" It may, in the case of some but all probabilities are against its doing so in that of the majority. They and their precious riches, which they hug so miserly, rest upon an almost limitless heap of loose dynamite, which any trifle may explode--how, when, or where, no man can say. Such troubles ever come like a bolt out of the blue; it is always the unexpected that occurs.

Our Government here, after seven years of persistent efforts, I give up in despair, but is it quite impossible for you to open the eyes of your own countrymen, to make them realize the position and induce all to join heartily and liberally in a grand effort to save that Government to whom, in the past, India has owed so much (and in whose fortunes ours are indissolubly bound up,) even without its help--even against its will?--Yours sincerely,

Feb. 16, 1892.

A. O. HUME.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION.

6, Park Street, Calcutta, 8th March, 1892.

TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS PARTY.

DEAR SIR,--In continuation of my letter of the 16th February, I now forward for your information copies of certain letters that have

passed between the Chairman of the Allahabad Standing Congress Committee and myself. I think these letters raise questions which will interest you all. Moreover Pandit Bishumber Nath is a gentleman second only to the late Pandit Ajoodhia Nath in wisdom, experience, and the respect in which he is held by all classes in the N.-W. Provinces, and it is only right that you should be made acquainted with his views on this vital question.--Yours sincerely,

A. O. HUME.

No. 378.

Allahabad, 23rd February, 1892.

MY DEAR SIR,--We have very carefully considered the contents of your printed circular letter dated the 16th instant, copies of which were received here the day before yesterday, in the afternoon. With due deference to you I beg to submit, on behalf of myself and the Members of the Committee here, that the publication of that letter is, for various reasons, inexpedient and calculated to do great injury to the cause which you and we have so much at heart. You, no doubt, address that letter as an independent member of the Congress Party, and not as its General Secretary; but considering the position you occupy, the letter in question will be held to be a manifesto of the whole party; and, though you have taken very great care to leave no room for misconstruction or misrepresentation, still we feel positively certain that our opponents will misconstrue it and misrepresent us in a way that is likely to do us serious injury as a party.

In fact, we are not only afraid of being misrepresented by our opponents, but we also think that a considerable number of men in our own ranks will feel nervous at the publication of the letter.

We fully understand that such a publication would be considered wholly harmless in England, where it can only be taken as an honest expression of the deep and earnest convictions of a person who, possessing an intimate knowledge of the condition of the country, and burning with a desire to promote the welfare of both the rulers and ruled, feels it his duty to awaken them to a proper understanding of the situation. You know, however, how different India is from England, and with what hostility the expression of such opinions is treated here. I beg you, therefore, to reconsider the matter, and to stop the circulation of the letter by wiring to all those committees and individuals to whom it may have been sent to return all the copies of it to you.

It is with great reluctance and regret that I address you this letter, but we feel that we would be wanting in our duty, not only to the country but also to you, if we did not express our honest opinion of the matter, especially when we consider it to be so extremely serious.

With best respects, I remain, my dear sir, yours very truly,

BISHUMRUR NATH PANDIT.

To A. O. Hume, Esq., C. B., 6, Park-street, Calcutta.

6, Park-street, Calcutta, 24th February, 1892.

MY DEAR SIR,--Your promised letter arrived this morning. I have considered it most carefully.

I can only discover in it this one argument, *v.z.*, that our opponents will misconstrue my letter and misrepresent us. You do not urge that the letter lays itself open to this, but you hold--and possibly rightly so--that they will do this.

Now let me point out to you that this argument is not entitled to much weight. There is no conceivable step that any mortal man can take, in any direction, that an adversary will not misconstrue and misrepresent. Were we to allow weight to such an argument, all action would be paralyzed, and all progress and reform rendered impossible. It is this timidity, this fear of what others will say, that has so constantly paralysed the reform party here, and given an appearance of lukewarmness to their proceedings that did not really characterize the private feelings of the men who composed that party.

You add, I note, that many of our own party may feel nervous at the publication of this letter. This, too, may be true, but, if so, it only proves the necessity of the publication.

Am I to allow all these good people, multitudes of whom do really (however foolish this may be) look up to me as a guide, to go on dozing at the edge of a precipice? Certainly not. The sooner they do get nervous about the situation and begin to exert themselves, in real earnest, the better, for the situation is one full of most serious, I fear I must say terrible, probabilities.

I am well aware that there are a large number of the Congress Party, as there are amongst the officials, who don't want to hear of or believe in these things--whose hearts indeed faintly whisper to them, now and again, that they are so, but who stifle the small voice--who don't want to be waked up to the realities of the case--who feel dimly that some grim spectre is nigh at hand but keep their *chaddars* firmly bound about their faces to prevent their seeing it. It is as a first step to tearing away those veils and com-

pulling them, themselves, to see what is there---themselves, to face and reckon with that spectre--- that this letter has been written.

Your own action in this matter, your letter and its arguments, show how necessary this awakening is. If you, gentlemen, at all realized how little there is between you and absolute wreck, would you talk to me of misconstruction, etc.? No; you would say "let them say what they like, for Gods' sake let us, at any rate, try with all our might to avert this coming ruin!"

Many of you have, doubtless, never taken the trouble to explore and measure the extent of the suffering and discontent amongst the masses. A great many of you do not understand what a house of cards our grand administration is. You have not seen, as I have, the entire administration shrivel up like a parchment, flung into the fire, in less than a month, in consequence of the mutiny of some 40,000 soldiers, and that, although at that time the entire population were with us, in most places actively, in all passively if not actively.

Lastly, very few, if any, of you have so studied and thought over history as to realise what these two propositions necessarily involve as a consequence---a starving and discontented population and an administration of foreigners constituting much less than 1 per cent. even of the community.

I tell you that the danger is real and imminent, and that the time has long passed when you could afford to consider in the smallest degree what blind opponents may think and say. The time has come for you to stand boldly out and say: "This is what we have to expect---this is what we will seek to avert by every possible effort, quite as much for your sakes as for our own. If you are blind, we are not, nor will we sit still to be destroyed, merely because you wish not to be dragged out of your fool's paradise by our sounding the alarm. We will sound it---whether you like it or not---until we get, you or the British people, to realize the danger and make common cause with us in averting it."

You say that in England no one would find fault with an earnest effort like this letter of mine, to awaken both rulers and ruled to a proper understanding of the situation, but that I know with what hostility such expressions of opinions are treated here. I do know something of this, and it has been this knowledge that has restrained me so long from a frank exposition of the facts. But the progress of events during the past twelve months has convinced me that, hostility or no hostility, the time has now come to speak out, so that none who read can fail to understand. The state of affairs in Southern India is becoming sensibly worse, and we have had a series of little squalls that, carefully studied, seems to forebode an approaching cyclone. There have been during the last twelve months fully a dozen local riots, of no consequence in themselves, but of a character differing from any previous ones---riots in which the riot was not made by the parties concerned, but by rushes of outsiders not directly concerned in the dispute. The Balloon riot, the Sham Bazar riot in Calcutta, the Benares riot, the Salvation Army, Bombay, riot, the Madras grain riots, etc., were all of this nature. The real fracas, in each case, was caused not by those persons who commenced the dispute, nor with their knowledge or consent but by sudden upheavals, of, as we should call them in England, the roughs who gathered to the place. You cannot now, it would seem, get together any low class crowd in any city, which does not include a multitude of half starving, discontented, and therefore poor, weak creatures as they look, dangerous men, ready and anxious to join in any dispute where there is a chance of a row. In themselves though many persons were injured and perhaps a few killed, these riots were of no consequence as signs of the times, their importance can scarcely be overrated.

To my mind your duty and that of the whole Congress Party is clear.

You owe it to Government, to yourselves, your families, your country to mince matters no longer, to come out boldly as men and insist on attention being given to the growing gravity of the situation. Let them take their time about granting us representative institutions if they will, but let them satisfy the people somewhat before these eat up both ourselves and the Government. Let them reduce their overgrown military and civil expenditure, and alike where land, forests, salt, etc., are concerned, lighten their entire fiscal system, and let them put down their rural drinking shops with a firm hand, for it is in these---believe it or not as they please---that much of the coming mischief will be hatched.

As I told you in my letter replying to your brief telegram, and reporting Mr. Bonnerjee's matured opinions, he does not think that the officials can take offence at anything in the letter. But admit that he, and I think rightly, credits them with a wisdom that you are not prepared to anticipate from them. Grant that they are even very angry (though God only knows how they can be) with my letter, what after all does this amount to when your duty is plain before you. Can you allow the irrational anger, for irrational it would be, in this case of a veritably microscopic minority, to weigh against the lives of millions, the future of two nations?

After all, as Mr. Bonnerjee---who agrees in all I have thus far said---asks me to add, the whole point of the matter is this: Can

you lay your hands on your hearts, and as true and honest men deny the existence of widespread poverty, semi-starvation, misery and discontent? If you can, this entirely alters the case, and we understand your position. But if like ourselves you thoroughly believe in this, then it seems to us that your duty like ours is plain. We complain of the bondness [*sic*] of the officials---may this not be partly due to our own reticence on these matters, our rooted antipathy to telling any one anything that we think he will not like? Is it not reasonable, for those officials at any rate who live on more or less friendly terms with Indians, to ridicule all ideas of coming trouble, thinking that were there anything in it they would be sure to hear of it from their Indian acquaintances? Certainly on every ground the time has come to speak out, nay it is not impossible that if all the educated classes would behave like men and speak out boldly to all their European acquaintances, official and non-official, as to the existing state of the country and the dangers this involves, that the authorities themselves might be awakened to the urgency of the matter.

Be this as it may, if you do your duty, you will not have, happen what may, to reproach yourselves with having, through a sheer lack of moral courage, neglected that primary preventive precaution of looking matters steadily in the face and doing your best to make others do the same.

May I now ask that you will cause this letter and the two previous brief ones to be read by all your committee, and then kindly favour me with their mature verdict,---Yours sincerely,

A. O. HUME.

TELEGRAM FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE ALLAHABAD
STANDING CONGRESS COMMITTEE.

The Committee have resolved to circulate your letter of the 16th February. It is being circulated.

P. S.---Since this was in type, a letter has been received from one of the most learned and thoughtful Indians now living (not himself, ostensibly, a Congress man, for he is an official, but entirely with us in heart) which suggests an additional reason for the comparative coldness with which many now regard the Congress movement---a coldness which I had attributed solely to a growing disbelief in the efficacy of merely constitutional agitation. He says:---

"From the time you gave the cold shoulder to the cow preservation movement, they have begun to look upon you with half-heartedness. To Hindus it is the question of all questions, and it will always be the war cry of the discontented in the times that you presage.....I much marvel at your prophetic strain in your last circular. It is all truth, I have been long thinking over the same problem, and I am much struck with your arriving at the same conclusions as I had arrived at. . . . But it is coming nearer with an imperceptible but irresistible force The country is poor, the masses starving, the middle classes have too many drains on their purses, and the Rich and Reis, the Princes and the Millionaires are blind to all perception of their real interests, the national wants and aspirations. We have failed to arouse them, and we almost despair They seem doomed to general ruin. The country must pass through a baptism of fire and sword to chasten it to purity and enfranchisement."

From all sides letters have been pouring in endorsing all that my letter of the 16th February sets forth. Except this one letter from the Allahabad Committee, which I have faithfully reproduced, no single dissentient voice has, so far as I know, been raised.

It would seem that educated Indians throughout the country accept as facts the most widespread Poverty, Misery, Semi-starvation, and Discontent, and yet, for the most part, they sit silent and passive, making no real efforts to avert the inevitable consequences of such a lamentable state of affairs. I call upon each and all as honest men and loyal citizens to do their duty by themselves, their country and their Government, by firmly, openly, and persistently pressing on the notice of all Europeans, official and non-official, with whom they are brought in contact, or whose ears they can in any way reach, a correct view of the present state of the country.

In the introduction to the forthcoming Congress Report, I, in consultation with Mr. Bonnerjee, have endeavoured to put the matter clearly, and if hundreds of thousands of voices throughout India endorse and support, by local instances, our general propositions, it may be that even now the Government may be persuaded to listen.

I know that many of you cannot quite say all that you know or suspect, that you must make allowance for human frailty, and so put things as to enlighten without exasperating, but you can all say quite enough to give the authorities ample reason for reconsidering the entire position, and if merely through a selfish timidity or ignoble dread of awakening official hostility by calling attention to unwelcome facts you as a body refuse to play your parts like men, I declare that you will become as immediately responsible for any untoward consequences that may ensue as will be the Government itself,---A. O. H.

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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1892.

} No. 520

VISIONS OF THE PAST.

(A FRAGMENT.)

BY THE LATE MICHAEL M. S. DUTT,

author of "The Captive Ladie," "Meghnathvada" (Bengali epic), &c., &c.

[Continued from page 169]

IV.

I said I saw two beings in that bow'r
Pent in each other's arms in balmy rest—
Was it a dream?—Or didst thou wing me back—
Fancy!—thou aery visitant and sweet!
Through the dim waste of ages—wild and vast—
The sepulchre of Empires and of men—
Of things that were—whose mournful eloquence
In deep—sad—solemn accents tell the tale
Of Time's proud triumph over all below!
Oh!—didst thou wing me back to loveliest scenes
Primæval,—when Creation brightly steep'd
In sunny glory smiled as the fair brow
Of Virgin pure—unclouded—when the blight
Of sin—like the vast shadow of some cloud
Dark-wing'd and brooding o'er a sun-lit spot—
Dimm'd not the spring-ting'd beauty of her cheek—
When the young Earth shone as the image fair
Of Heaven—glass'd on blue ether—joyously—
When the great father of mankind arose
God-like in Majesty—and look'd around
On his proud heritage—a wondrous world
And multitudinous—and clad in light—
And Woman bloom'd in Love's bright halo wreath'd,
And innocence—sweet beauty's sweetest gift!—

V.

I said I saw two beings in that bow'r,
Pent in each other's arms in balmy rest,
In bliss without alloy—the birth-right then
Of Man—when he in scathless beauty won
Heaven's brightest smiles and cloudless—glorious boon!
'Twas night—and all around the vast expanse
Star-lit and bright—was hush'd to list in joy
Ineffable—in joy whose depth alone
Silence interprets—hush'd in joy to list
To melody which swell'd and sunk again
To softest cadence—for from grove and bow'r
It came—a fairy spirit—came and went
In wanton play :—and myriads too were there
Of beings refulgent—children fair they seem'd
Of some far planet where with dewy locks
Morn smiles—A realm of light and cloudless ray :
But there was one amidst that sunny throng—
And there he came as some dark visag'd cloud
Careering on in gloomy majesty—
Which dim'd the tranquil smile of every star

And wings its lightless path along the sky ;—
A form of awe he was—and yet he seem'd
A sepulchre of beauty—faded—gone—
Mould'ring—where memory, fond mourner, keeps
Her lonesome vigils sad—to chronicle
The past—and tell its tale to coming years!—
Or—like a giant tree in mighty war
With Storm, on whirlwind car and fierce array,
Blasted—and crush'd—of all its pride bereft—
Or like a barque which oft had walk'd the deep,
In queen-like Majesty—and proudly brave,
But by the fiery hand of some dread fiend,
Nurs'd in the starless caves of Ocean, shorn
Of all its beauty on the boundless surge—
A phantom of departed splendour—lone!
I trembled—and methought each beaming brow
Of those aerial entities which throng'd,
Above—around—pal'd at his dread approach :
He came, and as he near'd the blooming bow'r,
Of that bright pair—I saw the light which beam'd,
And wove soft haloes 'round all sudden fade—
As when dim Twilight—sable-rob'd and slow,
Doth frown away the gladsome smile of gold
From Day and sadden Nature all around :—
There was a stir—as if a thousand wings,
Cleft the deep air in hurried flight—I look'd—
All—all had fled—the beings which erst had throng'd
Around—so beautiful and starry-wreath'd
Of softest sheen and lovely—all had fled!
There was a hush—and melody which came,
Soft undulating on the viewless wing
Of every breeze from grove and bow'r, now sunk
To low-breath'd wails—such as the pilgrim hears—
The pilgrim of the midnight deep—the dirge
Of spirit disenthral'd from bond of clay—
Its plaintive dirge, Love! o'er thy watery grave!
The Moon was pale—and all that fairy scene
Swift faded from before me : shadows vast
Now curtained all around in misty trance—
I wept—and knew not why—yet wept again!

* * * * *

[To be continued.]

NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THE Indian Press is yet in its infancy, and Indian life is comparatively poor and barren. So we have not yet evolved an Agony Column. But we are within a measurable distance of doing so. When that time comes, our *Times* will be not the *Englishman* or the *Pioneer*, but the *Statesman*. Already, there has appeared in the first page of the last named daily a paid notice which is without parallel in the annals of

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, and other means are unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

journalism. We refer to the advertisement in the *Statesman* under the signature "A Resident (*Confidential*)," in which the advertiser bears high testimony to the abilities of the Sub-Inspector of a particular Police station in the Hooghly District, and advises Government to "keep the Sub-Inspector permanently located there for some time to come."

A COPY of the *Orthodox Hindu Union*, Vol. I, No. 3, dated Madras, 18th January 1892, addressed to "Editor, *Reis and Rayyet*, Bangalore," was delivered at this office on Sunday, the 27th March 1892. From the post marks, it appears that the copy was posted at Madras on February 1, and received at Bangalore on February 2. Thence it travelled to Simla, reaching that place on Feb. 8. It was returned to the Lahore D. L. O. on March 3 and was detained there till March 24. Thence it was sent down to Calcutta, reaching the local post office on March 27. Shall we say, such is fame! Such, at any rate, is our P. O.

A NEW sage has turned up in the West, whose aphorisms are passing current. "Five words," says Pierson, "describe the biography of woman in Eastern lands: *unwelcome* at birth, *untaught* in childhood, *uncherished* in widowhood, *unprotected* in old age, *unlamented* when dead." *Shubash*, Mr. Pierson! But your form of expression may be easily turned the other way, *mutatis mutandis*. That elaborate structure has even less foundation than the usual run of hyperboles.

"IN France there are 28,000 peasant schools in which are taught garden and fruit culture through state aid." While such is the practical turn given to agricultural education in Gaul, the education given to the lower classes of the people in British India, is a mere varnish of liberality which makes them discontented with their lot.

THE Madras High Court Long Vacation commences from May 9 and ends with July 9.

HERETO a steamer left Tuticorin only once a week for Colombo. Now steamers will leave three times a week. Nearly the whole of the correspondence passing between our continent and the neighbouring island will be transmitted by that route, and the mail service considerably accelerated.

ON the 6th instant, the Bombay Municipal Commissioners met to elect their Chairman. Mr. Javarlal Umia Sankar Jagnik of the local bar, a gentleman of high ability and character—was unanimously accepted as a fit successor to Mr. G. Cotton. The corporation then elected eight members for the standing committee, of whom four are Hindoos, three Parsees, and one Goanese.

BABU DURGA PRASAD, Banker and Zemindar, Gaya Town, has offered "to contribute Rs. 10,000 only towards the Gaya Branch of Lady Dufferin's Fund." He begs that "this humble contribution be accepted in the name of my much loved mother, to perpetuate whose memory a ward may be called Panitra Ward after her name." The Government has accepted the offer and thanked the Babu for his liberality and public spirit.

DR. Kenneth McLeod, Professor of Surgery, Calcutta Medical College, about to retire, has endorsed over to Government 5 per cent. debentures amounting to Rs. 2,500 for a scholarship of Rs. 10 a month, tenable in the Bengal Veterinary Institution to be opened. The Doctor desires it to be called "The Sheo Baksh Bagla Veterinary Scholarship" "in recognition of that gentleman's liberality in connection with the establishment of the first Veterinary school and Hospital in Bengal." It is a condition of the scholarship that in awarding it, preference should be given to an inhabitant of the district of Jessore. It is said that this partiality for Jessore is due to the prevalence of murrain in that district.

SHRIMANT Sheik Ajmodin, Jagirdar of Wai, died at Poona in his residence in Vetal Peth, leaving his father and two widows to fight over his dead body. It was buried in the Bara Imaun Musjid preliminary to removal six months after to the family cemetery at Wai. Before the period expired, the father and the widows fell out as to the right

of removal. The matter went to court and Mr. Plunkett, the City Magistrate, advised them to make up as all of them were equally interested as rightful heirs, and that he had no jurisdiction. The parties, without agreeing to perform the joint ceremony, took no steps for a time for the final translation of the body. Recently, without any notice to the father, the two widows had the body exhumed and carried to Wai. He, however, coming to know of it, took measures against the burial at Wai, and charged the persons engaged in the affair with theft and clandestine disposal of the dead body.

Mr. Plunkett acquitted the accused, and again advised the parties to make an amicable settlement.

ALBERT STOHP—a non-commissioned officer in the German army—aged 26, was indicted at the Central Criminal Court for indecent assault on Annie Maria Wilcox, of nineteen years of age, residing at Bunsbury, employed at Messrs. Hughes', manufacturers. Stohp had called at the warehouse to see the principal on business, but he happening to be out, the German entered into a conversation with the girl and offered to take her to the theatre. Thus grown familiar, he kissed her and took other liberties. The Jury found him guilty. In mitigation of sentence, it was pleaded for the defence that the prisoner was ignorant of the English law. On this the Commissioner Kerr: "I am told the Germans are considered a very moral nation, but if they act as this man did they must be a race of hypocrites." He then sentenced Stohp to nine months' hard labour.

A WORSE report of judicial rigour towards a more serious offender follows. Ernest Charles Skinner, pianoforte maker, was sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour for indecent assault on his step-daughter of fourteen. It was stated that he was intimate with her since she was thirteen. He had been bound over for assaulting the mother of the girl.

THE Revd. A. Clifford, M. A., replaces the Revd. K. S. Macdonald, D.D., during his absence in Europe, on the Central Text-Book Committee. It is time, though, that the Committee should be thoroughly revised and recast.

SIR Alfred Croft has gone on furlough and Mr. Charles H. Tawney officiates as Director of Public Instruction in Bengal.

THE results of the last University examinations are being Gazetted. The medical Tests come first. 32 candidates have passed the Preliminary Scientific L.M.S. In the First L.M.S., occur 22 names and in the Second L.M.S. 19.

In the Entrance Examination, excepting the Patna Circle, the preliminary lists circulated to schools shew poor results, specially for the Calcutta institutions.

IN the districts of the Orissa Division, the limit of possession of unlicensed Garjhât gánja has been fixed at 5 tolas. A most improper harshness which will defeat itself.

WE take the following from the *Calcutta Gazette* :—

"With the sanction of the Government of India, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor hereby orders the following re-arrangement of Public Works Department Circles and Divisions in Bengal, and the transfer to the undermentioned District Boards of the Imperial and Provincial Civil Works in these districts, with effect from the dates noted below :—

Burdwan Commissioner- ship.	Bhagalpur Commis- sionership.	Dacca Commissioner- ship.
Burdwan.	Paruah.	Dacca.
Bankura.	Bhagalpur.	Faizpur.
Birbhum.	Malda.	Backergunge.
Hooghly.	Monghyr.	Mymensingh.
	Sonthal Parganas.	

Chittagong Commissionership.

Tippera. | Noakhali. | Chittagong.

(1) The First and Second Calcutta Divisions and the Sibpur Workshops Division, which have been hitherto under the supervising agency of the Superintending Engineer, Western Circle, are removed from that agency, and placed under the direct control of the Chief Engineer, Roads and Buildings Branch, with effect from the 1st December 1891.

(2) The head-quarters of the Superintending Engineer, Western Circle, are transferred from the Presidency to Chinsura, with effect from the 1st December 1891.

(3). The headquarters of the Superintending Engineer, Eastern Circle, will be located temporarily at Darjeeling until further orders, and the designation of the above circle is changed to Northern Circle: these changes have effect from the 23rd November 1891.

(4). A new Circle, to be designated Eastern Circle, with headquarters at Dacca, for the supervision of works in the Eastern districts of Bengal, is formed, with effect from the 1st April 1892, and is placed under the supervising charge of the Inspector of Local Works, Dacca and Chittagong.

(5). The undermentioned Provincial Public Works Divisions are abolished, with effect from the 1st April 1892—

Burdwan. | Dacca.
Chittagong.

(6). The separate offices of Inspectors of Local Works of the following Commissionerships are abolished, with effect from the 1st April 1892—

Presidency. | Bhagalpur.
Rajshahi. | Burdwan.
Orissa.

(7). The local works in the districts in the abovementioned Commissionerships, and also those in Chota Nagpur, are transferred as follows, to the direct charge of Superintending Engineers, with effect from the 1st April 1892, in addition to their other duties:—

To the Superintending Engineer, Western Circle.

24-Parganas.	Bankura.	Lohardaga.
Burdwan.	Birbhum.	Singbhum.
Hooghly.	Hazaribagh.	Manbhum.
Howrah.		

To the Superintending Engineer, Northern Circle.

Purnea.	Sonthal Parganas.	Bogra.
Malda.	Jalpaiguri.	Pabna.
Bhagalpur.	Rangpur.	Rajshahi.
Monghyr.	Dinajpur.	Darjeeling.

To the Superintending Engineer, Orissa Circle.

Cuttack | Puri.

To the Superintending Engineer, South-Western Circle.

Jessore.	Murshidabad.	Midnapore.
Khulna.	Nadia.	Balasore.

(8). The transfer to the District Boards of the Imperial and Provincial works referred to above will have effect from the 1st April 1892."

THE High Court has ruled that

"(1) An application under section 89 of the Transfer of Property Act shall be made by means of a verified petition stating the facts.

(2) If the Court passes an order directing that the property, or any part of it, shall be sold, it shall issue a proclamation of sale and cause it to be served in the manner provided by the Code of Civil Procedure for the service of proclamations regarding the sale of immoveable property.

(3) Sections 286 to 294, both inclusive, of the Code of Civil Procedure shall apply to such sales.

(4) Sections 304 to 319, both inclusive, and sections 328 to 335 of the Code of Civil Procedure, shall apply to proceedings subsequent to sale under a mortgage.

(5) The procedure to be followed in the execution of decrees passed under section 90 of the Transfer of Property Act is that prescribed by the Code of Civil Procedure."

NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE Sultan's firman investing Prince Abbas as Khedive of Egypt was, after all, read on the 14th April. A telegram was also read conferring on him the administration of the Province of Sinai. It now appears that Great Britain declined to agree to the territorial rights of Egypt being impaired in any way unless the telegram about Sinai was read simultaneously with the firman.

In the House of Commons, on the 11th, Mr. Goschen presented his budget for the current year. The revenue is estimated at £90,477,000 and the expenditure at £90,253,000, with a surplus of £1,067,000, which is not considered sufficient for any remission of taxation, except a small reduction in patent fees and a fixing of a uniform duty of two shillings on sparkling wines.

There is a reduction of £50,000 which is to be in the annual Government payment to the Bank of England.

The Suez Canal shares are calculated to yield £625,000.

The consumption of tea and tobacco has increased four and half per cent.

The State grant to education is over one millions sterling.

Since 1887, the expenditure on naval defences has been nearly fourteen millions, of which only five millions represent borrowed

capital. An earlier telegram speaks of nearly five millions only expended since 1887 in naval defence and that one million will be borrowed this year.

AT the University Boat Race, on the 9th, Oxford beat Cambridge by two lengths. The two old seats of higher training are much on a par in this British Olympic game, with a slight advantage in favour of the older academy. Oxford has continued uninterruptedly the winner since 1890. The complete record covers a period of 45 years, during which there was one dead head and Cambridge won 20 times and Oxford 25. From 1861 to 1869, it was one long stretch for Oxford and from 1871 to 1876 for Cambridge.

THE closure of cotton mills in Lancashire was to have been commenced on the 14th and completed on the 15th.

IT is announced that Mrs. Osborne of the Pearl fame will be released from jail in a fortnight, owing to her delicate state of health. The pearls themselves, we read, were to be sold on the 28th March, at Messrs. Christie's Rooms, King Street, St. James's, as "the property of Major Hargreave, of Shirley, Torquay," and consisting of "a pair of top and drop brilliant earrings, each with a large pearl-shaped brilliant below and two smaller brilliants above; and a set of three pearl pendants with brilliant caps."

THE state of siege lately proclaimed at Rio de Janeiro, owing to the discovery of a plot to reinstate Fonseca, has been withdrawn. The province of Matto Grosso, with an area of nearly seven hundred thousand square miles, has seceded from the Brazilian Federation.

THE agricultural situation continues unaltered in the South. The scattered and imperfect showers of last week in the Coimbatore, Bellary, and Salem districts, have not affected the general prospects. The cattle are in a sad plight and perishing, specially in Bellary, Anantapur, and North Arcot. Prices of grain generally maintain the previous quotations. But the number of relief works has been increasing largely from last week.

THE little war on the Cashmere frontier which commenced with the rise of Hunza and Nagar against Cashmere, having with perfect success to British aid, shall we say, Cashmere arms, terminated by the end of the last year, the Government of India in a despatch dated the 6th January sent the India Office a complete account of the transactions and operations. The demonstrations of the Rajas of Hunza and Nagar against the Cashmere fortress of Chalt, were promptly answered by the advance of Colonel Durand with a small force from Gilgit, followed in quick succession by the storming of the fort of Nilt, on the Southern bank of Hunza, and the entry of troops, British and Cashmere, into Hunza and Nagar. Safdar Ali Khan of Hunza and Uz Khan, the son of the Nagar Chief, fled, but the Raja of Nagar submitted. The people are reported to show the best disposition, and they probably feel the responsibility of provoking the British Power, however disposed they might be to trouble the Maharaja of Cashmere. Still so long as the two leading fugitives are at large, it were premature to expect a permanent quiet.

PEACE having been restored on the extreme North-West frontier, there has been a miniature Durbaring at Gilgit by way of a finishing—for the moment. On the 25th March, the British Agent, Colonel Durand, formally received the homage of the frontier chiefs. There were present Mahomed Nazim Khan, Raja of Hunza; Wazir Inayat Khan, Agent of the Mehtar of Chitral; Raja Afyat Khan, of Punjab; Raja Shere Ghazab, ex-Raja of Yasin; Raja Kamal Khan, son of Nagar; Raja Mahomed Aziz Beg from Chitral; Wazir Mazhar Hyat, Agent of Sirdar Afzul-ul-Mulk of Chitral, and some other lesser Rajas or their representatives and officials from neighbouring States, all together numbering some twenty-five. Major Kaleh Khan, Governor of Gilgit, sat on Colonel Durand's right, and General Suram Chund on his left, while the European officers of the Agency and with the Gilgit Field Force in a semi-circle behind. Through a Guard-of-honour the British Agent entered the durbar at four in the afternoon under a salute of eleven guns. The durbars were now presented one by one, and offered nuzzars,

which were merely touched. The Colonel addressed the assembly in Hindustani. After welcoming the Chiefs and representatives, he reminded them how last year he had painfully warned them of what would be the result should they be inclined to mischief. Notwithstanding, the Rajas of Hunza and Nagar had been so misguided as to defy the British Government. They had been guilty of waging war against the British Raj, and they are now fugitives, and the Hunza Raja a prisoner in the hands of our friends the Chinese. The refractory States have already felt the heavy hand and now they were experiencing the mercy of British Power. Those who had been obliged by war to leave the country had been invited to return and resume their occupations, and were doing so. The reign of oppression was over. As for the loss the people had sustained, it was entirely due to the late Rajas, who, not content with warring against the troops sent to punish them, had destroyed their own villages and grain by firing them when flying away. Mahomed Nasim Khan, half-brother of Saftar Ali Khan, author and chief ringleader of the disturbances, has been placed on the throne of Hunza, and Jaffir Khan, former ruler of Nagar, who did not take an active part in the opposition to our troops, has been reinstated.

A COLOSSAL claim has been just adjudicated upon at Tanna by Mr. C. E. G. Crawford, the District Judge, with Messrs. C. E. Kane and de Monte, Assessors. The heirs of the late Mr. Framjee Cowasjee, owner of the Pawai estate, claimed under the Land Acquisition Act, Rs. 36,00,000 for land, etc., taken up by the Government for the Pawai Waterworks. The Collector tendered for all rights to the land, and all its contents, Rs. 1,25,173-6-4½. The case occupied the District Court off and on for twenty-three days. A great many men, experts and others were examined on both sides. The Assessor for the Collector, Mr. Kane, considered the Collector's tender ample, and he awarded accordingly. The assessor for the claimants thought the amount ridiculously low. The Judge came to the same conclusion as Mr. Kane, and decided that the Collector had made an adequate tender. Thus the golden dream is dissipated at length. Where the Judge agrees with one of the Assessors as to the amount of compensation, there is no appeal under the Land Acquisition Act. The decision is final—unless some lawyer, more gifted than others, can make night of daylight.

THE Bengal Government has started a sort of Press Commissionership to pamper the vanity of the members of the Native Press Association smuggled into existence during the prosecution of the *Bangabasi* for sedition. The Association had, according to its recognised exponents, asked that "perhaps it might be convenient for Government to entrust the work of furnishing the Association through its recognized representative with such information as it may be considered desirable to circulate by means of the Native Press, to a special officer connected with the Secretariat, with whom the representative of the Association could be in such communication as might be a matter of subsequent arrangement. Information obtained by the Association in this manner would be communicated by them as speedily as possible to all members of the Association." Gracious Sir Charles Elliott heard the modest prayer of the devotees, and has charged Mr. Risley with the additional duty. The other day, he held a conference with the representatives of the *Hindoo Patriot*, the *Bengalee*, *Hope*, the *Bangabasi* and the *Sanjibani*, all of Calcutta. Whatever the ultimate fate of the Association, Mr. Risley, himself pleased with this fresh mark of favor of his Chief, sent away these members of the guild highly satisfied at the success of their enterprise. The new office, while it enables Mr. Risley to interfere with the work of the other Secretaries, will be of as little benefit to the public as possible. The abolition of the Imperial Press Commissionership was generally hailed by the Press in India, both native and European. It was hardly of any use to the press or the public. As a public body, the Native Press Association of Calcutta must be very easily satisfied, whatever may be its triumph as a trades-union.

DURING the debate on the Court of Wards Act, 1879, (B. C.) Amendment Bill, in the Supreme Legislative Council, on the 25th March, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal gave an undertaking that the certificate system shall not be abused in realizing rents due to Wards estates. As good as his word, Sir Charles Elliott has issued orders that

"As soon as an estate comes before the Court of Wards, the first

duty of the Court shall be to carry out the provisions of section 101 and the following sections of the Bengal Tenancy Act, VIII of 1885, to make a settlement of the estate, that is, to have a field measurement made and a complete record of rights prepared. Until such a record of rights is made, and every dispute between landlord and rayyet is decided, and a clear account has been prepared showing exactly what each man holds, what his tenure is, and what the demand from him is, no certificate is to be issued for any unpaid arrears of that demand. Until such measures have been adopted, the Manager of the estate is not to be permitted to use the certificate procedure, but must go on collecting only undisputed rents, or have recourse to the ordinary law."

Cadastral Survey seems to be the present panacea for all evils. Sir Charles Elliott suspends the certificate system in its favor. He will be prepared, as he said in his reply to the Bhagalpur addresses to be found elsewhere, to grant this quick process for recovery of dues to Zemindars provided they accept the Survey.

THE widows and children of Maharaja Kula Chundra Sing and Tikendrajit Sing arrived at Sylhet, on Wednesday, the 30th March last. There they are consigned for ever, we suppose, to remain under Police surveillance, of course. Not a bad selection of a residence. Brindaban would have been too far a home. Although a shrine it would have virtually been a Botany Bay. Sylhet too is holy ground. It was the family home of Chaitanya, the man god of adoration of the Neo-Vaishnavas to which the Manipuris belong. In Sylhet the expelled ladies and children of the reigning family of Manipur will be among Manipuris in abundance, and in hating distance as it were of their old home and in touch with their people. So far so good. But the provision for the poor family is questionable. If we are to believe the statement made by the *Parimansa*, a vernacular headomadal of that city, Major Maxwell, the Manipur Political Resident, has fixed a monthly allowance of Rs. 3 for each of the three widows and three children left by Maharaja Kula Chandra Sing, and the Senapati. The statement made by our contemporary seems to be absurd on the face of it, and the Supreme Government would do well to vouchsafe to the public the exact information on the subject.

THE Puri Municipal Commissioners took the advice of the Lieutenant-Governor in good part. The Chairman Babu Nityanand Das resigned and they elected the Civil Surgeon Dr. G. J. H. Bell, in his place as desired by Sir Charles Elliott. This is a complete answer to such of the native Press as raised a cry on Sir Charles Elliott's reply to the Puri municipal address during his visit to that holy city. At the same time, it shows that Municipal Commissioners and their elected chairmen, unless hounded on by reckless professional demagogues and disturbers, are not disposed to push matters to extremes, but prepared to meet the wishes of Government in matters affecting public interests. It may be urged too as an argument against Government assuming more powers than already provided for for controlling mofussil municipalities.

FRESH milk is a microbe-killer—such is the discovery of recent years. The experiment was once performed in France and communicated to the Academy of Science. It has lately been repeated, with the following result obtained by Dr. Freudenreich and published in the "Annales de Micrographie." In fresh cow's milk, the cholera microbe dies in an hour, while the bacillus of typhoid fever lasts twenty-four hours. Both these kinds of bacilli are killed within five hours in fresh goat's milk. Milk kept at a temperature of 131°F. loses its power to kill microbes, in an hour, and becomes weaker the older it gets. Cow's milk after four days and goat's milk after five days have no power to destroy the microbes. All this involves an odd, not to say rather ugly, surprise. All of a sudden, the common teaching of boiling milk for purification, is condemned. What, then, in the face of this experiment, are we to do? The prospect is specially bad for us of the East and the South. In a hot country like ours, where the temperature varies generally from 90 to 106 during the day time, there is a greater chance of milk losing its power of destroying the microbes than in the colder climates. It is all very fine for these experts and investigators to demolish one another's pretensions and discredit one another's experiments and conclusions, but it is confounding and highly inconvenient to the laity. The only consolation that we can offer the general public under the circumstances is that, so far as we can judge, the science of bacilli is yet in a tentative, theoretic stage. The experts and experimenters are still groping in the dark. No final deliverance has come to the world as yet. So we all better stick to the established teaching and our individual experiences.

THERE is a good anecdote in connection with Sir Henry Isaacs, the plutocrat of the City, who has been committed. He is a fine musician, both singing and composing well. In 1862, he composed an ode on the death of Prince Albert. Still better known is his maturer production, the "Lone Star." It appears that Sir Joseph Chitty is also an excellent musician. The learned Judge and the distinguished fruit-broker admired each other. In 1889, Isaacs was Sheriff and on the occasion of the Jubilee got himself knighted. It was about that time that Isaacs composed his "Lone Star." He sent a copy of it to Sir Joseph Chitty, who, in acknowledging it, said that, in his humble opinion, "the publication of an original song by a Sheriff of the City of London is an undoubted sign of the progress we are making in civilization."

THE method of electric execution in New York is no longer a secret. The reporters were formerly kept out of the field, but by combined agitation the newspapers succeeded in having the law altered. Of one of the latest executions, the press have given a grimly sensational description. The victim is fastened in the chair, the priest with his prayer book stands on one side, the chief executioner and a physician on the other. There are two methods of contact—one from the top of the head to the leg, and the other from the hands to the head. The hands or the feet are placed in a solution of salt before the currents are passed. In this instance, the currents were passed through the hands. The victim gave out a loud wailing and struggling sound, and then presented the appearance of a man in dreadful fright choked to death. "Let her go!" were his last words. A powerful convulsive movement as if to burst the bands, followed. It was a hideous picture. The chest arched out and the face contracted on one side expressing severe agony. The legs tugged at the straps and one foot was drawn up sideways. The lips opening disclosed the teeth tightly clenched. After fifty seconds, the current was turned off, the chest slowly collapsed, giving out a coughing gasping sound, while saliva from the lips ran down the chin. The current was then turned the other way, and almost similar convulsive movements followed, presenting another cruel picture.

After thirty-eight seconds this current was stopped, and the man was pronounced dead. The chief executioner then expressed his opinion that the consciousness of his victim was lost at the moment the first shock reached him, and asked the opinion of other physicians present. One of them, while agreeing in the fact of loss of consciousness at the first shock, disagreed as to the test of it. Thus ended the horrible scene of "electrocution," to be abhorred and shunned of most men of feeling. It is a real American business at best, more worthy of scalpers and adepts in tar and feathering than of humane men.

THE order of the Lieutenant-Governor regarding the quick discharge of witnesses and disposal of cases, is telling terribly upon the Mahomedans in this their fasting month. In almost all the Eastern and Northern Bengal Districts, the parties, witnesses and some of the legal practitioners, are Musalmans, and one can understand what must be their condition when they are forced to stop in court till 7 or 8 P.M., or even up to 6 P.M. which is nearly the time for breaking the fast. They come from distances of miles and, after the whole day's fast in this hot weather, can hardly get sufficient water to wash themselves or to drink, not to speak of eating. What a trying and difficult religious ordeal the Ramadan fasting is and how strictly millions upon millions of Mahomedans adhere to it up to this time and how zealous they are about it. Such religious observances must command the respect of every thoughtful Government, and were the matter brought to his notice it would surely receive due consideration from Sir Charles Elliott. Mahomedan officers also deserve consideration. After a whole day's fast, they take a glass of sherbet in court and then sit till 7 or 8 P.M. to decide cases. It would be simply cruel to put a *Rosúdar* at 6 or 7 in the evening in the witness box and cross-examine him. Superhuman power alone can stand it. But Mahomedans are not superhuman, even after the purification of a religious fast, and the officers as well as the parties and witnesses of the faith are entitled to receive that indulgence which humanity allows. Besides fasting, the Mahomedans have to perform prayers at night and to attend the special prayer of *Travik*, at which they have to stand for one or two hours in the mosque without any *punkah*.

We hear, being afraid of the present order, some experienced, old, and most religious Mahomedan officers have taken privilege leave, in order to fast quietly at home and perform their prayers, &c., punctually. Unless the order is modified, every year, this difficulty will arise and its political effect upon the feelings of the people will not be at all good.

A CORRESPONDENT from Bauleah, under date April 12, writes:—

Last night we had a very heavy shower of rain which has cooled the atmosphere, improved the prospects of the cultivation and removed to some extent the fear of an impending scarcity or famine in this district. The report of the *Indian Daily News's* correspondent about the hailstorm is very exaggerated and the alleged great damage done to the jail imaginary. Last evening I enquired of a jail visitor and he said that some roofs of the tiled sheds and thatched ones were damaged—but it was not to that extent as described by the above correspondent. The actual damages done would be at the highest to the extent of some Rs. 450 or Rs. 500.

The students of the Rajshahi College are getting a bad name for riotous conduct in the Bazars and for oppressing the peaceful inhabitants. The other day, they ransacked and plundered the shop of an old Jew, named Cohen, looted his articles worth Rs. 100, and broke his glass case and other things, and when he complained to the proper school authorities, some of the boys revenged themselves upon him by a brutal assault. He then went to the magistrate who was much annoyed to hear of such conduct in the students. He proceeded to take action, but some good people interfered and settled the matter out of court. I hear the Principal of the College has heavily fined the turbulent youngsters and paid Rs. 70 as damages to Cohen. These boys some time ago had assaulted the durwan of the *Bara kothi* of Messrs. Watson & Co., but the matter was dropped owing to kind offices of friends. Some ten of them kicked up a row one day in Sahab Bazar with some Dacca tobacco sellers (Mahomedans) and assaulted one of their boys in the shop. These men gave a sound thrashing to their obstreperous invaders, who, receiving severe injuries in the conflict, fled from the Bazar and never visited it again.

The scene of another disturbance, I hear, was on board the flat which was at anchor at the steamer ghaut here, when they assaulted some officers belonging to the flat at the office of the steamer and misbehaved themselves in more than one way, the details of which are not at all pleasant. They also, I am told, misbehaved themselves towards an innocent lady who was driving alone in a hackney carriage in the town, and threw clods of mud on her garment. Stringent measures should be adopted by the authorities to check this sort of misconduct on the part of the students. It is said that the students are proud of such misdeeds and think that this is a proof of their martial spirit and proficiency in physical exercise and will probably help them in their enlistment to the black volunteer regiment which may be formed on some future date. It is only lucky for them that they commit cowardly assaults upon undefended and weak persons in places like this, where the population is so quiet and peaceful. Once let them come in contact with the lower classes, the Mahomedan population of the large towns, and they will rue the day when they invited an encounter. They will then learn a lesson which will not be forgotten at least in one generation. We earnestly invite Bhai P. C. Muzumdar to our town to lecture on the higher moral training of young men. I cannot understand what sort of influence is exercised by the teachers upon their pupils. Cannot they improve the character of their students?

There is a rumour that the notorious man-eater has been killed by Mr. Price, but no authoritative report as yet.

THE *Calcutta Gazette* of the week notifies the removal, by the Lieutenant-Governor on the recommendation of the Commissioners, of Munshi Mahboob Hossain, an elected Commissioner, Baraset Municipality, from the Municipal Board, for disgraceful conduct. What is the disgraceful conduct for which the Munshi suffers? The wording of the law is too vague. "The Local Government may, if it thinks fit, on the recommendation of the Commissioners at a meeting, remove any Commissioner appointed or elected under this Act, if such Commissioner shall have been guilty of misconduct in the discharge of his duties, or of any disgraceful conduct." The penalty is not confined to misconduct as a Commissioner but, as was explained by the Advocate-General during the passage of the Bill in Council, applies to "conduct unbecoming the position of a Commissioner." Vague still!

What is the position of a Commissioner? That is not yet such an ascertained quantity or quality as to be incapable of any doubtful interpretation. It is ultimately left to Government to decide, as cases arise, whether or not any conduct of a particular Commissioner amounts to conduct unbecoming the position of a Commissioner. But surely the Government ought not to be left to form its *ipse dixit* without the help of fixed rules.

The wording has obviously been framed on the model of the well-known phrase "unbecoming an officer and a gentleman." But is it possible that the legislature regards a position which is obtainable by persistent devotion to cabmen and grocers, one of equal dignity with the status of a holder of Her Majesty's Commission in the army? Be that as it may, it was time that there should be a provision in the law for removing members of the Calcutta Corporation.

WITH the spread of civilization, we are in danger on every side. Even the buttons we wear are some of them capable of blowing us up. Professor Vernon Boys, after actual experiment, has given out this alarm. A lady standing near a bright, but not blazing, fire found herself in danger of catching it and was with great difficulty rescued. This led to an enquiry, and it was discovered that a large fancy button had disappeared from its place when the fire originated. The definite result of the inflammability of such buttons was obtained by experimenting on similar ones, which on igniting gave out the smell of camphor. A spurious amber mouthpiece in a tobacco pipe ignited on a light being accidentally applied. Most of the ivory and tortoise-shell combs and hair pins, amber mouthpieces and even billiard balls, are made of this spurious manufacture. They are made by dissolving 50 parts of gun cotton in a mixture of 100 parts of ether and 25 of camphor. After evaporation, the plasticity is obtained. But polish cannot be given without exposing the articles well in the air. As a simple test, by briskly rubbing them a smell of camphor is given out. If this fails, a portion may be ignited, when unmistakable camphor fumes expose the spuriousness.

MR. Sala is unusually interesting this week in the *Englishman*. He gives a characteristic anecdote of the fattest Gossainji in all England. The Archbishop of Canterbury, after a recent inspection of a Metropolitan Workhouse having remarked in the visitors' book that, although he found the place warm and well aired and comfortable throughout, he would have been glad to discover that additional means had been found for providing occupation or recreation for the aged paupers, Mr. Sala exclaims:—

"Simple-minded Primate of all England! Unsophisticated Dr. Benson! Evidently the self-sacrificing tenant for life of Lambeth Palace knows nothing of the delights, when one is old and broken and jaded, of doing nothing. A London cab horse, whose master does not go out on Sunday, is aware of such bliss, but it is beyond, I should say, the ken of an Archbishop."

That reminds us of the alderman who to the explanation of a poor man accused of theft that he had only eaten some turnips in the complainant's garden for hunger, exclaimed, Hunger, for sooth! I would give ten pounds to know what hunger is.

By far his most important contribution is a personal reminiscence:—

"In September, 1870, I was staying at the Grand Hotel. It was after Sedan, and the Second Empire was crumbling to its fall. The people were half demented with rage and terror and the people had 'espionnage' on the brain. Late on the night of the 3rd, at the Café du Helder, I was arrested as a Prussian spy, dragged from police-station to police-station; flung into a den full of malefactors of the vilest description, who jumped upon me and battered me with wooden *sabots*; and at about six in the morning I was incarcerated in a solitary cell at the Dépôt de la Préfecture, formally charged as 'un espion Prussien.' I was in evening dress, and 'smothered in blood.'

"In one respect I was luckier than the Messrs. Purdie. My captors had been so intent on trying to murder me that they had forgotten to rob me; and I had some pieces of gold and my cardcase with me, safe. The British Ambassador at Paris was then that excellent, high-minded and kindly nobleman, the late Lord Lyons, whom I had known for some years. 'Twas to Lord Palmerston that I first owed the honour of acquaintanceship with him. I wrote on a visiting card the Ambassador's name with these words: 'In prison as a Prussian spy. For God's sake, get me out.' This card I gave to the warder with a couple of Napoleons, and entreated him to forward the missive to its destination. He took the card, promising to send it; but he refused to take the money, stating that he was an old soldier, who had fought at Inkermann and could sympathise with *des braves gens* who were passing *un mauvais quart d'heure*.

"Lord Lyons was at church when my card was brought to him. He at once despatched one of the gentlemen of the Embassy, Mr. De Saumarez, to the Dépôt to assure the Prefect of Police, M. Pietri, that I was no more a Prussian spy than I was the column in the Place Vendôme. So with many expressions of regret I was released. Now

mark. This was at noon on Sunday, the 4th of September. At 2 P.M. the Revolution broke out. At 4 P.M. the Dépôt was stormed by 'the gentlemen of the pavement,' and my liberator, M. Pietri, was flying for his life; and, depend upon it, if the mob had found me in my cell, duly inscribed on the *griffe* as a Prussian spy, they would most assuredly have murdered me out and out.

"My bedroom window looked upon the sumptuous façade of the then new Grand Opera, the edifice of which bore the imposing inscription 'Académie Impériale de Musique.' On Monday, September 5th, a scaffolding was hastily erected, ascending which a workman proceeded to hack out the word 'Impériale' and substitute for it the word 'Nationale.'

"And this is the way that public matters are generally managed in France. The letter is changed, but the spirit—the spirit of stupid tyranny and official inquisitorial *Buccaneerism* remains unaltered. I have known France for more than fifty years. I have been an active witness of these revolutions in Paris—in 1848, 1851, and 1870; but I fail to see that from the time of the deposition of Louis Philippe, the French people have obtained any kind of political rights or franchise whatsoever, beyond that of making a noise at public meetings, and abusing or calumniating public men in the columns of a frothy and frivolous press. They have practically no law of bail or mainprise, or Habeas Corpus Act, or security against arbitrary arrest."

Yes, this is the way they order the matter better in France. And not in France only but all over Europe, except in blessed Britain.

IN the course of a hearing in an undefended suit—Cohen v. Nursing-das Auddy—the Chief Justice remarked:—

"This section (80 of the Civil Procedure Code) is intended for cases in which the writ should be affixed in the way required by the section after a proper attempt has been made to find the defendant. You may go to a man's house, and not find him. That is not attempting to find him. You should go to his house, make enquiries, if necessary follow him. You should make enquiries to find out when he is likely to be at home, and go to the house at a time when he can be found. Before service like this can be effected it must be shown that proper efforts have been made to find out when and where he is likely to be found—not as seems to be done in this country, to go to his house in a perfunctory way, and because he has not been found there, to stick the summons up on his house. I think this affidavit is insufficient, and it is as well that persons should know that such service is not good service, and that actions should not be tried as undefended actions on service such as in this case. A proper attempt must be made to find the defendant and serve him with the writ."—*J. D. News*, Ap. 8.

Mr. Justice Phear used to be as searching. He would require the strictest proof of service and would see that the absent defendant had full justice done him. But for the very accurate statement in the affidavit in the present suit, the presiding Judge would not have known how the summons was served and would not have been in a position to expound the law. Proof of service of summons is not generally minutely examined in courts, and defendants sometimes come to know too late that a decree has been passed against them. The reform is very much needed in the Small Cause Court. There they fire away decrees when defendants fail to answer to their names when called, without evidencing any particular care to know if it was properly served or the suit rightly brought.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, April 16, 1892.

THE WEAKNESSES OF BENGALI HINDUISM.

AN OPPORTUNITY.

INDIA is unquestionably a land of faith and charity. Here, if in anything, is the empire one. Morally as well as physically, the different parts are separated one from another, more or less, sometimes in the highest degree. Geographically isolated as they are from one another, their mutual variance in other matters is still more remarkable. Great as are the diversities separating the millions scattered throughout the country—diversities, ethnic, linguistic, historic, social, and political—they agree in one characteristic—their attitude towards the poor—and the majority of the millions belong, in a general way, to one religion.

In Faith and Hope the world will disagree,
But all mankind's concern is charity.

In Charity as well as in Faith, the bulk of the Indian population are one. Yet even in these the Hindus show surprising disagreement. Not only are the varieties of Faith and religious usages among the

Hindus endless, but even in Charity their ways are often conflicting. Charity—that redeeming feature of every ~~Age~~ that pretends to civilization—runs as a silver thread through all the countless and at times grotesque forms of Hinduism. It is a virtue practised, more or less, by Hindus of all denominations throughout the land. But there is no homogeneity in its methods. This difference does not necessarily indicate domestic conflict, yet it is caused according to sectarian variation, and notably according to geographical. Perhaps, ethnology has something to do with it, certainly it is contingent upon the peculiarities of social evolution of the different groups of the Hindu family. Thus, no one who has studied the matter can have failed to notice the many points of difference between the Hindus of this province and the Hindus out of it. Lower Bengal, as it has founded a system of Law of its own and glories in a system of Philosophy of its own, has developed peculiar forms of faith as well as social and religious institutions. The doctrine of the Dayabhaga is something more than a new school of interpretation. It is in direct conflict with the fundamental law recognised throughout Hindudom outside Lower Bengal. The Upper Bengal logical system of Gotama, perfected in down country, is the only Bengali Philosophy. The opposing religious systems of Chaitannaism and Tantrikism are Bengali creations and still flourish most in Bengal. Siva worship is, of course, a necessary complement to Sakti worship, yet there are few professed Saivas in Bengal. It is significant that all the renowned shrines dedicated to the Destroyer and all the endowed monasteries belonging to that worship, are from their foundation in charge of up-countrymen. The priests of not only Deoghar on the Ethnic Frontier but of all the *akras* even in the heart of Bengali Bengal, are, in a sense, foreigners. Whether at Jaffraganje or Sadakbagh in Moorshedabad—whether at Devagram in Tipperah or at Chundernath in Chittagong—whether at Burdwan or at Tarkeswar—or, indeed, anywhere else—all the monasteries and abbeys are held by Hindustani-speaking monks. Yet, all these religious houses are supported by the endowments and the offerings of Bengalis.

This is a singular phenomenon which has not attracted the notice of our Bengali brethren but which is obviously grave enough to merit the best attention. It is difficult to account for it. Not that the Bengalis are not sufficiently religious. They yield in sincerity of faith to no people professing Hinduism in any of its forms in any part of the continent or of the islands. Bengal is one of the last strongholds of Hinduism. Here it is better understood and better practised generally than in most parts that own its sway. Yet, it is here alone that the people depend upon strangers for the charge of all their great monastic establishments and all their noted Sivite shrines.

Chaitannaism being a modern Bengali form of Vaishnavism as yet in its evolution and developments wholly confined to Bengal Proper, with Bengalis for its only disciples, its shrines and establishments are necessarily in Bengali hands. But though, whole tribes having, for good reasons, adopted it, it already numbers followers by the million, including some of the most prosperous and wealthy castes, it has not yet built any grand temples or endowed any costly foundations. Relying still for its strength on its hold on the masses, it as yet presents but a beggarly appearance, with its religious sheds diversified at best by occasional brick holes. Even the poor monastic sheds of this sect in Nuddea are being laid

under contribution by the municipal tax-gatherer, under color of the Pooree Lodging House Act!

The worship of Sakti is prevalent in Bengal and boasts numerous shrines. But it has not founded monastic houses. The result is that there is no provision at our holy places for housing or entertaining guests. This involves a real difficulty. Ordinary pilgrims may shift for themselves, at shops and lodging-houses for payment. But what are fakeers to do? The *sadhus* and *sannyasis* have not the wherewithal to pay for board and lodging.

Bengal temples are of the meanest. There are a few noble edifices belonging to private men, but the generality are mere holes with just enough room in each for the divinity to which it is dedicated and a priest or so. The public temples at the people's shrines are scarcely better. Few have any accommodation attached for pilgrims even of the religious order.

This is another peculiarity of Bengali Hinduism, and it is not more creditable to us than the one first noticed. It must be admitted to be a reproach to the people that their religious liberality has wholly avoided the most amiable direction which Hinduism in other parts of the empire has taken. They must submit to the charge of at once niggardliness and a want of consideration for their fellows in faith, including the devotees who have abandoned the world for religion. As, after all, they are not deficient in liberality, they really show a singular absence of the faculty of organization. There is no gleam of statesmanship in religious charity in Bengal.

We are glad to discern at last a sign, in one quarter at laest, that we are awaking to the deficiencies of our religious spirit. If there are no Bengali Mahants, there is in our neighbourhood the making of one. We do not take into account the hundreds of Baboos who, without a "call," or any understanding of the matter, have, for novelty if not worse, assumed the garb of sanctity, whether as Jogees, Brahmacharees, Sannyasis, or any others. There are true renouncers of the world, though, if handful their number. One such is at Kalighat. He is no imposter. His family and antecedents are wellknown, and he has stood the test of observation of years. He presents the spectacle of a prophet honored in his own country, having earned the esteem of his native townsmen and neighbours. Aghornath Swami was originally known as Aghornath Bhattacharjee of Bhowanipore, formerly a clerk in the Public Works Department. Somehow, he got tired of the world and forsook home and kindred and the comforts of life, to repair to the adjacent shrine of Kalighat, where he has worshipped ever since. Living sparsely, on chance offerings, just to keep up enough strength for his devotions, he has been practising Yoga as a Shivite. Whatever his success in this, his character as a holy man has stood the prying of censorious neighbours for almost two decades. For nearly eighteen years, he has made the service of the emblem of Siva of Kalighat, well-known as Nakuleswar, his own. Pilgrims as well as the religiously disposed people of the place, crowd round the holy man, and Jogees and Sannyasis and Sadhus cling to him. But he is unable to accommodate his visitors. His chief regret is on the score of the pilgrims of the religious orders. He supports as many as he can out of the offerings of worshippers, but this is not only an uncertain but also a very meagre income, and there is no shelter. Most of the Sadhus who come for worship, are compelled to go about begging for

their very simple wants—to the pain of the Swami of the shrine and the reproach of Bengal's metropolitan *Pitasthan*. At last, Swami Aghornath has been advised to appeal to the public for means to establish a guest house at Kalighat. A few gentlemen have taken up the matter in hand, among whom we may name Babu Sadanand Banerjee, Honorary Magistrate, Kalighat, Baboo Bireswar Mookerjee, Translator, Foreign Department, Babu Prosunno Kumar Chatterjee, Manager of the late Prince Rahimuddin's estate, and Babu Preo Nath Mullick, Pleader, Alipur, and Municipal Commissioner, Calcutta. Monies received will be acknowledged in *Reis and Rayyet* and other papers, and be deposited in bank. We trust the appeal will be largely responded to by all Hindus. The Bengalis have at last an opportunity of wiping the disgrace of ages. They should take a pride in founding a religious house under a head of their own—a true Bengali Swami.

THE JUVENILE RAMAYANA.*

BABU Navakrishna Bhattacharya's *Shiburanjana Ramayana* is an excellent little booklet and we are not surprised to see that it has already passed into a second edition. As its name implies, it is the *Ramayana* for juvenile entertainment—the Boys' *Ramayana* in short. It is as good as its title-page. It presents in a nutshell one of the most ancient and interesting traditions of the Indo-Aryans. The *Rama Saga* is not the same all over Southern and Eastern Asia. The Singhalese, for instance, have a different version from the Continental story. It is different to the extent of shocking the Indians. Thus, among them, the Prince of Ayudhia (Oudh) and his consort are brother and sister, who nevertheless marry one another!

Even in India different versions are current, but their variations never reach anything like that extreme. In the vernaculars the most popular versions in the North are the Hindi *Ramayana* of Tulsidas and the Bengali version of Kirtibas Pandit, both powerful compositions. There are excellent works on the subject in the popular languages of the West and the South, to which the speakers of those tongues are respectively wedded. They all differ not only in literary treatment but also in many of the incidents in different parts of the narrative. They all professedly draw from Sanskrit originals, but even these are not quite in unison with one another. Valmiki, Bhavabhuti, and Kalidasa and others have each moulded the old tradition according to his genius or the requirements of his plot and characters. The oldest written record of it is in the early part of the *Mahabharata*—which we regard an earlier authority than the *Ramayana*. After all, whatever the merits, and they are very high, of the works of the dramatists or the other poets and sages, the Epic of Valmiki is the highest in general regard and the standard authority on the subject, and Baboo Navakrishna Bhattacharya has done well in following it. It has the advantage of giving the whole careers of the national hero and heroine identified with a god and a goddess. Hence the educational value of an abridgment of it for the boyhood and girlhood of the country. So far from being objectionable on the score of morality, the teaching of Valmiki is pure and healthy. In this the old Rishi is far above his compeers in the same field. Baboo Bhattacharya has done his work well. It is interesting to see how he has been able to compress the great story within his few 16 mo. pages. The wonder is that he has not omitted any material incident. At the same time he tells his story with fluency and lucidity. No Hindu can afford to be ignorant of the life of Rama and the history of his invasion of Ceylon, and yet few have the leisure to go through the seven books of Valmiki in original or in translation. Accordingly, this *Ramayana* jelly will be welcome to many more than the little boys and girls of our schools.

* *Shiburanjana Ramayana*. By Navakrishna-Bhattacharya. Second Edition. Calcutta, Gurudas Chatterjee, Bengal Medical Library, 1891.

BIRBHUM.

The capital of the District of Birbhum is a small poor town of the same name, 11 miles distant from the East Indian Railway station Sainthia. It has a municipality with a limited income and a population of about 9,000 souls. It was once a very healthy station, so much so as to be considered almost a sanitarium for the invalid and the overworked official, but for the last few years the climate has changed for the worse. Fever of a virulent type and periodic visitations of cholera, have made their influence felt in almost every household. Strangely enough, the municipality has not given the least thought towards the improvement of this state of things. The people used to drink tank-water and kept excellent health. The tanks were then religiously guarded and every precaution was taken to prevent contamination of the water, so precious to life. But with the introduction of Local Self-Government, with an elected Chairman, those happy days have ceased to exist, and the majority of the people now drink water drawn out of wells. So that what with the dirt and filth of the tank water, the weeds allowed to grow within the tanks, the dust of the streets and want of proper sanitary and conservancy measures, it is no wonder that the climate should indicate a change, to say nothing of the malarial poison imported from other quarters.

Suri, as the civil station is called, makes no extensive pretension to visible signs of exuberant luxury, wealth and prosperity. Rice and dal are the staple food of the rich and the poor, with meat and fish for those who can afford the same. It contains no beautiful buildings to call forth the admiration of the artist, but there are tombs, shrines, mosques and temples where the memory of the pious dead is honoured and revered, and proper respects paid by men of every religious persuasion, creed and nationality. Fourteen miles from the town is a place called Rajnagore, a place wellknown in the historical annals of Bengal. It was the seat of the Rajahs, and the ruins are still to be seen. It was originally a Hindu principality, but fell into Moslem hands under circumstances to which tradition attaches a sort of tragic romance. Two brother Afghans served the Rajah. One of them fell in love with the beautiful young queen, and the passion was reciprocated. For a time, the elder brother dissuaded the younger, but who listens to the counsels of even a brother when love holds mastery of mind, body, and soul? The two brothers, who could come to no decision how to act and move in the matter, at last struck upon a plan. It was a murderous plan with ambition for collateral object. They decided to murder the Hindu Rajah, their master. An opportunity was taken when the Rajah, like an orthodox Hindu, was at prayers by the side of the shrine, situate in the middle of a large tank whose ruins may still be seen. The Rajah, however, resisted, drew his sword and, in the midst of the struggle that ensued, the younger brother, the lover of the queen, was cut down, while the Rajah himself fell under the sword of the elder Afghan. This man then ascended the throne, proclaimed himself the Rajah, and thus the Hindu dynasty became extinct. But the queen, the object of all this tragedy, this double and foul murder, coming to know the fates of her lover and of her lord respectively, committed suicide, faithful to her vow. The Mahomedan family ruled for generations extending over a considerable period. It was semi-independent of the Nawabs of Bengal, exercising almost royal rights and prerogatives. The last Rajah was Zahor Zaman Khan, who died some 7 or 8 years ago. He it was who, through lust, debauchery, and sensuality, lost all the property, and his sons, and the sons of a Rajah brought up in affluence, are actually living, in common huts, from hand to mouth, and on occasional begging from door to door.

The estate, at least a good part of it seems to have passed into the hands of the Dewans and amla, menials and cooks. Such is the origin of the flourishing Hindu families like Hetampore. The Hetampore Rajah, not a brilliant man, manages his property through a manager and enjoys the good graces of high European officials, whom he occasionally entertains in right royal style.

Though the first Mahomedan Rajah came to the throne as a treacherous usurper, the family is well known for its charity and works of public utility. It appears that one of the Mahomedan Rajas ordered an accurate survey of the estate. The records preserved in the Collectorate point clearly to the fact that the survey was carried out on a scientific basis and on correct principles. It must be a valuable record, unique and interesting from an administrative point of view.

Rajnagore is still an interesting place to the antiquarian. It has several magnificent edifices and mosques, which, in point of grandeur, beauty, rare workmanship, surpass many a famous Mahomedan building of the Moslem period. Are these, then, mementos of Moslem tyranny and cruelty? Few would endorse the opinion publicly expressed by no less an authority than Sir W. W. Hunter some time ago before his final departure from India. I had occasion to visit the ancient place, and I was struck with its ruins, which are visible all round.

SIR CHARLES ELLIOTT AT BHAGALPUR.

The Lieutenant-Governor made one collective reply to the four several addresses presented to him by the Municipality, the District Board, the Mahomedans, and the residents generally.

THE ACCIDENT.

His Honor said he begged to thank the assembled gentlemen for the very kind and hearty manner in which, in the addresses just read, they had welcomed him on this his first arrival in the town of Bhagalpur, and he wished to assure them how sensible he was of the feelings of loyalty and kindness which had animated their addresses. He wished to take this opportunity of expressing how much he regretted the unforeseen accident of the previous night, by which they had been caused the inconvenience of such a prolonged wait at the railway station. Had there been any expectation of such a possibility, he would most certainly have telegraphed, asking that no one might await his arrival.

THE SCARCITY—NO CAUSE FOR ALARM.

In three out of four addresses reference had been made to the principal object of the present tour, which was, too, the principal thought in the minds of most people, and certainly of all those who were in any way connected with land matters, the prospect of scarcity and famine in this district. He was, therefore, very glad to be able to reassure his hearers that he did not consider the present state one necessitating alarm. He had visited a considerable number of affected parts of the district, and had not seen half a dozen persons all told who appeared to be suffering from hunger, or who were to any degree emaciated. People came to the relief works chiefly because owing to the cessation of work in the fields they had to come and earn sufficient money to buy their food. Most effectual measures had been taken by Mr. Wace, the Collector, to provide ample labour in all places where the people would possibly require it. Those works which had been started were being carried out in a most suitable and sagacious manner, and His Honor wished to congratulate the district on their good fortune in having such a Collector at such a time, a man of such ability and sound judgment, as to know exactly how far to start these relief works or where to limit or close them, and yet avoid any possible harshness or severity. It was a most difficult thing to decide the exact time when works should be lessened or extended, and the district was, indeed, fortunate in having in Mr. Wace an officer of both ability, earnestness and previous experience of famine work.

PRIVATE LIBERALITY.

His Honor said it afforded him great pleasure to be able to announce that the Maharaja of Sonbursa, with his well-known generosity, had offered to Government Rs. 10,000 to be expended on relief works on a road or any other work of utility in the distressed tracts. Babu Janordhan Singh, of Barail, had offered Rs. 900 for gratuitous relief in Supowl. Rani Sitabati offered Rs. 1,000 for the relief of widows and women who could not appear in public. He understood that the Raja of Burwari intended making an offer of which, no doubt, he would soon make known the details. The Raja of Baneli and Kumar Nityananda Singh had intimated their intention of jointly undertaking some improvements on their estates which would serve as relief works and cost Rs. 7,200. Babu Gunput Singh intended starting some similar work, to the value of Rs. 2,000. The Maharaja of Durbhunga had before him as liberal a scheme of works as he carried out in 1889, but no orders had yet been given. This His Honor considered a most laudable record of private liberality at a time when most needed, and he begged to congratulate the generous donors on their public-spirited actions.

OFFICIAL TOURS.

In the address from the Municipal Commissioners, the remark that a ruler benefited by a knowledge of those he ruled, had afforded great pleasure, as it agreed so entirely with his own views, and he was glad to find the District Board has spoken in a very similar sense. His Honor said he did not wish anyone to think that tours through different parts of the province were in any way prompted by the least distrust of local officers or fear of being misled by them, but there was such a great advantage in being able to inquire into and discuss local requirements on the spot itself, where far more information could be gained than from any number of written reports. No doubt many of those present had read the admirable terms in which His Excellency Lord Lansdowne, when speaking at the opening of the Tansa Water-works in Bombay, had explained what an advantage it had been to him to be able to discuss the question with the Governor of Bombay. In a smaller way the same remarks applied to a Lieutenant-Governor of a province, and His Honor said that he had constantly found it of the greatest advantage to have a local knowledge, so that he could distinguish and know for himself.

THE LOCAL WATER WORKS.

A reference had been made to the filtered water-supply which this town was fortunate enough to possess, and he congratulated it on being one of the few towns in Bengal which could say the same thing. He hoped, during his stay, to be able to look into the municipal accounts, to see how the funds were allotted and administered, as mention had been made of the maintenance of the Water-works being a heavy charge on their resources. There was to be a new reassessment of the town, by which it was to be hoped a substantial increase to their funds would be secured. Reference had been made to a promise made by a landholder of the Sonthal Pergunnahs to present a large sum for the further extension of the Water-works, but His Honor said he feared he would be hardly justified in entering into that question, as he knew none of the details, and it was not one in which Government could in any way interfere. If any gentleman found himself unable to carry out such a promise he could hardly be expected to do so, but if he had changed his mind in the matter it was for the Commissioners to use what gentle persuasion they could to lead him back to a better way of thinking. Mention had been made of the long period during which the municipal franchise had been enjoyed in Bhagalpur, and it was satisfactory to have reason to believe that the powers had been exercised judiciously and well.

THE PROPOSED MUNICIPAL BILL.

The fact of having to reply to addresses on first arrival at a place before there had been time or opportunity to become acquainted with it was unfortunately unavoidable, but His Honor hoped to be able to see for himself how work had been carried on. When in the address a hope had been expressed that Local Self-Government should receive still further expansion in his hands, His Honor feared it implied that there was some idea he wished to restrict. He could, however, assure his hearers that nothing was further from the thoughts or wishes of the Government, whose only desire was to take such measures and to make such corrections as would enable officers to carry on their work. Wherever it had occurred to himself or his advisers that flaws existed, they proposed making small modifications in the Act to empower Government to step in and make small changes without having to use the drastic measures which under the Act were in its power, and the employment of which would bring much discredit to any Municipality. It was certainly a much severer measure to abolish a municipality than what was now proposed in the modification in the Bill before Government. The proposed alterations had been circulated for their opinions and remarks, and any criticisms would receive full attention.

DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS GOVERNMENT FUNDS.

The District Board had referred to the heavy drain upon their funds in connection with the famine, but they appeared to have made a very full and excellent distribution. It certainly was not desirable that more than they could afford should be diverted from other purposes. The district contained very good roads, which certainly should not be allowed to fall into disrepair. It was also well equipped with kutchra roads, some of them a relic of 1873, and it would be a mistake were anything done that would lessen the benefits they conferred. As far as one could foresee the present distress might continue or possibly somewhat increase during the next two months, but with July the rains should come, bringing with them labour in the fields and wages, and in August they might expect to reap their new crops. Should this be so, the present arrangements of the District Board seemed ample. The District Board had rather a tendency to speak of the funds as their own, but His Honor said he wished to remind them of the solidarity that should exist between themselves and the Government. They were merely a body of public-spirited gentlemen who gave their voluntary assistance to Government and had these funds at their disposal, but the funds actually belonged to Government, and when they spoke of their proposed allotments they were in much the same position as Government when framing its budget. Of late Government had been obliged to withdraw two lacs from other proposals to meet the expenses of the present distress, and to cut down many items.

MAHOMEDAN EDUCATION.

Referring to the Mahomedan address, His Honor said that he was glad to hear so much had been done for education, and that a Medressa had been instituted in a manner suited to the requirements of the day, that the Mahomedan boys might not fall behind the rest, and be able to hold their own in competition. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, in the North-West Provinces, had set them an example which but few could follow closely, but which many nowadays were striving to do, and every effort made to establish and carry on a system of education for Mahomedans on Mahomedan principles was deserving of Government encouragement. The Mahomedan gentlemen of this place were to be congratulated on what they were doing, and would receive such assistance as was

fair and just. The request for aid from the Mohsin Fund seemed reasonable, and though the annual fixed sum had for this year been all allotted, no doubt the Director of Public Instruction would be willing to consider fully their claim when distributing the grants for next year.

THE CADASTRAL SURVEY—AN EXPLANATION.

His Honor said he had kept till the last a reference to the remark made by the residents of Bhagalpur, when in their address they said "We venture to express a hope that your Honor will not proceed with the proposed cadastral survey involving an expenditure on the part of landlord and tenants which they are alike unable to bear." Now, it was not very clear whether this remark was intended to refer exclusively to some possible extension of the cadastral survey to the district of Bhagalpur, or to the work which is actually going on of the survey in North Behar. There was no thought of extending the survey to Bhagalpur at present but His Honor hoped that so soon as the cadastral survey of Behar had been brought to a successful conclusion, and when the people came to see and understand the enormous advantage that such a complete record of rights conferred upon them, so far from requesting that they might be delivered from it, they would in coming years include in their address to his successor a request that the cadastral survey of Bhagalpur might be begun at the earliest possible date. Assuming, however, that the passage related to Behar, and that they were speaking on behalf of their friends and relations in that part of the country, His Honor said he was glad to be able to take advantage of this opportunity to make a few remarks and explanations which he hoped would tend to allay their alarm and anxiety. The objection taken in the address rested on the ground of the expenditure the survey would involve in the present season of scarcity. It was to be hoped, however, that the present distress and scarcity are but a temporary evil. No one can forecast the future, but, on the other hand, no one had any valid grounds for anticipating a failure in the coming monsoon; and should all go well, the present trouble would be as completely forgotten next year as the pressure of 1889 was forgotten in 1891. There was every reason to hope that a kindly Providence would not afflict the district beyond what it could bear, and that with the advent of good and seasonable rains all fears of further scarcity would pass away. So much for the special objection as to the burden of expenditure being aggravated by the present scarcity; but there remained the general objection that the survey would undoubtedly cost money, and he sympathised with the general dislike to have expenditure thrown upon them. In the address, however, mention had been made of the fact that the cost would fall on both landlords and tenants, but as regarded the latter, His Honor did not think there was any need to feel much alarm. As matters stood at the present moment, any rayyet who had to defend a rent suit, was sure, first of all, to go to the Collector's cutcherry, and there to pay one rupee for a copy of an extract for the Patwari Jamabandi, which was absolutely of no validity whatsoever, and would not be accepted as evidence in any Court. When, however, the proposed survey had been completed, the average rayyet who held probably some four or five bigahs of land would have to pay one rupee for a trustworthy and valid statement showing the area, the rent, and the number, of his fields, and all the incidents of his tenure, and for all this he would pay exactly the same amount as he now had to pay for a document that was perfectly worthless. He was quite sure that any rayyet who understood the facts would willingly offer to pay ten times what the survey would cost him, for the sake of the security of the record. He had quite lately had an example of this brought to his notice, in the case of a gentleman in this district, Mr. Hirsch Christian, who holds a rayyetti tenure in the Banchi Srinagar Estate, of which a survey and record of rights has lately been carried out by the Court of Wards. That gentleman had informed him that he set the highest value on the record he had secured, and that he considered that the survey had been the greatest blessing which could have been conferred upon the estate.

The case of landholders no doubt was somewhat different, and those who owned large tracts of land would have largish sums to pay. All that Government could and would do was to try their best to diminish, as far as possible, the disagreeable burden of payment, by spreading it out over a number of years, and to further offer them the assurance that this survey would be to their clear and certain advantage, which when they had realized and come to understand in its true working would be accepted by them as even more than an equivalent for any expenditure it might have entailed. His Honor said that his hearers might possibly have noticed the speech he made at the last meeting of Supreme Legislative Council in Calcutta last month in connection with the Court of Wards Bill. He had undertaken there to do all he could to secure for the landlords in whose estates a cadastral survey had been carried out, a short and summary procedure for the recovery of arrears of rent. When there was no longer any dispute as to whether a man was a rayyet or not, and as to what his rent was, but only as to how much he had paid and how much was in arrears, he was sure that the

summary powers for dealing with such cases which are provided for in the Tenancy Act might fairly be utilised, and he was in hopes that even a shorter procedure might be allowed, corresponding to the powers of Government under the Certificate Act.

There was another suggestion for the relief of Zemindars under consideration, concerning which no definite promise could be made beyond the fact that he was favourably disposed towards the scheme of abolishing putwarris if it could be done with safety. The suggestion was that there should not be any Government servant retained as accountant in a village, but only the landlord's own accountant, provided security could be given that that accountant should be competent, and that the landlord would keep the record of rights in a complete and corrected condition, entering mutations or other necessary alterations. As it was the audience knew that at present all alterations in the registers of the names and shares of the proprietors were supposed to be carried on by a self-acting system, and there was a penalty prescribed for any omission to register alterations. It was reasonable to think that similar procedure could be devised for receiving the correction of the khatians and jamabandis, and the maintenance of the record of rights from year to year; and if this were provided, it was quite possible that Government would agree to the abolition of the patwarri, who is undoubtedly an object of suspicion and dislike to the landlords, and is an interminable element of discord. Although no reference had been made to it in any of the addresses, there was, however, another point on which he would like to make a few remarks, as he had reason to believe it was one of the chief causes of alarm in connection with the proposed survey, especially among the Zemindars, and that was the great expense likely to be incurred on account of the bribes taken and illegal demands that might be made by unscrupulous amins. It was needless to say that one who had been so long in this country as he himself had been, and had seen so much of the manners and customs of the lower orders of such people, was not prepared to deny the possibility of such demands being made, or was ready to undertake the defence of amins; but though it were impossible to rely on the absolute integrity of these officials, it was both possible and sufficient to rely on the constant supervision and inspection of their works by superior officers, with the aid of scientific mathematical instruments. The fears of the malpractices of these amins were, in fact, due in great part to ignorance of the system to be pursued, and when once the survey was well started and its *modus operandi* understood, it would very easily be seen that such alarm was quite unnecessary. The measures which it was proposed to adopt were that as the amin went on with his work, measuring and recording in his record say about thirty numbers a day, he should give to the holder of each field a "parcha" or slip showing exactly what had been recorded. This the rayyet would take away with him and discuss at his leisure, and at once see whether there was any mistake in the record. During this work it would be quite unnecessary for the Zemindar to detail any person to keep a special watch over the amins. Everything recorded would thus be brought to light, and its accuracy would be challenged and tested at once, so where would be the use of an amin making any false entry? When this work had been completed for a block of villages, the attestation officer would come round, who would be either a Covenanted Officer, such as an Assistant or Joint Magistrate, or else a Deputy Collector. He would fix a certain day for the attestation of the khatian, and have up all the villagers before him, and read out the record which concerned each in turn, enquiring before all the assembled crowd if there was any mistake; and thus the examination would be easily completed. At this point only would it be necessary for the Zemindar to have some trustworthy agent present, able to offer any necessary explanations to the attesting officer, or to assist in settling errors and disputes, and to protect the Zemindar's interests. He hoped that those present, who were connected with Behar, would explain this method of procedure to their friends, and that they would see how impossible it would be for an amin to make false entries undetected, and how useless it would be for anyone to offer him bribes and to submit to any illegal demands on his part.

He trusted that what he had said to-day would be of some efficacy, both as removing the alarm felt by Zemindars about the results of the unknown operations of the survey, and also as disclosing to them what has to be set on the other side of the account, as advantages which will accrue to them in consequence of the survey. He would further observe that a conference had lately been held at Mozuffarpur, at which the Director of Surveys, Colonel Sandeman, and the Commissioner, Mr. Lyall, had met a large number of Zemindars and indigo planters; and though he had not received an official report of the proceedings, he had reason to believe that the explanation offered had been favourably received, and had done much good. In any case, he was sure that in Colonel Sandeman they would find an officer of great experience and skill, and one who was most anxious to make the survey go smoothly, and to meet all reasonable wishes of the parties concerned.

His Honor concluded by again thanking those assembled for their kind reception of himself and the good wishes expressed towards Lady Elliott, who, he hoped on the occasion of his next visit to Bhagalpur, would be able to accompany him.

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delivered by

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H. E. the Viceroy, on the same day,
Sir A. Scoble, on the passing of the Bill on
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The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Krishnaji Lakshman Nulkar, C.I.E.,
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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1892.

No. 521

VISIONS OF THE PAST.

(A FRAGMENT.)

BY THE LATE MICHAEL M. S. DUTT,

Author of "The Captive Ladie," "Meghnathvada" (Bengali epic), &c., &c.

[Continued from page 181]

VI.

I stood in solitude,—and as I look'd
Night wan'd—~~that~~ lovely night of star-lit smile,
With all its hosts—save, morn! thy gentle star,
Who with his dewy coronet of light
Sits on his throne—in lonely beauty—far—
To glass him in thine laughing eyes and then
Flee to some slumb'rous haunt to dream of thee!—
Night wan'd—and now the pilgrim fair of Light—
The sun—whose path is on the sky—uprose
Careering: Nature smiled her eloquent
And gentle welcome as he came in pride
And beauty—such as when rapt Delian maid
In voiceless adoration saw him rise—
God of the silver bow and deathless lyre!

VII.

But where were they—the tenants of that bow'r,
Those gentle beings whom I there beheld
Pent in each other's arms in balmy rest?
I look'd—but saw them not; for shadows vast
Still brooded 'round their flow'ry home and frown'd
On Light and dim'd her brow and joyous mood.
How fearful!—for it look'd—that lovely bow'r—
Like some dark isle upon a sunny sea—
The haunt of Phantoms dire and such as flee
The realms of Day.—Aerial shapes and grim
Now crowded fast in misty—sullen throngs
As if some sunless world had just unbar'd—
—Land of pale spectres and of Night profound—
Had just unbar'd her portals to disgorge
Her darksome brood from cavern'd sleep and lone:—
They came—oh! how unlike the beings bright,
That, ere that night of starry smile had wan'd—
Disported 'round—oh! how unlike they throng'd—
Ghastly—and pale—and joyless—horrid crew!
I stood, as one by foul Enchantress' wand,
From sunny scenes, or blithesome revelrie
Of Fays by mossy marge of moon-lit fount,
Wing'd to some Donjon's dark and starless keep—
Where the lone captive weeps in solitude—
And shrieks of agony oft rend the ear
From spirits disenthral'd, who nightly haunt
Dire scenes—where murder bares her hideous arms!

* * * * *

VIII.

I stood, when, hark!—a sudden voice there came—
—Forth from that bow'r now curtain'd as by wall
Of darkness dense for mortal ken too deep—
Awful and deep like thunder and it said,
In accents of proud triumph, lo! 'tis done!
There was a shriek of joy—methought it burst
From that dread throng—and rolling far and near—
It sunk—Earth trembl'd—and from grove and bow'r
There came a sound of mournful wail and sad:
I look'd—the sun had veil'd his dazzling brow—
As when he saw upon thee, Calvarie!
The Pilgrim from His Father's bosom—He—
His God—with blood stain'd brow and crown of thorn
Die on th' accursed tree—yea—die to save—
And dying pray for those who shed His blood!

* * * * *

IX.

Slowly and sad, with brow where still the shade
Of sorrow linger'd, on to western realms
The Sun now hied him, and the star of Eve
Came pale and all alone with throbbing breast—
Unwoo'd by melody from twilight bow'rs—
Unwelcom'd by sweet breath of flow'rets fair,
Which ope their dewy eyes to gaze in joy
On her soft brow of loveliness and smile!
I sigh'd—and as I sigh'd methought there came
Loud blasts and shrill of trumpets from afar,
And dazzling, waves of light of cloudless beam,
Above the brightness of the sun—now roll'd
Along the blue expanse of Heav'n—erst dim—
—Such as once burst upon the Pilgrims' path,
When he with fiery wrath and fierce intent
Trode Syria's sunny plains and view'd afar
Damascus—and fast pal'd the noon tide ray.*—
Night fled—not with her wonted steps so slow
And ling'ring, when—as matron loth to leave
Some lovely maiden gay midst festal scenes
Of joyaunce—from bright morn she lies away,
But in wild hurried flight as routed host—
Night fled before that light which beam'd around
As if ten thousand suns were in the sky—
Earth trembl'd—and methought the pathless sea,
—Like giant waken'd from his deep repose,
Rose in wild tumult—Nature stood in awe,
As the dread blasts of trumpets louder swell'd,
Such as before thee, Sinai! mount of God—
The Pilgrims of the Desert heard and quak'd! †

* * * * *

* Acts, IX. † Exod., XIX.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

LORD Lansdowne arrived at Simla on Thursday. On account of cholera, he had to abandon his visit to Khanki.

SIR Charles Elliott will be off for the hills next week, leaving Calcutta on the 25th and reaching Darjeeling on the 30th. In the way, he will take in Parbatipur, Dinajpur, Rangpur, and Jalpaiguri. He will be accompanied by Captain Currie, Private Secretary, throughout, and by Mr. C. E. Buckland to Dinajpur only.

SIR Charles Hanks Todd Crosshwaite, K.C.S.I., took over charge from Colonel R. C. B. Pemberton, R.E., on the 7th April under the usual salute, and is once more Public Works minister.

COLONEL P. D. Henderson, of the Thuggi and Dacoity Department, has been appointed Resident in Mysore and Chief Commissioner of Coorg.

MR. H. H. Risley, C.I.E., has obtained another mark of favor of his chief. He has been taken in place of poor Mr. P. Nolan as a member of the local Legislative Council.

It will be a relief to many that Mr. E. N. Baker has obtained two months' leave from 2nd May next. We hope Mr. E. G. Drake-Brockman, Mr. Baker's Joint and Deputy in the 24-Pergunnahs, gazetted to act for him as Magistrate and Collector, will prove a salutary change.

MR. T. Jones is about to go out of the Small Cause Court and the Government service. Mr. A. P. Handley from the Police Court will be the third Judge for disposal of Small Causes, preparatory, it is said, for the first, as soon as that place is vacant. Mr. T. A. Pearson, barrister-at-law, replaces Mr. Handley as Chief Magistrate. The arrangement may be construed as a slur on the native judges superseded. Syed Ameer Hossain has several times complained that he was never allowed to officiate as Chief Presidency Magistrate as Mr. Ameer Ali, though he is unwilling to claim all the functions exercisable by the chief of the Magistrates. In the Small Cause Court itself, Mr. K. M. Chatterjee has a grievance.

"As a thank-offering to God for recovery from severe illness," Mr. J. D. Rockefeller, of the Standard Oil Company, has paid to the new Chicago University one million dollars. This is the second gift from the same oilman, the first being valued at over a million and a half.

THE only monument to mark the place where the Rev. Charles Haddon Spurgeon lies in Norwood Cemetery, is a marble slab, with the inscription "C. H. Spurgeon." It is to be enriched, at the suggestion of Mrs. Spurgeon, by the addition of the word "Waiting." The personal estate left by the reverend gentleman has been valued, for probate duty, at 10,643*l*. That really left is about 2,000*l*., the balance being made up of a life insurance policy for 1,000*l*., with bonus additions, and the valuations of all his copyrights, the furniture, the extensive library, as well as all other effects at Westwood, Beulah Hill, Upper Norwood. This was a true shepherd, indeed, who not only preached but also practised poverty, simplicity and temperance. How unlike the Princes and plutocrats of the Church, Catholic or Anglican!

THE *Mahratta* of April 17 writes approvingly of the Partition Bill introduced in the Viceregal Council:—

"The Hon'ble Mr. Rashbehary Ghose, the author of the well-known work on the law of mortgage in India, who has been nominated as an additional member of the supreme legislative Council, appears to be determined upon not being merely an ornamental member of that body. He has brought forward a bill to amend the law of partition in India. The main object of the Bill is to prevent the land from being divided into infinitesimally small portions, to the great inconvenience of all the parties concerned. According to section 265 of the Civil Procedure Code the partition of the revenue-paying estate is referred to the Collector, who in this Presidency, proceeds according to the provisions of the Land Revenue Code which authorise the Collector, in cases where the minimum limit of a number is reached, either to give the land to one sharer or to sell the same and distribute the proceeds amongst others, or all as the case may be. The Hon'ble Mr. Ghose wishes to have these provisions extended to

cases of non-revenue-paying lands that are partitioned directly by the Civil Courts. 'In order at the same time to prevent any oppressive exercise of this privilege, it is proposed to make the consent of parties interested at least to the extent of a moiety in the property, a condition precedent to the exercise of the court of this new power; while such of the shareholders as do not desire a sale will have the right of buying others out at a valuation to be determined by the Court.' This is a necessary safeguard and we are glad that it has been anticipated. The Bill also gives the court the power of compelling a stranger, who has acquired by purchase a share in the family dwelling house, when he seeks for a partition, to sell his share to the members of the family, who are the owners of the rest of the house at a valuation to be determined by the court. This as has been justly observed, is only an extension of the provision contained in the transfer of property Act section 44 and is calculated to prevent one member of the family to force a stranger on the other member against the wishes of the latter. Thus the Bill hardly introduces a new principle, but still it is important as coming from a non-official member and affecting personal and domestic rights of the Hindus. We hope Mr. Ghose would take up with the same boldness, the desired amendments in the other branches of Indian Law, and thus set an example of what an additional member can and ought to do."

That will, we suppose, depend upon the reception given by the country to the present effort.

WE are glad to be able again to read the *Behar Herald and the Indian Chronicle*. It was a good paper conducted by one of our best, if also busiest, men, but of late years it had been reduced to a miserable illegible rag. High-class native journalism, whether in English or in the vernaculars, does not pay, to be sure. But surely the organ of the Chiefs and landlords of Behar does not depend on commercial exigencies. That the *Tirhoot Courier*, another able weekly, edited by Mr. Pringle Kennedy, which has been dropped, should be unsightly and unreadable, was not so strange, as it was a speculation, we believe. But it was a shame that a journal like the *Herald*, financed as it was by the Behar Landholders' Association, should be reduced to the same pass. It is all right now, however. The paper is now being printed on substantial white paper and in new type. It is as ably conducted as ever.

LATELY the *Pioneer*, having in an article on the Patna Examination scandals, stated that "On the 10th of February the Editor of the local paper, had sent to him (Mr. Ewbank) *anonymously* a correct copy of the history questions," the *Behar Herald and the Indian Chronicle* says—"If it refers to us, it is as big a lie, as could be uttered."

Our Behar contemporary need not have been to so much ado in the matter. The statement did not merit the seriousness of even a subjunctive lie direct. To rage against a bull is scarcely less ridiculous than its own absurdity. The *Pioneer* seems to have fallen in characteristically Hibernian hands.

BRIGADE-SURGEON G. King, C.I.E., having taken furlough, Surgeon D. Prain, Curator of the Herbarium, Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta, will, in addition, act as Superintendent of that Garden and of the Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling, and as Government Quinologist and Director of the Botanical Survey of India.

ON the recommendation of the Municipal Commissioners, the Lieutenant-Governor has sanctioned the extension of Part X of the Municipal Act—relating to Markets—to the Nadia Municipality. The Commissioners have now power to open markets of their own or to take a lease of any of the existing markets, or to virtually close any of them, or not to allow opening of new markets.

THE Calcutta Hackney Carriage and Palanquin Act has been extended to the Gaya Municipality.

THE Public Works cess has been fixed by the Lieutenant-Governor for the year 1892-93 at one-half of an anna in the rupee on the annual value of lands, and on the annual net profits from mines, quarries, tramways, railways, and other immoveable property (excepting such as may have been exempted under section 2 of the Cess Act IX (B. C.) of 1880, ascertained respectively as in the Act prescribed.

ON payment of Rs. 94,262-8 by the Bombay Municipality, as composition for the stamp duty chargeable on a debenture loan of Rs. 1,88,52,500, the Governor-General in Council has exempted the said debentures from any stamp duty with which they might otherwise be chargeable, whether on issue, renewal, sub-division, or consolidation.

WE read in an English paper that they have formed a syndicate for the publication of a half-penny morning newspaper which will steer clear of party politics. It is also under consideration whether it is not possible to illustrate that daily broadsheet.

THE English Society of Authors numbers 830 authors and journalists, 226 of whom joined last year.

THE now famous Hargreave jewels, with the addition of a pearl, were sold by Messrs. Christie, Manson and Woods, of King Street, St. James's Square, on March 28, for 660*l* and 416*l*. Mrs. Osborne had sold them—minus the one pearl added—to Messrs. Spink for 550*l*.

THE Bank of Bombay has obtained permission of the Governor-General in Council to establish a branch at Bhaunagar.

NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE Queen of England visits Darmstadt today. It is reported that the Czar will visit Berlin at the end of May and the King and Queen of Italy in June.

MR. Gladstone has declared himself in a pamphlet against female suffrage. He says neither the public nor women themselves desire the reform aimed at in the Female Suffrage Bill. He is willing to admit the fitness of some women for masculine offices, but is afraid that women would lose their refinement and purity amid the turmoil of masculine life.

A LONDON telegram of the 17th reported fresh difficulties between Turkey and Egypt. The Sultan telegraphed to Eyoub Pasha, not to leave Cairo till further orders, while the Khedive telegraphed to the Sultan, complaining of the latter's High Commissioner in Egypt, Mukhtar Pasha's interference in the internal affairs of the country. An arrangement was, however, immediately made. Eyoub Pasha has sailed for Constantinople, and Mukhtar Pasha has orders from his Sultan not to interfere in the internal affairs of Egypt.

ON the 16th a great change came over the weather in England, specially in the south-east, where a foot of snow fell that evening in Essex, not only making the roads impassable but also blocking the trains.

THE latest news of the Straits of Singapore comes all the way from London. The panic in Pahang has subsided. The men supposed to be implicated in the murder of Messrs. Harris and Stewart have been arrested, and will shortly be tried.

A FRENCH Fleet visited Plymouth last year. At the next Naval manoeuvres, a Russian Fleet is expected at Davenport in June.

THE first international Football match was held in Paris on April 18, between the Paris and London Football Clubs. The English team beat the French by three goals to nothing.

ON the 19th, the *Times* announced an agreement between England and France upon all colonial questions. The agreement was subsequently explained to refer to the prevention of the sale of arms and ammunition to Natives of Africa.

THERE is in London an anarchist paper called the "Commonweal." The editor, Mr. Mowbray Nicholl, is charged with having published an article inciting murder of Mr. Matthews, the Home Secretary, and Mr. Justice Hawkins. On the 20th, he was brought up before the Bowstreet Magistrate. Nicholl admitted the authorship of the article and was remanded.

TROUBLES are reported from West Africa. The Jebus and Egbas tribes have threatened Lagos on the Gold Coast. To reinforce the garrison, Captains Larymore and Bayly have started with a force of Houssas. The King of Dahomey has, in a letter, openly defied France, and is again threatening Porto Novo at the head of his forces. The French press is alarmed and urges the most complete measures promptly. How interesting to foreigners at a distance all this about Jebus and Egbas and Lagos and Houssas! But this is not all.

REPORTS from Uganda are disquieting. The Catholics under Mwanga attacked the Protestants and killed their chief. The Protestants returned the attack and deposed Mwanga.

DURING his late visit to Bombay, the Viceroy had ample opportunities of noticing not only the material progress and prosperity of the place, but also the nakedness of the land in other particulars. In their zeal for *kudis* doubtless, the good Ducks were not content to conduct his Excellency to their big mills and their magnificent charities, but they showed him some of their institutions of science and learning. The wellbred nobleman of course was not slow to express his interest in whatever was presented to his observation, and his great gratification in all that he saw. The discerning few among them are not well pleased at the choice of places that was made for the great visitor. The *Times of India* thinks it a mistake that the Viceroy was taken over to the University Library. Our contemporary would have preferred the Asiatic Library housed in the Town Hall. That is a properly kept collection, whereas the University collection is simply a "conglomeration of books." In a long but brilliant paragraph, the *Times* gives a scathing account of the lamentable condition of the Bombay Bodleian. The collection is rich and rare, but it is useless and tantalising from the neglect to which it has been abandoned. There is no catalogue—no classification—nor any kind of arrangement, except perhaps of the beind mechanical, the books being shelved according to size only, and associated together without regard to subject, and even then packed two or three lines deep! A fine University Library, to be sure.

THE *San Francisco Examiner*, a paper claiming the largest circulation in the Golden City, has provoked British journalists at Home and abroad by a recent article in its "Ladies' Column." The first offence is that in its blunt Republican way our Queen is described as "the English-woman, Victoria—." Then the writer proceeds to give what is characterised as wonderful information, to wit, that the said Victoria "is not allowed to have a great many privileges that the humblest of her subjects can boast of. For instance, she isn't allowed to handle a newspaper of any kind, nor a magazine, nor a letter from any persons except from her own family, and no member of the Royal Family or household is allowed to speak to her of any piece of news in any publication." "All the information the Queen is permitted to have must first be strained through the intellect of a man whose business it is to cut out from the papers each day what he thinks she would like to know. These scraps he fastens on a silk sheet with a gold fringe all about it, and presents it to her unfortunate Majesty." These quotations we take from an English paragraph which is going the round. From its writer it would seem that the American paper states that only communications printed in letters of gold on golden fringed silk are admissible to the august Presence. This rule must, of course, not only check the flow, but also considerably reduce the volume, of the correspondence that reaches the royal table. "This silken sheet with gold fringe is imperative for all communications to the Queen." The *Examiner* concludes with relating how an American lady sent the Queen a collection of pressed American flowers, which for three months much delighted Her Majesty. But "at the end of that time, which was as long as she was allowed by Court etiquette to keep it, she had it sent back with a letter saying that, being Queen of England, she was not allowed to have any gifts."

WHETHER miracles have ceased or not, the claim to them continues. It appears from the *New York Medical Times* of March, that physicians in Corea have to examine their patients by the inspection of a thread tied round their wrist and passed out by a hole in the door to the doctor outside. This goes beyond any feat heard of the

hakims of this country—or any other. Whether in India or in Turkey, the Mahomedan physicians even in the case of ladies are allowed to feel the pulse though not see the person of the patient. At the worst, there is no objection to their inspecting the urine.

OUR long article—of four columns and a quarter—of the 19th March on "Self-destruction of Hindu Women" has met with a curious reception. The *Indian Daily News*, long known for an observer of social phenomena, reprinted it entire, and drew attention to it more than once. Its worthy Darjeeling Correspondent, a really superior man, then took up the cue, treating a matter of obvious importance with the needful seriousness and his usual intelligence.

The *Indian Mirror*, that journal of Hindu-Buddhist-Theosophic morality, published a condensed plagiary, echoing our views and suggestions without once naming us.

That was all. With that exception, the whole native Press has ignored a subject of vital importance to Hindu society.

NOT the whole native Press, exactly. Out of Bengal the subject seems to have attracted rather more interest. In Bombay, the *Indian Spectator* of April 17 writes:—

"Suicides of women in high Bengali life, as also among the middle and educated classes to the far east, appear to have been on the increase of late. *Reis and Rayyet* had a pathetic leader on the subject, a few weeks ago. If the note of alarm sounded by our contemporary is on facts, which evidently is the case, it ought to attract the most serious attention of our Bengali countrymen. The circumstance is all the more regrettable when we learn that most of the victims of suicide are young married women. If the victims were Hindu widows, whose life is made unbearable by social tyranny, we could understand the circumstance. But that young wives should in large numbers be driven to end their existence, is sad to hear, sadder still to contemplate. What must be at the bottom of all this weariness of life to Bengali women, it is not easy to divine. Our Calcutta contemporary, who handles the subject with his usual fearlessness, attributes it to these causes: (1) The ill-treatment which the wife receives from the notorious mother-in-law and the no less formidable *nanul*, the husband's elder sister: (2) the husband's ill-treatment of her and want of sympathy with her for various reasons, *viz*, evil habits of drunkenness and debauchery. It appears to us that the husband is perhaps a more potent factor in these sad ends than the mother-in-law. The mother-in-law is doubtless not to be ignored, for she is nothing if not a despot. In some cases, hers is a benevolent despotism, but in many others it is downright tyranny. But even though the mother-in-law may be a veritable tyrant, the wife can be happy if she has the consolation of her husband's sympathy and love, which, we fear, is a minus quantity in the case of many an educated Hindu gentleman. The educated Hindu, full of high notions of Western life, is, we are afraid, dissatisfied with his ignorant wife. She is no companion to him. He thinks and talks of things which she—poor ignorant creature—cannot understand, much less appreciate. There is a wide gulf between the two. But thoughtful educated Hindus put up with their lot and try to improve it as much as possible by giving their wives such education as they are capable of receiving after marriage. Others, less thoughtful, seek pleasure elsewhere. The poor wife, ill-treated by the mother-in-law, and if not despised, at any rate not loved by the husband, is kept company with by sorrow, which develops into infatuation and may end in suicide. Suicides of this sort are happily rare on this side. But that may only mean that the gulf between the husband and the wife on our side is not so wide as in Bengal. The percentage of English educated men in Bengal is larger than here. Or, it may be that educated men in Bengal are more impulsive and less thoughtful than those out here. Anyhow, the tale coming from Bengal is extremely painful. We think the remedy lies in educating Bengali women more largely than at present. A rapid advance in female education will remove the causes of the educated husband's dissatisfaction. He will find his wife an agreeable companion. She will, by and bye, come up to his ideas of a ministering angel. He can then enjoy a feast of reason and a flow of souls, such as his education makes him hanker after. He will be happy; his wife will be happy; and his home will be a centre more of concord and happiness than of groans and misery, as it appears to have been to a great extent in the eastern Presidency."

A NEIGHBOURING contemporary has suddenly become unco-righteous. It is specially airing its civic honour. It was certainly not used to such grand language as it has of late given expression to in connection with the practices of pettifoggers in municipal councils and the conviction of a municipal magnate for misappropriation. The thing has the effect of the name of God—in Indian parlance, Rama—from certain lips. But our contemporary is wise in its generation. It probably believes in the prudent Greek principle of contingent chronological and circumstantial virtue. And it doubtless has discovered that quoting Scripture pays.

THE whole country has heard with pain that Raja Narendra Chandra Roy, of the Kayastha family of Sheoraphuli, one of the oldest and

most respected in the land, has been convicted for misappropriating in his capacity of Vice-Chairman of the Baidyabati municipality, a Government Promissory note for Rs. 500 lodged by a contractor, and sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 800.

Upon that case, the *Hindoo Patriot* philosophises in this strain:—

"The present is no doubt a case of rare occurrence, but we feel justified in making the facts known for obvious reasons. It ought to open the eyes of the ratepayers in general to the absolute necessity of making a judicious selection of their representatives. At present the man most capable of canvassing is returned. This should never be countenanced. The aim of our rate-payers ought always to be to elect men with strong heads and stout hearts. We simply abuse the great privilege of Local Self-Government, which the Government has conferred upon us by putting up as our representatives on the Municipal Board such worthless figures as the condemned Narendra Chandra Roy. We have no doubt Narendra Chandra's example will have a most salutary effect."

The above are "sensible observations" in the opinion of the *East* of Dacca, from which we quote them second-hand. To us, they sound differently. At best commonplace and futile, they are even contradictory.

THE Maharaja of Durbhunga has appointed Mr. Henry Bell, of the High Court Bar, Manager-General of his affairs. We are on principle opposed to the employment of Europeans by, or in native affairs of, native Chiefs. Without harbouring the slightest repugnance to, or jealousy of, Europeans or Christians, several considerations determine us in this view, not the least powerful being the difficulty natives feel, and must feel, of commanding Europeans. These considerations, however, affect political chiefships far more than private estates. Indeed, several important considerations of expediency recommend European management as the fittest for private property, specially of a certain type. The Durbhunga Raj seems to come under the same category, and, not inappropriately perhaps, has it, since the decease of the last Maharaja, been under European management, in some form or another. From Furlong to Gwatkins, a long succession of civil and military men have administered the charge with more or less success, but even with unimpeachable honesty. Mr. Furlong had been the Prince of Planters before, on the downfall of Indigo he took service in Durbhunga during the minority of Maharaja Luchmessur Singh.

WHAT the Doorga Pooja time is to the Bengalis, what the Holi season is to other Hindoos, what the Moharram Week is to the Moslems, that Passion Week is to the Christians, especially of the Roman Catholic persuasion. This year it came to a close on the 15th instant. Yet who of our readers thought of it? What Hindu or Mussulman, Jew or Parsee, ever perceived that he was in the midst of a great festival of a great community? We do not know how the Indian followers of the Catholic Church observed the Festival, no newspaper in India, so far as we are aware, having given a proper and particular account. One would have thought that the Calcutta organ of the Roman Catholics would, for the reputation of its co-religionists, come out with a description of how Passion Week was observed, all round, in the city of Palaces. No such thing! Are we to attribute this to decay of religious zeal? Perhaps it is owing to the Government of an adverse denomination. But, surely, if there was spirit enough in Catholicism, it would be brought out by competition. Were Great Britain still a Catholic Power, perhaps Lord Lansdowne, with his councillors, would have, on Thursday, the 14th instant, sent for twelve native Catholic beggars and performed the function of *lovement des pieds*, as is still done by the Emperor of Austria, by King Humbert of Italy and, last but not least, by His Holiness the Pope himself. Then, in imitation of what takes place in the Portuguese Navy, Good Friday Eve would have been solemnized on the banks of the sacred Ganges, by the flogging of Judas Iscariot.

But alas! instead of all this, Passion Week is passed in India, almost unnoticed, and there is no one in the Indian Press to tell us how in Bombay, Madras and Calcutta, not to speak of other cities in India, the Nonconformists and the Low-church men spent the week, and in how many Christian families, hot cross buns were consumed in the morning repast.

ACCORDING to Dr. v. Tassinari, tobacco-smoking is valuable as a powerful disinfectant, a prophylactic against a number of infective diseases. He made a number of experiments on the influence of tobacco-smoke on the germs of cholera, anthrax and pneumonia.

He lined the interior of hollow balls with gelatine containing the germs of the diseases named; tobacco-smoke was then passed through these globes for from ten to thirty minutes, with the result that the bacilli of true Asiatic cholera and of pneumonia were completely destroyed. The gelatine was absolutely sterilized. The anthrax bacillus was more resistant, while that of typhoid was scarcely acted on at all. The Roman Doctor is supported by Drs. Miller, (New York,) and Vassili, (Naples,) who are of opinion that tobacco-smoke prevents the development of pathogenic germs.

THE Land Acquisition Collector for the Town of Calcutta, Baboo Cally Churn Ghose, goes on leave, preparatory to retirement. Baboo Tariny Kumar Ghosh comes into his shoes. It has been proposed to have one such Collector for Calcutta, the 24-Pergunnah and the E. B. S. Railway.

AS another measure of economy, Sir Charles Elliott sent up a proposition for a provident fund in lieu of pensions for clerks. The Government of India, however, is not for such a change.

CHOLERA of a virulent type has broken out at Delhi. There is at present a regular panic among the inhabitants of the old capital of India. We find this old city is getting worse and worse almost every year as regards its sanitation.

WE are glad to hear that Sir Nawab Abdul Ghani's health has much improved and that he is now able to receive visitors during the usual hours.

The alarming account of Dewan Jai Prakash Lal of Dumraon's illness was a mere newspaper sensation. He was never so seriously unwell, and now he is improving.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, April 23, 1892.

SIR AUCKLAND COLVIN'S ADDRESS TO THE MAHOMEDANS AT ALLAHABAD.

SIR Auckland Colvin could not have accepted the invitation to lay the foundation-stone of the Mahomedan Boarding House at Allahabad with quite a light heart. Knowing as he did the difficulty of the position to which he was called, feeling, as he could not help feeling, the extreme delicacy of the function he would have to perform, his first impulse, we suspect, was to have nothing to do with it. Remembering, as he could not forget, the *personnel* of the rival parties, or the points of the quarrel, culminating in the strong and wide agitation which had brought the House into existence, he must naturally have felt some hesitation in patronizing the institution and accepting the most respectably signed, and most respectful, invitation. Whatever reluctance he might have felt on private grounds, for the sake of some of his oldest and best friends, however,—neither as a true Englishman, as a friend of the Mahomedans, nor as a statesman of mark, could he discourage a movement influentially supported and strongly backed by all Mussalmans of light and leading, whether in the United Provinces or in the Punjab. He must have been surprised to see the array of distinguished Mahomedan gentlemen, many of whom were not long ago the staunchest supporters and admirers of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, under the flag of once his eminent coadjutor, fellow-worker and chief supporter—the old and veteran Samiullah Khan—but now his declared opponent and the leader of the opposition. The conspicuous absence from the scene of the venerable Syed, his

distinguished and honorable son, and his special *protégés* belonging to the staff of the Muir College, must have shown Sir Auckland very unmistakably how the principles of tolerance on which he lays so much stress, is practised by those who seem to be his ideals of that noble quality among the Mahomedans of the Province over which he presides.

The importance of the occasion was obvious—its significance was thoroughly appreciated by Sir Auckland Colvin of all Englishmen. Accordingly, the Lieutenant-Governor came well prepared with a sermon for the Mahomedans as a body, but which was especially intended for and directed to the gathering whose guest he was that day. The address was dressed in very rich crimson, interlaced with bright gold, so as to dazzle the eye and scarcely allow it to see clearly through the tissue. Few outside the United Provinces are likely to fully understand the practical aims of the eloquent discourse, or catch the personal allusions interspersed therein, but those who have carefully watched the course of the unfortunate differences between Sir Ahmed Khan and his best friends and the stormy controversy which followed them and the bitter end to which the matters in dispute were driven, can easily read it between the lines. To the immediate congregation it was plain as noonday. Nor did the stern homily come with the shock of surprise. The blow was distributed by time, or at any rate, the objects were not wholly unprepared for the impact. The prologue had already been pronounced at another place on a similar occasion. It was as if a Wickliffe had preceded the Luther in the attack on the old *régime* of papal supremacy. A scarcely less influential dignitary had before preached to the same text. The Lieutenant-Governor's advent on the field had been heralded by a Judge of the High Court. The ice was broken by Mr. Justice Straight. The well-conceived utterances of the accomplished Judge at Aligarh, in the same strain, a few days earlier, formed an appropriate introduction to the impressive address of the satrap. If concerted, all this, it must be confessed, was well managed as it was well meant. If, as is more likely, it was a mere coincidence, it was a happy accident. The religious Mussulman with his belief in the hand of God in every serious transaction, may well regard it as providential. Historically, the two speeches, the one delivered at Aligarh, followed shortly after by that at Allahabad, stand complementary to one another.

The founders of the Boarding House were all intelligent men experienced in the business of life and a few even men of distinction. They showed themselves fully equal to the situation. With the adroitness of men of the world they suppressed all personal feeling on this great public occasion. They provoked no petty differences, raised no minor issues, and indeed steered clear, as far as possible, of all controversial topics. With one stroke of business they placed themselves in perfect *rapprochement* with their eminent visitor. Anticipating Sir Auckland, they commenced their address by praising the Aligarh College (which they do not honestly believe to be a safe and proper place for the education and training of their young men). This admirable diplomacy at once put the addressee in good humour and facilitated the well directed endeavours of the Governor to bring about a reconciliation between the two parties. If those endeavours do not succeed the failure cannot be laid on their head.

But although on a ceremonial occasion, face to

face with the Governor of the land, the Committee of the Mahomedan Boarding House were driven to self-suppression, to ignore the truth and hide their wounds, the Press is under no such obligation. The periodical chronicler cannot, without offence, burk the facts, and the journalist, even though no Mussulman himself, may be permitted to sympathise with bleeding fellow citizens of that faith compelled to silence in public. Not from a morbid hankering after sensation or a maudlin desire to cherish pathos, but in the public interest, the tumultuous and unhappy circumstances of the origin of the Boarding House of which Sir Auckland so calmly and philosophically laid the foundation-stone, should not be entirely lost. It is right and expedient that the world should know, not darkly through Sir Auckland Colvin's sounding periods of high counsel but in explicit terms, that the new institution is the first step of a great conflict. How few have realised that the Boarding House of Allahabad is the Bull's Run of Secession from Aligarh!

A Boarding House for Mahomedan students is on the face of it a small affair. Were it not for the wide sweep of the Lieutenant-Governor's incisive utterance in the connection, no one would suspect that it was anything better. But there was one passage in the address of the Committee which faintly adumbrated the truth. "We regret," said the Committee,

"We regret to learn that some of the existing national institutions in India are opposed to our view, but we are convinced that it is only the abuse of time and opportunities in England which should be checked, and not education there under proper supervision. We propose with the grace of God to put fresh life in the movement, and our Committee will act as an advising body with which parents may consult, and from which students may take help before proceeding to England. We will not rest contented with only looking after and advising young men while in India, but intend to safeguard their interests in England by placing them under proper guardianship there."

That was an unmistakable sign that the gentlemen in question were embarked in a considerable movement.

It was the general character of the movement that made Sir Auckland Colvin's thought and language all the more appropriate. True and apposite as were his remarks, however, we suspect the Mahomedan part of his audience after listening to him scarcely went away with a feeling of complete satisfaction.

Much was said by the Lieutenant-Governor about the virtue of tolerance, and some examples also were held out, directly and indirectly. Toleration is a lesson we all stand in need of, more or less. But the Mahomedan gentlemen assembled at Allahabad may be excused for thinking that the lesson was still more needed at another place. It is not unlikely that if he had known all, or even if he had simply seen the language and spirit in which Samiullah Khan and his supporters were attacked from different quarters in the Aligarh Institute Gazette, Sir Auckland Colvin's opinion would have undergone a material change. The memorable article—memorable if not for anything else, at least for its lamentable violence and most objectionable indiscretion of language—in which the Syed challenged his opponent to a duel in France ("that paradise of the world"), employing most threatening and contemptuous expressions, was so far from tolerance, good sense, or prudence, that even the worst boy of the Surrender Not School in Bengal would blush to think of such a mode of repelling an attack. Therein the "Grand Old Man" brought himself for ever down to a very small man. All at once the halo was gone—the veil was uplifted—and the world discovered

the poor fetish which had been set up for its adoration. This article did that in a few months which it would have taken Samiullah Khan and the Punjab opponents of the Aligarh Raj years, if the controversy were continued. The staunchest friends of the Syed were in a fix. All they could do was to mutter, with lowered heads, that they were extremely sorry to read it. They have up to this time not been able to find any explanation for it. If that is the example of tolerance which the Aligarh reformer has to set for the younger generations of Mahomedans, then we trust his coreligionists are not prepared to follow it. They can not hope to benefit by it.

It is all very good to talk of petty jealousies and private and personal motives and quarrels in order to make a respectable impression upon the general public unposted in the points in dispute. There is no such ignoble issue between the Syed and his present opponents, as far as we know. The difference is fundamental. It is a question of principles that divides them. These principles are interwoven with the Mahomedan faith as well as social and educational systems, and it was on these only that so many of the best men cut off their connection with the Aligarh College and its founder. They knew what was best for the education and advancement of their co-religionists, but they were not able to pursue those legitimate objects under the yoke of their stern task-master. Accordingly, instead of frittering away their efforts and energies in incessant and useless struggle, or of blindly following a leader, whose object is self-aggrandizement at the expense of the public and under the veil of patriotism and reform, they have set up shop on their own account, far from their old senior partner. These are not men who can be branded with the charge of petty jealousies. They have shown to the world of what stuff they are made. Notwithstanding the tooth and nail opposition of the Syed's powerful organization, they have successfully established a Boarding House on their own principles, to be managed entirely according to their own views.

The Punjab "Anjumani Hemayati Islam" have also made arrangements to start a Mahomedan college of their own at Lahore which will be a *fait accompli* in a few months. Their proposal is also being severely attacked from all sides by the *protégés* and friends of Sir Ahmed and is discouraged in every way, but it has the support and sympathy of all good and impartial leading Mahomedans in India. The whole orthodox world of Mahomedan India, embracing all the out-and-out denouncers of the anti-Islamite principles and proclivities of the great Knight, now beholds with astonished gratification the battle which is being fought by the mutineer generals and troops of his own army. That mutiny carries the blessings of the pious, who are glad to think that it is for a just and good cause. The mutineers are gradually enlisting the sympathies of all their fellow-Mussalmans, outside the influential but microscopic minority of the Aligarh party.

We have exceeded our limits, but we are loath to part without one general word, which is pertinent to the Mahomedan controversies of the day. Englishmen are too apt to think that those Mahomedans who dress in *their* costume and freely drink and eat with them, are the most tolerant and enlightened members of their creed. But genuine tolerance and enlightenment are not to be tested by ones dress, food, or what he talks to please Europeans. It is not

even tested by what a man writes in pamphlets for circulation in private to a chosen few, but one must be judged from his public and private life, his political and social acts and his public writings and dealings with people. There are men who though they do not care to look hideous as imitation Europeans or who would not eat with Europeans at the risk of their self respect, nevertheless are most tolerant and enlightened (according to their lights and also European and Western lights.) They are not a whit inferior in ability, knowledge, information, character, political sagacity, strength of character and public spirit to any anglicized Mahomedan gentlemen, and who are ready to compete, as they have competed—not unsuccessfully but with advantage—with many enlightened and admired gentlemen of other communities.

THE PATRIOT OF CHANDERNAGORE.

WE have lost an honoured relation and friend, and the French Republic her most eminent native subject in Bengal. Baboo Prankissen Chaudhuri is dead. Of late years, his health had broken down. His heart had become affected. One evening he left us abruptly to fall down insensible in his coach—the effect, as he afterwards said, of the strong pull of tobacco he took at our place. He placed himself under an eminent member of the Faculty, who treated him for weeks without effect. Meanwhile, dropsy supervened and he was hastening to dissolution when Hindu Medicine was tried as a last resource, with wonderful success. The patient was brought round. He was on his legs again—he again drove out and came to see us, and on one or two occasions went out to transact business, but he was an altered man. He was marked. Only the greatest care could give him another long lease. That care, we are afraid, he failed to take and he was seized again. This time there was no escape. The Kaviraj who had saved him before, said so from the outset of the second attack. He lingered through three weeks, latterly in an unconscious state, and then died.

He came of a historic though fallen family. His ancestors were the patrons and chief native servants of the French in this Province. During the revolutions and wars of the middle of the 18th century, they remained true to the French, and with the French they went to the wall and were crushed under British jealousy and vengeance. Nevertheless Chandernagore will not soon forget her old Chaudhuris. They are a poor lot, however, with all the pride of the Spaniard without worldly possessions to sustain it. Prankissen's father Ramnarain left him, as he used to relate, besides a little house to live in, ten annas, in cash—about 1s. 3d. but with the obligation to perform the expensive obsequial ceremonies, and maintain the family, and give himself education. He performed the ceremonies and discharged the other duties as well as a boy of fourteen, under the guidance of an only sister, elder than him, could be expected to do, by selling such little effects as he possessed. The wolf did not permit him to pursue his studies. With the little education that he had received at the Free Kirk school at Hoogly, he was glad to secure a small teachership which was the beginning of one of the most successful lives in our community. With native energy he went on step by step until he earned wealth and distinction. It is a remarkable trait of character that though an "educated Baboo" and for all his poverty an undoubted gentleman by birth, he quietly abandoned the respectability of a teachership to accept the kicks and cuffs seasoned with perquisites of the humbler and almost menial employment of a Bazaar Sircar. That was the turning point of his career. He had no cuffs or kicks to endure, as he would never give any pretext for them. His lowly occupation was his school of commercial education, making him acquainted with the geography and economic products of the market, the ways of the dealers and of the brokers, the wants of different classes and of the different European houses, and so on. His skill and trustworthiness recommended him, his devotion brought him forward. His employers were astonished at the proofs of education given by their Sircar. His self-restraint no doubt told upon these Scotchmen. He was at once lifted up and made an accountant, and then a still

superior assistant, and not long after he was advanced to the highest office in their gift—that of Banian, to hold it, as no Banian before had held it, on honour.

For many years he was the chief native officer in the establishment of Messrs. George, Henderson & Co. with authority extending over the Borneo Co.'s, since Baranagar Jute Manufacturing Company's, great factories. He had already learnt by the example of his master Mr. Knowles (senior partner of Messrs. George, Henderson & Co.) to speculate in the stocks. Proceeding warily in this tempting game, he had made some money by it, while he had from the first saved from his scanty earnings as much as he could. So when, after the departure of his old masters, new men who had formerly deferred to him, rose to the head and exhibited their jealousy of him, he could afford to retire on a fine competence. He had always kept two houses, one in Calcutta and another at Chandernagore. The latter he had improved into a spacious sumptuous residence. He thought it was time for him to enjoy home life. But it was more easy to retire from an office than to stop the lifelong habit of work. He now turned his attention to the public good. He became one of the most active public spirited citizens of the French settlement. Whether it was a famine or an epidemic that scourged the inhabitants, he was to the fore. On the establishment of the commune, he came forward to assist in making self-government a reality. He was the only native Indian who has yet been elected Mayor of Chandernagore, and he left a distinguished record of his term of office in better roads and better conservancy. In view of events looming in the future, he advocated the cultivation of the French language by the Indian people, and delivered on the subject a lecture in French which was noticed at length in our columns. He started a self-acting scheme of medical education in Europe for a limited but ever increasing number of native youths, and with this view expended several thousand Rupees. Two gentlemen are already back under the system. He tried also to send Bengalis to France for technical education. Nor was he an unsympathetic observer of the politics of his fellow-Indians in British territory. He took part in more than one movement to which he was invited. He offered a prize on a history of the imprisonment of Baboo Surendra Nath Banerjee and the great agitation thereupon. Unfortunately, no adequate and deserving account was presented.

These numerous services could not go unrecognised, the more so as he was in communication with many eminent Frenchmen. As the most intellectual of the principal natives of Chandernagore, he was necessarily thrown in contact not only with every *Chef* of the Settlement, but also with distinguished travellers from Europe. M. Rouvier and other French politicians and literary men knew and appreciated him. In 1880 he received a gold medal for devotion to public good from the French Republic. In 1887 the Republic honoured him with the title of an Officer de Academie and sent him the gold medal of the distinction. In 1889 the Association Universelle sent him a gold medal for philanthropy and again in 1890 they made him an Academie des Palmiers.

Babu Prankissen Chaudhuri was born on January 1, 1834, and died at 3 O'clock in the afternoon of the 18th April 1892.

He was something more than a benevolent public spirited citizen. He was a man of singular individuality. He was not an amiable man, perhaps, and had serious weaknesses due to his origin and early troubles and associations as well as his later surroundings, but he was unquestionably a remarkable character. He had enormous momentum. Under happier circumstances he might have done wonders. As it was, his life, if it could be adequately written, would be more valuable to our people than the biographies of many of our princes and politicians.

SIMULTANEOUS ADOPTION.

Judgment of the Lords of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council on the Appeal of Surendrakeshav Roy *v.* Doorgasundari Dasse and another, and, by order of Revivor, *v.* Khettar Kristo Mitter, from the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal; delivered 6th February 1891.

Present: Lord Watson, Lord Hobhouse, Lord Morris, Sir Richard Couch.

[Delivered by Lord Hobhouse.]

On the 19th April 1879 Rajah Bejoykeshav Roy, being at the point of death, made his will in the following terms:—

"I am now ill. God forbid it, but if any mishap occur therefrom, and from fear thereof, I do while of sound mind dedicate and give to Sree Sree Isshur Annapoorna Thakooranee, the Thakoor

established by my deceased father, all the ancestral and self-acquired moveable and immoveable properties, zemindaries, and Putnee, &c., whether in my own name or banamee, to which I am entitled and of which I am in possession. I have no sons or daughters of my loins. I have two wives living, *viz.*, Sreemutty Rance Nobo Doorga the elder and Sreemutty Rance Doorgasundari the younger. Each of the two Rances will adopt one son. God forbid it, but if the son adopted by either Rance should die, or be unfit for duty by reason of illness of any kind, then in such a case she will be competent to take in adoption a second son, and so on to a third. The two adopted sons of both wives shall remain the shebait of the whole of the moveable and immoveable property dedicated to Annopoorna Thakoorance aforesaid. They will carry out the supervision and the improvement of the said property. But they will do everything according to the advice of all the principal officers appointed by me. They will not be competent to make gift or sale of the different properties. Up to the time that the said two adopted sons do not attain their majority, my aforesaid two wives will exercise the care and control of all the said properties, and in carrying out these duties they shall take the advice of all the principal officers which have been appointed by me. They will not be competent to act otherwise. When the two adopted sons shall have attained their majority, and shall have acquired sufficient knowledge for the preservation of the property, my two wives shall make over to them as shabaets, to their satisfaction, all the property dedicated to the *Issur Deb sheba*. Out of the income of the property dedicated to the *Deb sheba*, &c., after performing the *sheba* of the above-mentioned Annopoorna Thakoorance, and the Sree Sree Issurs established by my ancestors and myself, and after meeting the prescribed monthly allowances, and after performing the daily and fixed rites and ceremonies, as they are now performed and met, out of the profits which shall remain, each adopted son shall receive at the rate of 1,000 (one thousand) rupees monthly. Therefore, while of sound mind and understanding, I execute this instrument of will. Finis, date 7th Bysack 1286."

The next day the Rajah died, and the two Rances mentioned in his will became his heirs-at-law. The estate is a large one. There is no precise evidence of its amount, but it is stated that the yearly income is not less than a lac of rupees. The elder Rance appears to have relied for advice mainly upon her brother Kaliprosono, and a pleader named Tarrucknauth; the younger upon her father Bhubodaini Mitter, and a pleader named Upendra Bose. There was a long delay in obtaining probate of the will, which, however, was granted to the Rances on the 30th December 1880.

Very soon after the Rajah's death, Tarrucknauth expressed an opinion that a simultaneous adoption of two boys, such as the Rajah contemplated, was not lawful, and after some discussion within the walls of the Rajbari, a case was prepared by Tarrucknauth for an eminent barrister, Mr. Phillips, to advise both the Rances as to their position. On the point of adoption, Mr. Phillips's opinion was to the effect that, though the law was not completely settled, a double adoption would not be valid, and that the will did not authorize any adoption other than a double one.

The ladies determined to make a double adoption. How far they were guided by legal advice, how far by a pious desire to fulfil the directions of their husband, we cannot tell. They and their advisers certainly knew of the legal doubts and difficulties attending a double adoption. But one thing was quite clear. If they were to procure sons for their husband at all, it must be by the simultaneous adoption of two, for the will authorized no other course. It was impossible even to try the question whether their husband's wishes could be fulfilled, unless two boys were found whose parents were willing to give them in adoption one for each Rance.

The boys were found. On the 20th May 1879, one month after the Rajah's death, and the day of his shradh, the double adoption was made. The elder Rance adopted the Plaintiff, who is the natural son of one Mirtunjoy, and was then a boy of less than nine years. The younger Rance adopted a child about a year old, the natural son of her cousin Hurrydass Ghose. She and her adopted boy are the Defendants in the suit.

No long time elapsed before there occurred the familiar incident of quarrels between the two wives. Some argument has turned upon these quarrels; but we do not know what they were about, or what was their duration, or when there was peace, and when war. Pearymohun, who was Kaliprosono's man of business, and went often to the Rajbari with communications to the Rances, tells us (*Rec.*, p. 218).—"The ladies were on good terms with each other for some time. . . . They were not on good terms at the time of the adoption; they had fallen out three or four days before. I heard there was a quarrel. I did not hear what it was about. They had made up, and were on good terms for ten and fourteen days, and then there was a quarrel, and this way it went on. When there are two co-wives these quarrels occur." That is a probable statement of the case. But whether in the intervals of peace, or notwithstanding quarrels, they managed to do business together.

On the 5th July 1879 they executed a document of great importance, *viz.*, an *ikrar* relating to their management and enjoyment of the estate. After referring to the Rajah's will, and stating that "he had made over to both of us as shebait the responsibility of looking after the property," and after mentioning the direction to adopt, they continue thus :—

"In accordance therewith on the 7th Joistee last we have together, at the same time and with reciprocal consent, each taken a son in adoption in accordance with the *Shasters* and general usage; that is to say, I, Sreemutty Rance Nobodoorga, have taken as a son Sree Keshav Lall Dutt third son of Sree Mirtunjoy Dutt inhabitant of Hautkhola in the town of Calcutta, by changing his former name and naming him Sreeman Coomar Surendrakeshav Roy; and I, Sreemutty Rance Doorgasundari, have taken as a son the third son of Sreejoot Baboo Hurrydass Ghose inhabitant of Senhat in the district of Hooghly, and have had him named Sreeman Coomar Annoda Persaud Roy *alias* Coomar Norendrakeshav Roy. The said two Coomars have become the heirs and representatives of our deceased husband, in the same way as if they had been sons born of his loins. During the present minority of the two sons we as their mothers and guardians will continue to rear and take care of them. With regard to the rights of the said two sons, neither we nor any of our heirs will ever be competent to raise any objection."

They then state that it is necessary to make rules for the preservation and supervision of the property, and covenant that they will in equal shares as shebait of the Thakoorance continue in possession of and preserve the debutter property; paying in equal shares the various charges on it; and that if either does not pay her share she shall be liable to indemnify the other. Then they go on :—

"After the debts of the estate have been liquidated, then after meeting the fixed expenditure we will both of us divide and take in equal shares the money which shall be left in the joint *tool* (till). And out of that money, meeting our respective necessary expenses and the expenses of the maintenance and education of our respective adopted sons, whatever surplus money remains, we will keep the same in our respective custody; and when our respective adopted son attains his majority we will make the same over to him to his satisfaction. Besides this we will not be liable to any one else for an account of the said money. In order that the collections and supervision of the zemindaries and putnee talooks and mokurree and lakhraj mehals, and all the other immoveable property left by our husband, may be performed without any hindrance, keeping a few of the properties in *khas tehsil*, we have given Izarah of all the rest of the property. The expenditure which has been fixed for the performance of the *Deb sheba* and the daily and fixed ceremonies, &c., as well as all that will have to be performed in accordance with the will of our husband, the money for the said expenses, we will both of us provide in equal shares. And so that there may be no dispute in respect of the performance of the said *Deb sheba*, and the daily and fixed ceremonies, &c., each of us will for one year at a time in rotation take upon herself the whole responsibility of the *Deb sheba*, and the daily and fixed ceremonies, &c. And I, Sreemutty Rance Nobodoorga, being the elder, have taken the first turn."

The Izara mentioned in this *ikrar* was effected by two contemporaneous deeds. By one of them 13 mehals were demised for five years to Kaliprosono, and by the other 10 mehals were demised for a like term to Bhubodaini. The rents are reserved to the two Rances in equal shares. The Appellate Court below has thought that this transaction throws light on the object of the *ikrar*; but their Lordships can hardly appreciate its bearing on the case.

The two boys were taken into the Rajbari, and were there treated as adopted sons till after the death of the elder Rance. That event happened on the 28th July 1884. Almost immediately afterwards disputes arose between the younger Rance and the Plaintiff or his friends, and this suit was commenced on the 20th August in that year.

The suit is in effect one for the administration of the Rajah's will, but with an addition which was made by amendment for the purpose of raising a claim under the *ikrar*. At the hearing in the original Court it was contended on the Plaintiff's behalf, first, that his adoption was prior in point of time to that of the younger boy and valid on that ground; secondly, that a simultaneous adoption was valid in law; and, thirdly, that the will carried the shebaitship to any one who was adopted according to its terms, whether his adoption was or was not good in law. The Judge of the Original Court, Mr. Justice Norris, decided against the Plaintiff on the first two points, and in his favour on the third.

Both parties appealed, and the Court of Appeal agreed with the Original Court on the first two points, about which there is now no longer any question. On the third point they differed from the Original Court. But they considered that there were still questions arising on the acts of the Defendant, the younger Rance, and on the 19th March 1886 they made an order of remand in the following terms :—

"It is ordered that this suit be remanded to the Court below

to try the following issue, that is to say,--whether the said Defendant (Appellant) had so acted as to be estopped from denying the Plaintiff's title, or to have made herself a trustee for him to the extent of the interest which he claims. And that the said Court do take any additional evidence that may be adduced by either party for that purpose, and do return its finding upon such issue to this Court, together with the evidence taken."

Upon this remand the case was again tried before Mr. Justice Norris, and a great quantity of evidence was taken, of which some is relevant to show the knowledge possessed by the Ranees of their position in May and July 1879, and also to show the connection between the adoption and the *ikrar*. The Original Court concluded "that the Ranees agreed to execute the *ikrar* to preserve the rights of their adopted sons," and formally found the issue in favour of the Plaintiff.

The Defendant, the younger Ranees, then appealed, when the Appellate Court reserved the finding of the Original Court, and dismissed the suit. Their views are expressed in a full and elaborate judgment, but, so far as they have been relied on by the younger Ranees at this bar, may be briefly summarized. It is not denied that both the Ranees knew of the invalidity, or doubtful validity, of the adoption they made. But it is said that the *ikrar* was not thought of before the adoption; that it was not made in consequence of the legal difficulty about the adoption, but to settle quarrels, to provide for the management of the estate, and to enable the brother of one Ranees and the father of the other to get the leases which they did get. It was therefore a separate contract between the Ranees, to which the boys were strangers, and which they could not enforce.

The Plaintiff now appeals from the decree dismissing his suit, and the whole case is thus opened. It seems to their Lordships that the issue which was tried on remand is not conceived in very apt terms, because there may be no estoppel binding the younger Ranees, and no trust except in a somewhat strained use of the term, and yet she may have entered into a bargain which she is bound to make good to the extent of her interest in the estate. But their Lordships, having the whole case before them, are at liberty to draw such conclusions as the allegations and proofs warrant. If the Plaintiff has a good claim under the *ikrar*, he is entitled to enforce it in this suit. The points substantially urged on his behalf at the bar are, first, that he takes as sufficiently described by the will, and, secondly, that he can sustain a claim against the younger Ranees personally by virtue of the *ikrar*. It is not now contended that his adoption is valid in law, as indeed it clearly is settled that it is not.

Their Lordships concur with the Appellate Court in the opinion that the Plaintiff can take nothing under the will. They do not find it necessary to give any opinion on the question whether a gift to persons whose description does not import that they should be born in the donor's lifetime can be valid, because they think the case rests on a clearer ground. There is no gift to the adopted sons except in the character of shebaites. And it would require very strong and clear expressions indeed to show that a Hindoo gentleman contemplated introducing as shebaites of his family Thakoor, two persons unknown to himself and strangers to his family. There is not a trace in this will to show any such intention, or to show that the testator doubted the legality of his scheme, or thought of any adoption but a legal one.

The original Court decided in favour of the Plaintiff on this point, in reliance on the authority of *Dey v. Dey* (2 Indian Jurist N. S. 24). But in that case the testator had himself made a double adoption, and the boys lived with him and were called and treated as his adopted sons. As regarded them, there was strong ground for saying, as the Judges all agreed in saying, that a gift to his "adopted sons" was meant to go to the two boys whom he actually knew as such. Then the question arose as to another boy, who was substituted on the death of one of the original two, in pursuance of a power given by the testator to his widow. Was he too sufficiently described? The Court, though not unanimously, held that he was, on the ground that he answered the same description which was applicable to the boy for whom he was substituted, and fell within the same intention of the testator to give his property in moieties to the two who had gone through the form of adoption. Their Lordships need not say whether they would decide that case the same way if it were before them. It is sufficient that it differs from the present case in an essential circumstance which governed the decision.

Adopted sons then being out of the question, what becomes of the property? The younger Ranees says that nothing can be more simple. All is given to the Thakoor, the heirs become shebaites, and manage the property in the usual way. But the matter is not quite so simple. It is true that by the first sentence of the will all is given to the Thakoor; and though in the plaint the question is mooted whether the gift is made *bonâ fide* (and of course such gifts may be a mere scheme for making the family property inalienable) it has not been really disputed. Nor indeed could it well be disputed in this case. For the last part of the will shows clearly enough that the income was to be applied first in performing the

sheba of the Thakoor who is mentioned as the object of the gift, and of other family Thakoors, and in meeting the prescribed monthly allowances, and in performing the daily and fixed rites and ceremonies "as they are now performed and met." The testator must have been well aware that after all these charges had been met there would be a very large surplus. In fact he directs that out of the surplus each adopted son shall receive Rs. 1,000 monthly; but of the residue after that he says nothing.

There is no indication that the testator intended any extension of the worship of the family Thakoors. He does not, as is sometimes done, admit others to the benefit of the worship. He does not direct any additional ceremonies. He shows no intention save that which may be reasonably attributed to a devout Hindoo gentleman, *viz.*, to secure that his family worship shall be conducted in the accustomed way, by giving his property to one of the Thakoors whom he venerates most. But the effect of that, when the estate is large, is to leave some beneficial interest undisposed of, and that interest must be subject to the legal incidents of property.

In this case the Ranees were the testator's heirs. As heirs they would take the shebaitship. In some cases doubts have been expressed whether women ought to be shebaites; but whatever may be the force of those doubts, they can hardly apply to this case, seeing that the Rajah appoints nobody but his wives to perform the duties which his sons cannot perform by reason of nonage. Neither in this case can any question arise between the shebait and the heir, for they are the same persons. It appears to their Lordships that after performing their prescribed duties as shebaites, the Ranees became entitled to the beneficial interest in the surplus for the widow's estate. If that is so, each of them could contract so as to bind her own interest. The question now is whether the younger Ranees has done so.

It was earnestly urged at the bar that the younger Ranees is estopped from denying the Plaintiff's claim. Their Lordships cannot assent to that. They observe that the word "estop" is often used in Indian cases very loosely to denote obligations which do not rest on estoppel at all. Such uses of the word are not countenanced by the definition of estoppel in Section 115 of the Indian Evidence Act. It would indeed be difficult to see how the younger Ranees, who represents the whole inheritance in an administration suit, could be prevented from pleading anything but the true state of the case. However that may be, it is not the fact that she has caused anybody to believe something to be true which she now alleges not to be true. She is entitled to raise any defence which the facts of the case will support.

The arguments to show that she has undertaken a trust appear to their Lordships to be verbal rather than substantial. The younger Ranees has not, by her dealings with the elder or with the boys, possessed herself of any property which she would not have got otherwise. The adoption indeed would, if it were legal, deprive her of property. There is no trust independently of the contract she has made. If that binds her to give the Plaintiff certain benefits she must give them; if it does not, she is not bound in any other way. The essential question in this case is one of contract.

To solve this question, let us first see what the position of the parties was. It is quite clear that, though aware of the risk of illegality, the Ranees were determined on a literal execution of their husband's wishes. For that purpose it was necessary, not only that they should act in combination together, but that they should procure two boys to take part in the operations. It is no slight matter for a boy to be passed from one family into another. Even in England such a thing cannot be done without a serious effect, for good or ill, on the boy's welfare. In India the ties of family life are far stricter, and if a boy has been transplanted from his own family into another by a *de facto* adoption, and then the adoption turns out to be invalid in law, and he is rejected out of his adopted family, his relations to his natural family must be seriously disturbed. Whether his previously existing legal status would be taken away is a point not calling for any opinion. Assuming that the Plaintiff could return after an absence of five years, and so resume his legal position, it is impossible that his personal position should be the same as if the tie to his family had never been broken.

Is then the *ikrar* a transaction standing entirely by itself, a mere arrangement for the convenience of the two Ranees, or is it the latest in a series of transactions, beginning with the resolve of the Ranees to make a double adoption? Tarrucknath, who prepared the draft, died before the remand, and therefore has given no evidence as to the connection between the adoption and the *ikrar*. His bill of costs is in evidence, which shows only that the *ikrar* was for control and management of the estate, and for effecting an amicable settlement between the Ranees. Kaliprosono says that, when the question of adoption was discussed before the adoption, it was first suggested that the *ikrar* should be executed; that the suggestion emanated from Tarrucknath, and Mr. Phillips's opinion had then been received. Pearymohun says that he explained the opinion to the Ranees, and communicated to them Tarrucknath's advice to take two boys in adoption, and afterwards execute

an ikrar, and that the rights of the adopted sons would be preserved. He adds that the elder Rance assented to that personally, and that Bhobodaini assented for the younger. Gobind Chunder, one of the amla, says that he was present on that occasion; and he confirms Pearymohun in essentials. He differs however in saying that the younger Rance expressed her assent, whereas Pearymohun says that she did not, but her father did. Hurrydass Ghose, the natural father of the younger boy, speaks to a conversation with the younger Rance, in which she stated that "We two Rances have agreed between us that we will take two boys, on each, according to the terms of the will of our husband, and after taking two boys in adoption we will give them such a pucca writing that their interest will not be jeopardized, and even if such adoption should not be held valid, we will by the document we intend to give make over our respective rights to those boys." The same assurance, he says, was repeated by her in her father's presence on another occasion before the adoption. Answering questions in cross-examination he says, "When she said she would give a writing I consented. I said, 'I will give you the child, and you can do what you think proper.' I did not make it a condition, but when she said she would give a writing I was quite satisfied." This witness is commended and relied on by the original Judge.

On the other hand, the younger Rance and Bhobodaini deny the whole story; but they were so entirely discredited before the Original Court that their denials are of no value, nor does the Appellate Court rely on them. They rest principally on Tarrucknauth's bill of costs, and on statements of Upendra Bose, who, though advising one of the parties, states that "nothing was said as to securing the rights of the adopted sons," and contradicts some statements made by Pearymohun respecting Mr. Phillips's opinion. They also rely on the fact that Mirtunjoy, the father of the Plaintiff, and several members of the household, either knew nothing about the matter or have not been called as witnesses. It appears to their Lordships that the sole evidence of any weight against the connection between the adoption and the ikrar is that of Upendra Bose, who certainly might be expected to have known the facts. The quantity of evidence, and, as the Judge who heard it thought, the quality of it, is in favour of that connection; and the Appellate Court think it clear that the two things were connected, but not in consequence of the invalidity of the adoption.

But after all the main evidence is that of the ikrar itself. How can it be explained? The views of the two Courts have been before stated. Their Lordships quite concur with the Appellate Court thus far, that it may have been an object of the ikrar to settle quarrels between the Rances, though it does not seem to have been efficacious for that purpose, nor particularly well adapted for it. They might still quarrel over every item of joint expenditure, and over the division of the surplus, as effectually as when their interests remained joint. But their Lordships cannot understand how the ikrar facilitated the grants made to the relatives of the Rances, nor how those grants tended to settle quarrels, seeing that it was not provided that the elder Rance should take the whole rent reserved on Kaliprosono's lease, and the younger the whole reserved on Bhobodaini's, but the rents reserved on each lease were made payable to the two Rances in equal shares. Nor are they able to understand in what way the ikrar was connected with the adoption, as the Appellate Court think it clearly was, unless it were for the purpose of conferring an interest on the boys.

It is true that the document does not say outright that the adoption may be invalid, and that it is intended in that event to give the boys an interest in the widows' estate. Perhaps the framer of it did not choose to put on record the misgivings of the parties as to the legality of their action. Neither does it say that quarrels have arisen, and are to be settled in this way. The bolder course of stating the real motives and intentions would also have been the safer; but it is not followed. The deed does not on the face of it express either the motives supposed by the Original Court or those supposed by the Appellate Court. But those supposed by the Appellate Court do not account for the introduction of the boys, who on their theory have no place or part in the arrangement at all.

Nothing can be more explicit or precise than the recognition of the rights of the boys to nurture and to the enjoyment of the estate while it is remarkable that they are not mentioned at all in the character of shebaita. According to the ikrar, the Rances are shebaita. The boys are "heirs and representatives" of the Rajah. During their minority "we, as their mothers and guardians, will continue to rear and take care of them." With regard to their rights, "neither we nor any of our heirs will ever be competent to raise any objection." Furthermore, the Rances go on to effect a partition, not only between themselves, but between the boys until the younger attained majority. The surplus of each moiety is to be accumulated and handed over by each widow to her own son when he comes of age. If the boys were really heirs, such an arrangement as that would be futile; they would be joint heirs, and their property would be joint property. It could only take effect out of the widow's interest, and on the footing that the boys were not the owners. And all this is done by persons who are advised that there has been no legal adoption, and who are stated

by credible witnesses to have agreed to give a writing for the protection of the boys. The Rances wished to make the boys the heirs of the Rajah. In form they did so; they could not do it in substance. But they could, so far as their own interest would go, give them the same benefit out of the property as if they had actually been heirs. Their Lordships hold that the deed expresses this intention, and that by it the Rances became bound to one another and to the boys to carry it into effect. It is a startling thing to be told that the Rances could immediately afterwards turn the boys adrift, or that the survivor of them can do so after the arrangement has been in force for five years.

But it was strongly urged at the bar that the boys cannot enforce a contract to which they are not parties. It is true that they are not parties to the ikrar considered as an isolated transaction; nor could they be, by reason of their tender age. But if, as above shown, it is true that the ikrar is one of a series of transactions, that it is closely connected with the adoption, that the use of the boys was a necessary part of the attempt to accomplish the Rajah's wishes, and that their position in life was substantially altered by taking them away from their natural families for an indefinite time, it seems to their Lordships impossible to maintain that they are strangers in the matter, and that they cannot insist on the performance of the contract by which each Rance bound herself to the other to deal with the estate in their favour.

The decree of the Appellate Court dismissing the suit should be discharged. The decree of the Original Court cannot be restored, partly because it proceeds on the ground that the boys take under the will, and partly because the accounts directed by it are not applicable under the circumstances. Their Lordships think that the decree should take the following form:—

Declare that, according to the true construction of the testator's will, the property thereby given to the Thakoor therein mentioned was given for the purpose of securing the proper performance of the sheba of the said Thakoor and the other family Thakoors in the will mentioned, and the prescribed monthly allowances, and the proper performance of the daily and fixed rites and ceremonies as they were performed and met in the testator's lifetime.

Declare that the other dispositions of the will are inoperative, and that on the testator's death his two widows were his heirs-at-law, and as such became shebaita of the Thakoor, and entitled for the widows' estate to such interests in the testator's property as remained undisposed of by the will.

Declare that according to the true construction of the ikrar, and in the events which have happened, the Plaintiff on attaining his majority became entitled to the accumulations of one moiety of the surplus income of the testator's property after answering the various charges and outgoings in the ikrar in that behalf mentioned.

Declare that, upon attaining his majority, the Plaintiff became entitled to receive one moiety of such surplus income during the life of the Defendant Doorgasundari.

Declare that the Defendant Annadaprasad Roy, also called Norendrokeshav Roy, is entitled to the other moiety of such surplus income during the life of the Defendant Doorgasundari, and to the accumulations thereof.

Direct the Court below to order an account to be taken of the testator's property at his death, and of all the income thereof which has come to the hands of his widows, or of either of them, or of any person by their order or on their behalf or for their use during the life of the Defendant Doorgasundari.

Also an account of what has been properly expended upon the sheba, and monthly allowances, and the daily and fixed rites and ceremonies mentioned in the will, and upon the several outgoings and charges mentioned in the ikrar as precedent to the division of the property between the two widows, and of the respective necessary expenses of the widows, and of the maintenance and education of their respective adopted sons.

Any other questions arising out of the relief granted must be reserved for further directions by the Court below.

As regards costs, their Lordships consider that these unhappy disputes have arisen mainly out of the testator's will, and the apparently quite honest attempt of his widows and heirs to fulfil his intentions. It is only just that the costs of the parties in both the Courts below, including the costs of this appeal, should be defrayed out of the corpus of his estate.

They will humbly advise Her Majesty accordingly.

After this case had been argued, their Lordships received an intimation that the Defendant Doorgasundari had died. This death made the suit defective in two respects; first, by the death of the then heir the inheritance ceased to be represented; secondly, there was no person in whose presence the accounts directed against the widows could properly be taken. The proceedings were suspended, in order that these defects might be cured; but though the Rajah's heir has been brought into the suit, there is still no representative of the widows. Their Lordships, however, think that it is not necessary on account of this defect to delay the decree any longer. It rests with the Plaintiff to apply to the Court below for all such parties as are necessary for this purpose to be brought upon the record.

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3. The Bengali translation of the Memorial. Half anna.

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SPEECHES

ON THE

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delivered by

Sir A. Scoble, introducing the Bill in Council,
H. E. the Viceroy, on the same day,
Sir A. Scoble, on the passing of the Bill on
19th March,

The Raja of Bhinga,

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Krishnaji Lakshman Nulkar, C.I.E.,

The Hon'ble P. P. Hutchins,

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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 1892.

No. 522.

VISIONS OF THE PAST.

(A FRAGMENT.)

BY THE LATE MICHAEL M. S. DUTT,

Author of "The Captive Ladie," "Meghnathvada" (Bengali epic), &c., &c.

[Concluded from page 193]

X.

I look'd—it came that fulgent vision bright
In splendour which no human tongue may name!
Millions and millions of bright beings enshrin'd
On cars of winged radiancy and crown'd
In diadems all lustrous—sheening far,
Came thronging round a throne of purest ray,
Zon'd by the rain-bow brighter far than when
Upon yon blue expanse it once unful'd
Its gorgeous wings of purple and of gold,
To tell sad Nature, trembling still in awe,
Of dove-eyed Peace and everlasting rest—
Awful it was that throne and round it play'd
Flashes of vivid lightning—and methought
The æry beings which around it throng'd
Submiss and minstrant, veiled with starry wings
Their eyes before its fulgence—dazzling all,—
And on that throne I saw what once the Son
Of Buzi, by thee, Chebar! lucid stream—
When with thy liquid murmurs there he came
To mingle his sad plaint—a captive lone!
Th' unutterable Majesty Eterne! †

* * * *

XI.

I look'd—it came that fulgent vision bright—
A fleet of light upon a crystal sea!
And as it came the shadowy beings which throng'd
And hung around that bow'r of loveliness
Like misty curtains, fled speed-wing'd and fast,
—As when, Bengala! on thy sultry plains
Beneath the pillar'd and high arched shade
Of some proud Banyan—slumberous haunt and cool—
Echo in mimic accents 'mong the flocks,
Couch'd there in noon-tide rest and soft repose,
Repeats the dentening and deep-thunder'd roar
Of him—the royal wanderer of thy woods!
They fled—that darksome crew and as they fled
I saw that bow'r of beauty—but how chang'd—
How chang'd, alas! from primal loveliness!
As if some desolation-breathing blast
Had wing'd in blighting sweeps its dark career
Over its fairy beauty—withering all!
But where were they, the gentle beings and fair

* Gen., ix.

† Ezel., i.

I erst beheld within that blushing bow'r—
Pent in each other's arms in balmy rest?
Methought I saw them stand with pallid brow
Eclips'd—as when from out the starless realm
Of the dark Grave—by Fancy fondly woo'd—
In mid-night resurrection, the pale shade
Of what was once ador'd and beautiful,
Stands by the mourner's pillow—silently!
But as they saw that æry vision bright,
They fled like Guilt behind a leafy tree.—
I stood as one entranced and sight and sense
Slumber'd in deep oblivion and dark.

* * * *

XII.

I woke—that vision of ethereal ray
Had melted—and 'twas night again and dark,
With stars of sickly smile and pallid brow:—
I look'd tow'r'd that fair bow'r and as I look'd
I saw a sword of flame and fiery gleam
Wav'd round it by some viewless hand and fierce!
And on the silent plain that gentle pair—
Its tenants—wander in dim solitude.
They wept—but were those tears which gently flow'd,
Oh! were they tears which dark despair will wake
—'T' embalm the memory of our blasted hopes?
They wept—but not in dark despair—they wept
As Guilt—all penitent—when, Mercy! thou
Dost plead—nor plead in vain—in gentle strains
To justice stern to win redeeming grace!

NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THIS year, the Queen's birthday will be observed on the actual day—the 24th May. The Viceroy will hold a levée at Simla. The ball comes off on the 2nd June.

THE Lieutenant-Governor is due at Darjeeling today.

THE appointment of Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. Sandeman as Superintendent of Survey in Orissa, under Act V. (B. C.) of 1875, has been cancelled, and that of Mr. Herbert Reade Reilly Gazetted in his place. The Colonel has gone on short leave. On his return, he takes over charge of the Behar Cadastral Survey.

THE Sessions Judge of Lahore sentenced, under section 304, I. P. C., a Eurasian named Buston to 10 years' imprisonment for causing the death, in Mian Mir, by gun shot, of a native woman. The Chief Court has, of its own motion, called upon the Eurasian to show cause why his sentence should not be enhanced.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

THE Head Assistant in the office of the Director of Public Instruction will henceforth be dignified into Personal Assistant to the Director.

THE Sonthals are civilised enough to have introduced into their Parganas, by order of the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, the Probate and Administration, Succession Certificate, Revenue Recovery, the Indian Succession, the Administrator-General's, the Charitable Endowments, the Guardians and Wards, Cruelty to Animals, the Indian Emigration, the Cattle Trespass, the Indian Christian Marriage, Evidence, Criminal Procedure, and other general Acts of the Indian Statute-book.

THE Bengal Military Police Act V of 1892, comes, under order of the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, into operation from 1st May 1892.

THE Registrar of the Calcutta University notifies the following revised list of Centres for holding the examinations :—

Entrance.—Agra, Batisal, Berhampur, Bhagalpur, Burdwan, Chittagong, Cooch Behar, Dacca, Darjeeling, Debrugarh, Gauhati, Hughli, Indore, Jabalpur, Jaffna, Kandy, Katak, Krishnagar, Lahore, Midnapur, Nagpur, Patna, Rampur Baulia, Ranchi, Rangoon, Sylhet.

F.A.—Barisal, Berhampur, Bhagalpur, Burdwan, Chittagong, Cooch Behar, Dacca, Hughli, Jabalpur, Jaffna, Kandy, Katak, Krishnagar, Midnapur, Nagpur, Patna, Rampur Baulia, Rangoon.

B.A.—Dacca, Hughli, Jabalpur, Kandy, Katak, Nagpur, Patna, Rangoon.

THE next—the year's second—Criminal Sessions of the Bengal High Court will commence on Monday next, under the presidency of Mr. Justice Norris.

THE antiquated Zemindari Dak Cess in Bengal is not to be abolished. Government has, however, been so far moved that the cess, instead of being a variable charge, is to be fixed for at least five years, beginning with January 1893. It should, besides, be in tolerably round figures, if possible, such as eight annas, twelve annas, one rupee, one rupee four annas, and so on, and in any case there should be no pias and no decimals. The kist, also, should be a single one only, and its date should agree with the date of one of the land revenue kists, probably the largest one of the year.

ANOTHER jewel robbery scandal involving the honour of a gentlewoman is promised from England. The story as given by the London Correspondent of a Yorkshire newspaper is, that a lady of good position unaccountably missed a valuable brooch which she months after chanced to see exposed for sale as she passed a shop. She immediately claimed her own. The jeweller said he had purchased the brooch from a lady, mentioning her name. That lady was her dear friend—the wife of an officer in India—whom she remembered having assisted in packing for a journey and whose departure was followed by the discovery of her own loss. She did not care to make a fuss about the jewel, even though it was her pet ornament, but she could not have any further communications with her. So she wrote to her in India to that effect, stating the cause. That lady—the writee, if we may use such a word—denied the serious charge and in token of earnestness has gone to court against her old friend.

Cornhill contains some reminiscences of the late Frederick Lehmann from the pen of his son. There are in the article several capital stories about Lord Chief Justice Cockburn. The old man eloquent was a fine specimen of the British bear. Sir John Millais once said of him,

"You should never have that man on your premises without having the fire engines ready to act." One day Sir Alexander Cockburn and Sir Edwin Landseer were dining at Mr. Lehmann's house at Muswell-hill:—"When the ladies had left the table some one spoke of Shakespeare, and Landseer remarked that even Shakespeare had made mistakes, for in 'As You Like It' he makes 'a poor sequestered stag' shed 'big round tears.' 'Now,' said Landseer, 'I have made stags my especial study, and I know for a fact that it is quite impossible for them to shed tears.' Most of us were inclined to accept this statement as a curious and innocent Shakespearean commentary, but Cockburn suddenly startled us by turning upon Landseer and asking him in a loud voice, 'And don't you think you are committing a most unwarrantable impertinence in criticising Shakespeare?' A bomb exploding in our midst could not have created more dismay than this violent and unexpected exclamation."

HERE is a glimpse of the Lushais, from Mr. McCabe, Political among them :—

"I have regularly paid the Lushai coolies at the rate of 4 annas a day, and it was very amusing to note the manner in which they regarded the 4-anna piece. As a rule, they looked at it laughingly, and said it was a very small rupee; but some bestowed it ostentatiously on their children, implying that it was beneath their dignity to retain it. As soon, however, as they found that I was prepared to exchange a rupee for four 4-anna bits, the assumed indifference vanished, and I had to sit for some time imparting the elementary lesson that four quarters make one whole."

Notwithstanding all the nonsense about the "noble savage," savagery seems to be akin to simplicity of a particularly weak kind. We knew a poor demented fellow who was done out of his money by a dishonest neighbour with whom he deposited his Rupees and who afterwards returned him only the same number of two anna pieces, saying that the Rupees had been reduced to that condition, the depositor having made no timely provision for their feed.

M. CARNOT, son of the President of the French Republic, is on a visit to Calcutta.

OUR friend—the truest and best, if not the only true—Bahoo Sambhu Chunder Mookenjee has received from America, the Continent which made him a Doctor under the rather forbidding and jaw-breaking name of Sambul Mukhopadhyaya, a cordial invitation to attend the Annual Convention of the National American Institute of Homoeopathy which will be this year held at the seat of Federal Government in the United States.

Accompanying the letter of President Kinne, is a circular which is interesting as revealing the pride of the citizens of the great Republic in their capital and some of the sources of that pride. Accordingly, we give it entire for the benefit of our readers :—

"AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HOMOEOPATHY.

Local Committee of Arrangements :

J. B. G. Custis, M. D., *Chairman*, 110 East Capitol Street.
Wm. R. King, M. D., *Secretary*, 812 Eleventh Street N. W.

Washington, D. C., *January*, 1892.

DEAR DOCTOR :

As you know, the Institute will meet here June 13th; the Local Committee is anxious that the meeting shall be well attended and hopes that you will decide to come; take what you advise for your patients—a vacation, which can not be taken at a better time than between the winter and summer diseases. This meeting of the Institute will not be of advantage to you in a professional way alone, but the social relaxation and the many places of interest in the city will make the visit one of special interest; the sessions of Congress and all the activity that pertains to them, the Executive Departments, the Medical Museum with innumerable pathological specimens, and a medical library of nearly one hundred thousand volumes, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing where the paper money is produced, the largest Printing Office in the world, the Gun Factory, Mount Vernon, the Government Hospital for the Insane, and many other places of interest will all contribute to make attendance at the coming meeting memorable.

'What so rare as a day in June?' applies to Washington as well as to Massachusetts; the temperature is not excessive, comparing favorably with more northern cities, and many years it is quite cool for the season; vegetation is at its height; flowers are in full bloom—roses everywhere; the perfume of the honeysuckle fills the balmy evening air and the stroller is tempted far beyond the usual hour for retiring; the chill of the mountain and the dampness of the shore that come with nightfall are lacking here; the wide streets allow a free circulation of air, while abundant shade modifies the daily heat.

The Committee desires to see the wives and daughters and will make special provision for their entertainment.

Washington is the banner city in its representation in the Institute, more than three-quarters of her medical society being members; but we hope that you will do your best to make your town or county surpass us next year; if you can not bring the applicants with you bring their applications for membership and thus keep up last year's memorable record of admissions; let Unity and Fraternity be the motto of our meeting.

From Washington you can reach many points of interest: Old Point Comfort, Richmond, the battlefields, the mountain and seashore resorts, the Luray Caverns, and any northern or southern point quickly, easily and at moderate expense. The Pennsylvania, the Baltimore & Ohio, the Chesapeake & Ohio, and the Atlantic Coast Lines all concentrate here, with an unsurpassed car service.

The hotel arrangements will be ample and, the Committee thinks, satisfactory.

An excursion to Mount Vernon will be made a pleasant feature of the meeting.

In short, the Committee will do its best to help the visiting members enjoy their visit and urges you to come.

DR. SAMBUL MUKHOPADHYAYA,

Wellington Square, Calcutta, India."

THE two Mahomedans who were charged with having, in conjunction with others, outraged Ruttun Bai, a Bora girl, on the 15th February last, near Job's Circle in Mahaluxmi, were last week tried at the Bombay High Court Sessions. The common jury convicted them both, and the Judge agreeing sentenced them to transportation for life. Mr. Justice Bayley said that this was one of the worst case that had come to his notice and he extremely regretted that all the fellows concerned were not captured.

**

MEMBERS of Parliament are paid in every country except England. The sums paid in several of them are as follow :—

New Zealand ...	...	...	a year	£ 900
Belgium ...	...	...	"	" 200
Netherlands ...	...	...	"	" 200
South Australia ...	...	...	"	" 200
Victoria ...	...	...	"	" 300
France ...	...	...	"	" 360
Brazil ...	...	...	"	" 600
United States ...	...	...	"	" 1000
Allowance per day.				
Prussia ...	...	...	"	" 1
Canada ...	...	...	"	" 2
Queensland ...	...	...	"	" 2

Besides the above daily or annual honorariums, travelling expenses are paid in several of these countries. In India, non-official members of the Supreme Legislative Council coming from Madras or Bombay are paid Rs. 10,000 a year. About three lacs of rupees, it is said, were paid during the last session to the non-official members of the Supreme Legislative Council, as their travelling and other allowances.

THE total cost of the Assam-Bengal Railway line and its branches, extending over 742 miles in all, is estimated at £5,500,000. The Railway will be on the metre gauge, and will extend from Chittagong to a terminus in Upper Assam (where it will join the line of the Assam Trading Company), with branches to Chandpur, Silchar and Gauhati. The lines are divided into the following sections, *vis.*,

Main line	Length in miles	Cost in Rs.
1 Chittagong to Badarpur	258.17	2 crores and 4 lakhs.
2 Badarpur to Lumding (Hill Section)	115.57	2 crores and 2 lakhs.
3 Lumding to Makum junction	213.112	one crore and 43 lakhs.
Branches.		
1 Laksam to Chandpur	31.89	26 lakhs.
2 Lumding to Gauhati	110.50	83 lakhs.
3 Badarpur to Silchar	17.84	18 lakhs.

NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE House of Commons has rejected, at the second reading, by a majority of twenty-two votes, the Woman's Suffrage Bill. Mr. Gladstone spoke against it.

IT is said that Russia has offered to Persia a loan of half a million sterling at 6 per cent. interest to pay off Great Britain and the tobacco monopoly indemnity. How many millions does Russia herself borrow?

THE anarchists of Paris are avenging the arrest of Ravachol. The restaurant where he was arrested was completely wrecked on the 25th by the explosion of a bomb. The proprietor is seriously injured and is in a precarious condition.

THE trial of Ravachol and his four associates commenced on the 26th and concluded the next day. The trial was short and quiet. The chief culprit made a clean breast of the affair, narrating how he managed the explosions. The Public Prosecutor demanded a full verdict free from all pity. The Jury, however, found extenuating circumstances. Ravachol and Simon were sentenced to penal servitude for life and the remainder acquitted. There is public indignation at the sentences.

THE *Standard's* report of the fighting between Catholics and Protestants in Uganda, needs confirmation. It is not credited by the British Government.

MOWBRAY NICHOLL seems to be two different persons, Mowbray being the publisher and Nicholl, the editor of the anarchist paper the *Commonweal*. Both of them stand committed for trial.

THE American President's policy seems calculated to cheer up all who are suffering from the depreciation of silver.

In a message to the Senate regarding the Silver Conference, he expresses his belief that the full use of silver as a coin metal will promote the prosperity of peoples, at home and abroad. Accordingly, he will lose no opportunity to secure the largest use of silver.

ANOTHER unsavoury scandal! Another Honourable Roman in difficulty! The Hon'ble Mr. Patrick Nugent has been committed on the charge of indecent assault, on a girl, in a railway carriage, on the Brighton line. The accused strongly denies the charge.

TENDERS were invited by the Secretary of State for India for an Indian Railway loan of £1,300,000, at 3% interest with a minimum rate for tenders at 94. The list closed on the 29th. The tenders amounted to £4,050,000 at 96 1/3 and upwards. Those at the former figure received 10 per cent. and above in full.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL Sir Lewis Pelly, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., M.P., Bombay Staff Corps, who, in 1874, arrested Mulharao, is dead. He had some time back been reported ill, but with extraordinary elasticity he appeared at the Hamstead Constitutional Club on April 6, to deliver an address on "The Empire and its Responsibilities." It was a desperate feat, but death is not to be suppressed by pluck and endurance. It was on him on the 6th as a fortnight after when he expired. Pelly was the last of the grand old race of the Indian soldier-civilians. His death is a loss to the Empire.

It is curious that the announcement of the death of the old political, is followed by the news of the departure, next week, of the present Gaekwar accompanied by the Maharanee for England.

THE Indian Councils Bill is passing through Committee. On the 25th, Sir W. Plowden brought forward a series of amendments for adoption of elective principle, to be either withdrawn or rejected. Mr. Maclean's motion that the Viceroy should not adopt the elective principle without the consent of Parliament, too, found no favor. It was rejected by ninety-one votes against twenty-four. The amendment was opposed by Mr. Curzon who was of opinion that, besides creating friction, it assumed a danger which was neither here nor there. Mr. Maclean, with larger experience, contended that it was a mistake to suppose that no public opinion existed in India, as there was a free press which largely criticized Government action. And so much the better for it! This Member of Parliament was so terrified at the shadow of Parliamentary institutions for this country, that he was convinced that if representative government were granted, Great Britain must prepare to abandon India. Not yet—not so soon, Mr. Maclean! Referring to the Hume circulars, he thought that the writer deserved to be hanged or shot as a traitor. Hardly worth powder or rope, Mr. Mac. It would be taking him at his word, and giving him the pleasure of a new sensation. It would, perhaps, be just the thing he wants—just what he has been so long seeking to drive the public and Government to. It would be relief to the perturbed spirit. Martyrdom is the only chance left to the doubly disappointed man. Sober men would rather wish both writer and speaker safe within the walls of an asylum. Mr. Hume has replied to Mr. Maclean in a letter to the *Times*. He, of course, denies that he is a rebel. Except under Police pressure, few accused confess. But he is vain enough to regard himself as a Cassandra. He is certainly a horrible male vixen.

THE Indian Councils Bill has turned the head of Mr. Maclean, and drawn out the old Editor of the *Bombay Gazette*. He has taken to vilification of the Bengalis as the remote cause of the Congress and

the Bill. The people of this part of the Indies are the veriest scum of the earth. By way of *ecce signum*, he offers Macaulay. He writes to the *Globe* :—

Sir,—I see that you have given a prominent place in the *Globe* to a letter from a number of Bengalee gentlemen residing in London, who propose to hold a public meeting in order to denounce me for having, as they think, slandered their race in certain passages of my speech on the Indian Councils Bill. So far as I am concerned, they are welcome to hold as many public meetings as they like. But I should wish them to have for their guidance a correct version of what I really said. I contended that the success or failure of representative government is a question of race, and that education affects national character far less than is commonly supposed. I went on to say : 'The barons who could not sign their names to Magna Charta were as wise and far-seeing statesmen as Burke and Macaulay, and the simplest and most unlettered English peasant, who belongs to a race that has the instinctive love of freedom in its life-blood, and that has practised self-government and respect for individual rights from before the dawn of history, is more capable of taking part in the administration of public affairs than the highly gifted Bengalee, who can discourse as fluently as Mr. Gladstone himself, but whose people have been slaves, nay, the bondsmen of slaves, for fifty generations.' This is not a reproach ; it is a mere statement of a physiological fact.

The expression 'slaves,—nay the bondsmen of slaves,' is, of course, a reminiscence of a line in Byron's description of the modern Greeks under Turkish rule, and it is strictly appropriate to the condition of the Bengalees under the sway of the Mogul Emperors of India. There may be a slight flourish of rhetoric in the phrase 'fifty generations,'—one can never be certain as to a year or two in calculations of this kind—but the substantial accuracy of the statement cannot be seriously disputed. Compare Macaulay, in the essay on Warren Hastings :—'The physical organisation of the Bengalee is feeble even to effeminacy. During many ages he has been trampled upon by men of bolder and more hardy breeds. Courage, independence, veracity are qualities to which his constitution and his situation are equally unfavourable. His mind bears a singular analogy to his body. It is weak even to helplessness for purposes of manly resistance ; but its suppleness and its tact move the children of sterner climates to admiration not unmingled with contempt. What the horns are to the buffalo, what the paw is to the tiger, what the sting is to the bee, what beauty, according to the old Greek song is to woman, deceit is to the Bengalee. . . . all those millions do not furnish one sepoy to the armies of the company.'

If we enable this effeminate, untrustworthy race, by means of an adroit manipulation of 'the elective principle' contained in the Kimberley clause of Lord Cross's Bill to obtain the balance of power in the Legislative Council of India, the fighting race of India on whom we so largely depend for the protection of the empire will spit upon and spurn our rule. When such a catastrophe is brought within the range of possibilities, it seems to me to be the duty of a member of Parliament to speak out even at the risk of hurting the feelings of the amiable gentlemen whose wrath I have aroused. I am Sir, your obedient servant,—J.M. Maclean."

There let that exhibition of the malice and folly of the two Macs.—hail-fellows-well-met—stand gibbeted in lasting infamy !

HASHIM ALI, the disturber of the Black Mountain, has apparently spent his quiver, and is believed to be preparing how to make his peace with our Government on the best terms.

ON Friday s'ennight there was a flutter, if not panic, at Darjeeling, from the unexpected news that the Raja of Sikkim had suddenly fled from the country with his family. The origin of this movement was unknown, but its importance was obvious. Goaded by British interference, the king had gone northwards, to Tibet, and it was naturally feared that the flight would be followed by a raid from that country. An immediate strengthening of the garrison at Gnatong was recommended.

Since then distinct information has been received from Sikkim. It appears that the Raja avoided the more difficult direct route through his own frontiers, intending to reach Tibet by the easier Nepal pass nearest to Sikkim. In thus crossing over, however, into Nepalese territory, with his Lares and Penates, in every sense, his traps and paraphernalia, the whole party was detained at the Nepalese outpost by the Durhar garrison, pending orders from Katmandu. The Raja's movements were doubtless much impeded by the severe weather. His Rancee and young children, all suffered, and one infant died from the cold. The Lamas who had accompanied him returned when his object was discovered, and the very coolies deserted him.

It is reported from the Hills that drinking water is being sold at Simla at four annas a skin, so serious is the scarcity. We are almost glad, as glad as Sydney Smith would have been had a fat Anglican bishop been locked up in a railway carriage when an alarm of "Fire !" was given—the nearest thing to a bishop being burned—the witty Dean's condition *sine qua non* of railway reform. In this country we can never expect a Member of Council to die of thirst.

So we must content ourselves with the next best thing at Simla. The severity of this water famine at the door of our Gods may rouse all Olympus to do its duty in this connection. From Hills to plains, the whole empire is suffering from this dire calamity. What ! is the difficulty beyond statesmanship ?

AT the late attack on the Tuichong Camp by the Lushais, a remarkable feat of heroism was performed by a native private. The sudden appearance of the enemy found the guard on duty wide awake and equal to the emergency. The savages were promptly challenged by Saligram Singh, of the 3rd Bengal Infantry, who stood sentry. He was met by a discharge of bullets, of which two hit him in the right thigh. The poor fellow called out for help as he dropped. He dropped not flat on the ground, however, but only on his knee, to maintain the battle himself till the rest of his party came. This was not before he had expended ten rounds of ammunition. Of course, he received many wounds : his whole uniform, belt and all, was found riddled with shot. We hope the Commander-in-Chief will lose no time to show his appreciation of such soldierly conduct.

THE present French Republic seems as particular in its sumptuary regulations as the proudest Bourbon. Its *urzbeghi*—master of ceremonies—for introducing the foreign Ambassadors, is Comte d'Ormeson, a scion of an ancient house, who would have nothing to say to the flippant moderns who do not believe in the etiquette of costume. He has been waging resolute war against looseness of habit. According to an oft-quoted *mot* of his,

"That Government is in a bad way which cannot afford to buy a uniform for the Premier and his Minister."

He has succeeded in sending back the flaunting overcoat to its original obscurity. The British in Paris are specially unhappy at this. As a French paper says :—

"You can imagine that the English are rather surprised at having to appear in uniform or dress coat—the English, who even marry in an overcoat and grey trousers."

THE new British Ambassador is, of course, an exception to the rule of British barbarism. Lord Dufferin, indeed, is a citizen of the world, and is certainly more at home in Paris than he would be in London. Polished in manners, soft in voice and sweet in speech, and altogether fascinating, he is scrupulous, though not vain, in dress. He maintains the dignity of the embassy by exacting in his guests attention to propriety of costume as well as of conduct. Of late years, "politicals" and Civilians generally had been accustomed to appear at afternoon parties in morning dress or mufti. No such irregularities now. At the very first afternoon reception held by Her Britannic Majesty's Representative at the Court of the Republic, the rule was observed of uniform for those entitled to it and frockcoat and white cravat for the rest.

All that is quite in keeping with his Lordship's antecedents. Lord Dufferin's attention to sumptuary details was observed in his viceroyalty in the Far East. His argus eye could scarcely help noticing the looseness, in this particular, to which the native gentlemen were fast lapsing, and he naturally wished to arrest, if possible, their progress in an undesirable path. But he got small thanks for his solicitude in their behalf. His fine artistic sense, in especial, was shocked at the unfortunate taste of our countrymen to dress themselves up in the at once awkward and inconvenient habiliments of Europeans. One would have thought that the deliberate and politely worded advice of a cosmopolitan statesman, distinguished for his sympathy with Orientals and his admiration for the picturesque side of the Orient would not hurt the *amour propre* of our friends but rather lead them to see the error of their way. Not in the least ! The only effect of the well meant remark was burning indignation. Many of the Indian gentlemen never again showed their faces in viceregal presence, so long at least as the offending nobleman ruled. Nor was that all. Instead of brooding at home in silence over their wrong, they communicated their resentment to their people and agitated against him and vilified his administration. Here was the real secret of the crusade against Lord Dufferin by the Congress Camp and the Radical part of the native Press.

VICEADMIRAL Don Jose Maria Beranger who has returned to the charge of the ministry of the Marine, is a thorough Spanish knight and a true Hidalgo. He resigned in November last to save his honor.

And how was his honor in jeopardy, the reader fancies? He threw up the service of his country and left the cabinet simply to—fight a duel, with a literary man—the editor of the *Resumen*. The meeting took place in the suburbs of Madrid on the 6th November, at half past ten in the morning. The weather was forbidding, but the two Iberians were too dreadfully in earnest in their bloody resolution to brook delay. So under pelting rain they met. The word was given to fire but only one pistol—the admiral's—was discharged, without hurting. The knight of the quill's instrument would not go off. One would have thought that there would be an end of it and the two gentlemen would now part as friends. But the nicety of Peninsular honour was not yet satisfied. The bull-fight patronising Spaniard was not to be defrauded even by an accident out of his scene of blood. The Don had not given up the highest office in his profession to be content with a stage fight. He meant business. "I have not," cried he, "I have not come here for nothing." So they had another encounter. This time both pistols were properly discharged, though luckily without touching either belligerent. Honour was now declared to be satisfied.

We of the East can only wonder at all this. The Spaniards are of course civilised and Christian, while we are semi-civilised at best, and Heathen, besides being the slaves of slaves for fifty generations certain, by a year or two more or less, as the physiologico-historian or historico-physiologist in the House of Commons has calculated.—*Vide* his letter to the *Globe*.

AMONG the duties of the King in the Hindu system is to preserve trees. The ruler is particularly warned against cutting down fruit-bearing trees, the value of which to the people is obvious. In Great Britain the law recognises the value of trees and woods as things of beauty, enhancing the prospect. For some time a domestic feud is going on in a noble house touching arboricide. Matters have gone so far that the heir of the dukedom of Sutherland has arraigned his father. Young Lord Stafford has sought the protection of Court for the leafy patriarchs on the estate against the devastating policy or rather propensity of the present holder of the property. Our sympathies are entirely with the young nobleman. It is vandalism of the worst kind to demolish or injure trees. They are among the most important as well as most interesting of God's handiwork. They not only please the eye but also afford food and fuel, shelter and even raiment, to man and beast. Indeed, besides their direct benefit to man, they support and sustain countless beings which are indirectly more or less useful to him. All this is obvious, but there are other truths not so obvious but scarcely less important. The connection of arboriculture with climatology and meteorology has been recognised in our day. We remember when trees and woods were regarded as pests—the source and haunt indeed of pests—of disease and death. Under this lamentable delusion, venerable monarchs of the botanical kingdom—monumental cocoanuts and even worshipful banyans were ruthlessly cut down in this country by a foreign magistracy proud of their pseudo-science. Within the last twenty or twenty-five years, however, a change came over the spirit of their dream and the work of God was spared. Plant life came to be regarded with more respect and even affection. But the mischief perpetrated could not be rectified. The felled cocoanut, mango and burr trees could not be restored. Much as science had advanced even to the accomplishing of marvels hitherto un contemplated, we cannot make anything like a tree, or so much as a leaf of the meanest plant. Hence the responsibility of respecting tree life all the greater.

Trentham with its fine pieces of water and its "leafy labyrinths" is a paradise in the midst of the hideous gaping coal-pits and pottery kilns and chimneys of Staffordshire. What a pity to disestablish the woods of such a bower! The "king of kings" was so struck with the magnificence of Trentham and the evidence of wealth all about the place as well as the cost of his reception there, that he expressed his wonder to the Prince of Wales how the monarchy permitted such a powerful subject. The Imperial visitor went so far as to advise the beheading of the Duke for all the pains his Grace took to entertain his Majesty in a right sumptuous style. What a perversity that the Duke should now himself try to denude his own palace and pleasure-grounds and deface and destroy the work of generations!

REGARDING the leader in our last "Sir Auckland Colvin's Address to the Mahomedans at Allahabad," a Mahomedan under date Lucknow,

April 27, writes to us:—

The Mahomedan community cannot be sufficiently thankful to you for your able and disinterested advocacy of their cause. I have read with great pleasure and interest your very just and sound remarks on the historical speech of Sir Auckland Colvin, and can assure you that the article in question is being greatly admired and eagerly read by all English-knowing and educated Mahomedans of these provinces. If you had not, with your usual fearlessness and independence, explained the bearing and the true meaning and the delicate and hazy references made in that address, it would have remained a puzzle for ever to such of the public who were not fully aware of the history of the Trustees Bill quarrel and the unfortunate stormy controversy, mostly in the Urdu journals of the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces, which followed. The attacks against Samiullah Khan and his party were directed from many directions in which the *Surmore Gazette* took a most leading part. It is an open secret that this paper was started under the patronage of the Aligarh party by a protégé of Sir Ahmed Khan in some obscure place in the Panjab (as the name indicates) for the sole purpose of dislodging Samiullah Khan from his strong position by somewhat a flank attack and diverting the attention of the public from the centre of the battle field and its main issues. For months and months it went on pouring all sorts of bullets on the heads of the Syud's opponents without any regard for their position or past services. Other friendly Urdu papers of Delhi and Lucknow, including the *Aligarh Gazette*, fired at the enemy under the cover of this fire from their high position.

The lamentable young minister Munirul Mulk, younger brother of Sir Salar Jung II, was also utilised for this purpose, and a long article appeared in his name supporting Sir Ahmed Khan, although a glance at it would show that it was not written by him and that it bore unmistakable marks of the fingers of some experienced and staunch friend of the Syud's. Hyderabad nobles and officials are not seldom used in that fashion, as you must have seen.

Had Sir Auckland Colvin seen all that and known the dodges employed for defeating Samiullah Khan and his friends, he would have been satisfied as to the just cause of the opposition of these gentlemen. The committee which passed the so-called Trustee Bill was a packed jury. Every right-minded and well-informed man knows it to be a hole and corner business, all prearranged.

The object was to deprive Samiullah Khan or some other able man of the secretaryship and to make the Aligarh college a sort of personal property (to remain for generations under the control and administration of the family of its founder,) and that object was gained somehow or other. This is the long and short of the whole thing, and this has alienated from the Syud his best and true friends, even many of those who do not look upon him as anti-Islamite. The old Knight may well exclaim "my friends have fallen from me as leaves in autumn from a tree."

There is no native journal in these provinces which would have dared to throw so much light on the subject, and there is hardly any powerful pen like your's which we could command. The European journals do not take much interest in our affairs, and it was next to impossible to expect such an advocacy from them.

THE *Indian Daily News* has promptly pulled the long ears extended to it by its next door neighbour in British Indian Street, in his capacity of ostensible Editor of the *Hindoo Patriot*. Says our contemporary:—

"The system of foreshadowing honours seems ineradicable in some portions of the Press. The *Friend of India* used to be the greatest sinner in this respect, and had always some one in pickle for every office from the Viceroy to the chuprassies. The *Patriot* seems to have taken charge of the honours nominations."

Then the *News* quotes from the *Hindoo Patriot*, which gravely says, "Among the recipients of Birthday Honours, we hope to find the name of Baboo——, Personal Assistant to——. Baboo—— has been, for several years, successfully discharging the duties," &c.

With equal gravity, the *Indian Daily News* adds a scarcely less interesting piece of intelligence, mingled with a hope similarly officious, if not equally official:—

"There is an excellent duftry in the Government Printing office. It is hoped he will not be overlooked."

That is one of the richest retorts we have seen in the Indian press for many a day. It dishes the pretender completely, though it is doubtful whether the victim will recognise its effect. *Verbum sat*, to be sure. But then it requires the condition of *sap*—an unwarrantable presumption in the present case. Anyhow, it is not a case

calling for sympathy, except for the victim of the victim. The Bengali editor himself invited the castigation. But the other Baboo, who is a respectable man and deserving officer, is really to be pitied.

THE death is announced of Miss Amelia Betham Edwards, the well known lady novelist. Some of her stories and travelling sketches are charming reading. Latterly, however, she turned a new leaf. In an evil hour for her as well as the world, she took to antiquities, and of all things in the universe Egyptian archæology. It was a great mistake. She lost the public ear in her wonted line, without gaining it in another. By dint of exertion, she soon enough mastered the rudiments of her new department, but there she stuck. In Egyptology she remained a tyro to the last. Her scholarship and attainments were not equal to making new conquests. She could not possibly compete with the *savants* who occupied the field and had devoted their lives to the subject. A woman of uncommon energy as well as fine parts and accomplishments, she made desperate efforts. It was all Love's Labour Lost. She could at best take rank as a populariser of Egyptology. At last, dissatisfied with herself she started and organized an Egyptian Exploration, which, by its excavations at Abou-Simbel, forty miles below the second Cataract, made important contributions to our knowledge. After all, Miss Edwards will be best remembered in connection with Egypt by her capital book, *A Thousand Miles up the Nile*, published in 1877.

MR. PRICE's party has killed at last one man-eater which is believed to be the notorious *Bhut*—ghost. It is about 8 feet in length. It is very difficult to positively identify the animal, but the probability is that the man-eater in question has been killed. Just as the party with their elephants were beating the jungles at some place in search of the enemy, a man came running and informed Mr. Price that he had seen the terrible man-eater just a few minutes before and would be able to recognise it, as only a few days before it had killed his wife. The party at once followed this man and searched for the leopard in the jungles, but no trace of it could be found. They then divided and went in different directions, when Mr. Caxton's party saw the man-eater on a tree where it was either hiding itself or sitting in ambush waiting for an opportunity to pounce upon some poor unsuspecting villager. As the elephant went nearer, it charged the huge tusker with a jump from the tree but fell to Mr. Caxton's shot. Mr. Price has also seen a female in the neighbourhood and believes that she has two cubs also. He thinks that this is the family of the man-eater, and unless all three are destroyed the people would not be safe. The *Hindu Ranjika* wrongly gave out that the leopard in question was killed by Kumar Gopalendra Narayan Roy, of Putia, who was all this time at head-quarters and never went out for shikar.

THE sudden and mysterious transfer of Babu Dhonesh Chunder Roy, 1st Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Patna, to Monghyr, in the general line, has taken many by surprise. He served in that post since Babu D. G. Banerji came to Calcutta and did tolerably well in office and was able to please his superiors. A Mahomedan officer has been taken from Jessore to his place, of whose antecedents we do not know much. The late Moulvi Daliluddin was the first Mahomedan who acted in that post for a short time under Sir Steuart Bayley while Commissioner of Patna. The position is a most difficult and rather dangerous one, and especially so for a Mahomedan. As it was, we know it requires great tact, much experience, political sagacity, much strength of character and ability enough to do the current duties. It is very good to have a Mahomedan for such a position in a place where the Mahomedan element is predominant and supreme, but we doubt the wisdom of the selection by the new Commissioner who himself knows little or nothing of the Division over which he presides. Such an officer in the first place must command the respect of the Mahomedans of that historic city as an educated man, in the sense in which the words are understood by the polished and educated Mahomedans well versed in their own languages, and by his other personal and social qualifications, otherwise he would be quite useless out of his office, and not always efficient in it.

ON Friday at evening dusk, the annual meeting of the Calcutta Reading Rooms and Literary Institute was held at the lofty colonaded and arched hall of the Oriental Seminary—by the kindness of whose authorities the institution is housed free. In the absence of the President, the Hon'ble H. J. S. Cotton, routed from town by the heat, the Vice-President, Dr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee, took the chair. At the

end of the business there was some speaking. Baboo Mohini Mohan Chatterjee, one of the Honorary Secretaries, delivered interesting remarks, seasoned with his recollections of the American Athens. The Chairman concluded with a long address. The usual business of the evening over, the Chairman again rose and said that a body of Bengali citizens could not well part without some expression of their opinion on the outrage just committed in England on their whole race by a member of Parliament. He noticed at length with natural warmth Mr. Maclean's letter. Mr. Mohini Mohan Chatterjee followed and moved a condemnatory Resolution on Mr. Maclean which was carried by acclamation.

ERRATA.—*lovement*, p. 196, col. 2, should of course be *lavement*.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, April 30, 1892.

THE ASTRONOMY OF FAMINE.

THE connection, yet inexplicable but long since demonstrated by facts, which exists between the sun and terrestrial magnetism, received a further brilliant confirmation on the evening of the 13th February last. A gigantic solar spot, as has not been seen within the last few years, was visible on the 5th February, 1892, on the east side of the sun. It traversed the disc by virtue of the movement of solar rotation and disappeared on the 18th by the west side. It traversed the central meridian on the 12th. This enormous spot was composed of a large number of adjacent ones, all clearly defined. It attained about one-sixth of the solar diameter, and was visible to the naked eye ten hours consecutively from the 7th to the 16th. On the 9th, this immense group included not less than 142 spots. The movements of the spots were considerably cyclonic. The largest spot was six times and a half larger than our planet, and the whole group covered a surface equal to a hundred times the earth. If so, what then? it may be asked. The sun is far away from us. Notwithstanding the distance, on the 13th, a great magnetic perturbation was observed in almost all the magnetic observatories of the globe.

This extraordinary disturbance was almost unprecedented. At any rate, nothing at all equal to it has been observed within the last 10 years. It began abruptly towards the morning and was repeated the following night. This magnetic trepidation subsided on the evening of the 14th.

In Canada and the United States, on the nights of the 13th and the 14th, a magnificent Aurora Borealis was visible from the Atlantic coast to the State of Iowa, extending on the northern celestial hemisphere all entire. It was also equally visible this side the Ocean, the sky being clear, in many parts of Europe, especially in Switzerland, France and Italy.

These extraordinary celestial phenomena have something more than a merely academic interest. Without believing in the superstitions of astrology, it must be admitted that the great worlds floating about in space, not in wild confusion but in settled order, each with its appointed course, have a distinct influence on the earth which is such a humble member of their society. The connection between tides and the phases of the moon are known and admitted throughout the world. The influence of the earth's satellite on the health of man, though not acknowledged by European science, is a matter of common experience in India. The influence of the seasons and of the different divisions of the day, is admitted even in Europe, however reluctantly. Of late years, it must be admitted, from the more extended inter-

course between Europe and Asia, the film is vanishing from European eyes, the old dogmatism is passing away, the prejudice of orthodox science is being less and less, and there is a better disposition to receive, or at least to consider, the truths verified by long ages of experience in the East and familiar to the meanest in these countries.

Indeed, there is already in some quarters a disposition to the extravagance of neophytes. Some Europeans are prepared to receive with open arms and unquestioning faith, everything from Eastern sources, while others show themselves more Oriental than the Orientals themselves. That can of course be but a temporary aberration, or at least one confined within the narrowest limits or an insignificant circle. Meanwhile, the general effect of Eastern thought and experience upon the European mind has been distinctly broadening and deepening. It has enlightened the conservatism of the learned and dissipated the prejudices of the scientific. Paradoxical as it may sound, science has been its worst enemy. The history of the progress of the human mind is, in great part, but the history of the struggles of truths with prescription, science with dogma. It is a record of the desperate conflicts of discoverers with Old Knowledge—oftentimes mere Old Ignorance—enthroned in Faculties. That over-confidence of the dons and experts have been shaken and their mischievous bigotry impaired. The vanity of the possession of the final gospel is far from being abandoned, as may be seen in the attitude of orthodox science to the truths of Phrenology, Mesmerism and Homœopathy. But there is now rather more humility, and towards this the light from the East has contributed much. A new spirit of earnestness and reverence is now observable, leading to the most extraordinary discoveries and important conclusions therefrom in regions hitherto supposed to be either barren or exhausted. It is thus that a new light has been thrown upon the meteorology of agriculture. The go-ahead Americans have gone to the length of trying to bring down showers from heaven by artificial thundering. However desperate the game, it is a most interesting experiment, in which other nations are following the trans-Atlantic pioneers. India, which is periodically scourged by scarcity and decimated by famine resulting from drought, has an intimate interest in all prescriptions against these visitations. No wonder, that in our country the idea of controlling the atmosphere has been taken up with avidity, and trials with dynamite are being made in different parts. For our part, we would rather rest our hopes upon the discovery of the laws which govern earth and air, so as to be able to avoid danger, without pretending to govern them ourselves. We refer to such theories as that of Professor Blanford who holds that the rainfall of a year is dependent upon deficient snowfall in the mountains. Another notable theory which was popularised by Sir William Hunter was the sun-spot theory of famine, of which we have been reminded by the facts hereinbefore stated. It had been started by the well-known astronomers, Messrs. Meldrum and Lockyer, who propounded the simultaneity of the greatest rainfall with the period of maximum solar spots. Dr. (now Sir W. W.) Hunter, on the authority of Mr. Robinson's observations, came to a different conclusion. It was this eminent publicist who rescued the subject from the dust and cobwebs of scientific societies and Philosophical Transactions to make it a topic of, if

you will, *dilettanti* discussion and general human interest. Taking a long record of sun-spots and comparing it with the meteorological and agricultural record, Sir W. Hunter saw a curious correlation between the solar phenomena and terrestrial drought and distress. The periodicity of the one coincided with the periodicity of the other. In plain terms, whenever the spots appeared least in the sun, there was deficient rainfall and poor crops. That theory has been applauded by some as a master-piece of generalization and run down by others as a chimera without scientific basis, until it became popularly discredited. It has again met with a turn of luck, we believe, in some measure. But we are by no means sanguine. It will be difficult for the theory to recover completely from the effects of the blow struck at it by Professor Blanford's facts and figures. He has shown "that the worst famine during the present century, that of 1837-38, was produced by deficient rainfall of two consecutive years of maximum sun spots, and the famine of 1861 in the North-Western Provinces followed on the maximum sun spot year 1860." The year 1891 and 92 also coincides with the period of the maximum solar spots and the comparative scarcity we are now undergoing. It is only a guess work at present and it will take some time to come to a definite conclusion about the relation of famine to maximum or minimum sun spots. The subject certainly deserves careful study, specially in a vast agricultural continent like this, which is subject to periodic calamity for want of moisture in the soil.

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW CORPORATION.

THE first meeting of the new Calcutta Corporation was held on Thursday the 21st. It was originally announced for the previous Thursday, but on account of the Easter holidays commencing the next day, it was postponed by order of the Chairman. There were present, besides the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, 66 Commissioners, out of the 75 forming the body corporate, composed of 50 elected by the general body of ratepayers, 15 nominated by Government, 4 elected by the Chamber of Commerce, 4 by the Trades Association and 2 by the Port Commissioners. The chief business was the election of the General Committee, the ruling body of the Corporation. It is by law "the Budget and Finance Committee of the Corporation" and empowered to "transact such other business as may be expressly referred to it by the Corporation or as may not be referred to any other standing or Special Committee." Though subject to the Commissioners-in-meeting and bound by any resolution passed by them, the Committee has an independent existence of its own, its word being supreme, for "when the Chairman and the majority of the General Committee are in accord, and inconvenience is likely to result from delay, it shall not be necessary before action is taken to wait for the confirmation of the Commissioners in meeting, but if the Commissioners in meeting do not confirm the action of the General Committee, such steps shall be taken to carry out the orders of the Commissioners as may still be practicable." It was natural, therefore, that the formation of the General Committee should excite the utmost and general interest.

The General Committee is elected annually. It consists of eighteen Commissioners. Twelve are elected by the Commissioners elected by the general body of ratepayers "in such manner as the Commissioners in meeting may direct," that is the whole body of Commissioners. The remaining six are supplied by the Government Commissioners and delegates of other bodies corporate, "in accordance with such rules as the Local Government may prescribe." These rules, as Gazetted in 1889, are:—

1. The Chairman shall, previous to the appointment of the General Committee in each year, write to each of the Commissioners nominated under section 7 and elected under the last clause of section 8, and ask whether he desires to serve on the General Committee.
2. At the meeting, whether ordinary or special, at which the General Committee is to be appointed, the Chairman shall circulate a list of the Commissioners referred to in the last rule who have announced their desire to serve on the General Committee.
3. Each of the Commissioners nominated under section 7 and elect-

ed under the last clause of section 8, who is present at the general meeting, shall thereupon write down the names of six Commissioners out of the 25 nominated and elected as aforesaid, and hand them to the Chairman, who shall count the votes, and the six Commissioners who obtain the largest number of votes shall be appointed members of the General Committee."

The elected Commissioners distributed the number over the town proper and the suburbs in the proportion of 9 and 3, thus:—

ELECTED COMMISSIONERS.

Baboo Nolin Behary Sircar	...	...	Votes.	35
Baboo Surendra Nath Banerjee	...	...	"	32
Baboo Narendra Nath Sen	...	...	"	30
Baboo Kally Nath Mitter	...	...	"	27
Moulvie Budruddin Haider	...	...	"	27
Baboo Bhoopendro Nath Bose	...	...	"	26
Mr. J. Ghosal	...	...	"	25
Baboo Lall Behary Bysack	...	...	"	20
Baboo Sew Bux Bogla	...	...	"	20

SUBURBAN COMMISSIONERS.

Baboo Pran Nath Pundit	...	...	"	32
Baboo Preo Nath Mullick	...	...	"	24
Baboo Kanti Chunder Banerjee	...	...	"	22

An error has since been discovered. There will be another meeting next Thursday to "rectify the error that has occurred in the return of members to the General Committee at the election which took place on the 21st instant. The Chairman to announce that Kumar Dinendro Narain Roy secured more votes than Baboo Sewbux Bogla and Baboo Lall Behary Bysack, who tied with 20 votes. The elected Commissioners to vote again on the tie."

The nominated Commissioners returned, are:—

NOMINATED COMMISSIONERS.

Nawab Abdool Luteef Bahadur	...	...	Votes.	19
Dr. R. C. Sanders	...	...	"	18
Maharajah Sir Narendra Krishna	...	...	"	17
Mr. H. M. Rustomjee	...	...	"	15
Mr. E. F. Longley	...	...	"	12
Baboo Joy Gobind Law	...	...	"	11

There was a tie between Baboo Joygobind Law, Nawab Syed Ameer Hosseini and Baboo Doorgagutty Banerjee. The Chairman gave his casting vote in favor of Baboo Law. This exercise of power by the Chairman has been objected to as not legal. The rules plainly do not give him any authority to interfere in the election, which is left entirely to the other than general Commissioners themselves. The proper course, it seems, would have been to put up the three names again, for election. But the Chairman was advised that he had the power to decide the matter at once. He was told that though the rules excluded all but those who were to return the six members, he as the Chief of the Corporation had his casting vote, and he at once declared Baboo Joygobind Law as duly elected by his extraneous vote.

The law, we find, gives the Chairman casting vote at the general election by ratepayers. Thus:—

"Whenever an equal number of votes is given to two or more candidates at any election under this Act, the candidate for whom the greatest number of rate-payers have voted shall be held to be elected and in case of an equality of votes in this respect, the Chairman shall give a casting vote, and the candidate to whom such vote is given shall be held to be elected."

We are not sure how far Mr. Lee was justified in importing his power in the election of the General Committee. It is a question which might fitly be taken up by the Commissioners themselves. It is peculiarly the province of the nominated Commissioners. The rate-payers of Calcutta are equally interested, and we hope their representatives in the Corporation will not neglect them in the present instance.

THE ANDOOL RAJ.

Andul is a small but prosperous village, about eight miles west of the City of Palaces. Its gigantic Rajbatee spontaneously strikes the mind with the idea of grandeur and excites curiosity. Unlike the lowly mansions in other parts of the country which are generally dedicated to frivolity and mirth, revelries and orgies, its classic pillars give no umbrage to Apollo and the muses. Situated as it is on the north side of the Saraswati, it to all intents and purposes seem to be closely associated with ideas that breathe ambrosial odour and fill the atmosphere with moral freshness.

Fortunately for the use which had contained within its walls an illustrious family who by their liberal gifts and noble deeds had won the heart of all and spread peace and comfort all around; fortunately for Andul that like a fond mother glories in the success of her darlings; and fortunately for the inhabitants whose power of appreciation and regard for the interests of those who had cast in their lot with theirs; all parties combined and all sorts of people without distinction speak highly of the noble stock which was the ornament of the locality and of this stately mansion, the recipient thereof. The history of the Raj Family originated with its patriarch Dewan Ram Charan Roy, who,

while Clive was struggling hard for laying the foundation of this vast Indian empire, having rendered the East India Company valuable service as Clerk, obtained for his reward the office of Dewan, in which he made his vast fortune. He was succeeded by his worthy son Raja Ram Lochan Roy, who, to make himself more conspicuous, commenced a bright career of gentleness and charity, by which he ingratiated himself into the favour of the Marquis of Cornwallis; when the hero of Brandywine and the vanquisher of Tipu Sahib conferred on him the title of Raja Bahadoor.

Then came by the law of inheritance Raja Kasee Nath the wise. Possessed of soft manners and a melting heart, he lost no opportunity to relieve distress and alleviate the sufferings of the poor. Besides these, he was a patron of education, whose cause he had espoused with all a patriot's zeal; and men of letters gathered around him as the bees with their humming noise hover over the water-lily.

Times rolled on and in due course his beloved son Raja Raj Narayan occupied the seat of his revered parent, and, following in the latter's footsteps gained universal applause. Curiously enough, a tinge of military spirit diversified the character of this young ambitious Raja, which, in absence of opportunity for cultivation, sought expression in hunting excursions and keeping a race stud at a heavy cost. It was an interesting period. Occidental civilisation had for sometime already embraced India within the sphere of its influence. Latterly her sons had begun to be indoctrinated in the mysteries of the learning of the West. Among the sons of wealth and scions of nobility, Raj Narayan was the first to be anointed with its oil, whose balmy influence soothed his restless spirit. The slightest such lubrication was never to go for nothing, even in its initiatory rite, and as wealthy men began to understand its value they came forward with eleemosynary grants for the support of schools and colleges. Nor was the munificence confined to the service of education; but embraced all kinds of good works. This was altogether a novel custom and experience in the land. Raj Narayan was one of those whose example served to keep up the enlightened departure. Thus, along with other munificent donors (the Paikpara family and others) for the erection of the Fever Hospital, he contributed a round sum of rupees twenty thousand.

His private gifts kept pace with his public donations and endeared him to all. His patriotic deeds and private virtues moved our benign Government which was not slow at the recognition of merit, and, accordingly, not merely the title of Raja Bahadoor but the military distinction of a sword, shield and a Khelat, was bestowed upon him by the Governor-General. Thus passed away the vesper of Andul to make room for the Lucifer. Raja Bejoy Keshub was "The Last of the Mohicans"—the last of the direct line. He was in nonage when his father died. On account of which Babu Pran Krishna, the elder brother of Khetra Krishna Mitter, both of them grandsons of Raja Kasee Nath by their mother's side, reared him up.

Naturally as cousins to each other and more so for their being his sole guides in young age, Raja Bejoy Keshab had the highest regard for his cousins, and their feelings were brotherly. Ushered into the world on tapestry, it was usual to suppose that enjoyments and pleasures would predominate over his mind, but mysterious Nature sometimes seems to grow in antithesis and a religious bent of mind and the life of a recluse marked him for their own. This surprise shed additional lustre on his exalted position. Honest in his dealings, moral in principles and devout in his thoughts, he ran a godly, not to say godly, course of life, neglecting to look after his affairs. This was a source of great concern to his family and a large number of people interested in his welfare. Their hearty good will led them to see him turned into a worldly man, but no amount of logic could persuade him to leave the path of rectitude, and God, who loves his dutiful sons, relieved the worldly pangs of his beloved. He married two wives by whom he had no issue. His untimely death changed the whole aspect of affairs, inasmuch as it gave a high opportunity to many to alienate the mind of the two widows from Babu Khetra Krishna who has since succeeded to the property. With a view to deprive him of his legitimate claim and frustrate the ends of justice, nefarious means had been adopted and schemes set on foot by ingenious men maddened with greed of gain, who are never wanting at such conjunctures, to intrigue for the consummation of their purposes. This jumbo by their machinations for a while retarded the natural course of things and, strange to say, Heaven seemed to favour their prospects. People in general were anxious enough to see truth come out triumphant, but they were long disappointed. However, at last the hour came. Now that the cloud of obscurity is over from the horizon, it affords pleasure to all disinterested observers to find the sun emanate his radiance all around.

Babu Khetra is now the absolute master of the vast property which comes down to him by the hand of Providence. He is descended from the noted Konnagar Mittra Family, whose bounty and hospitality are too well known to be enumerated here. Kind and affable as he is, his bewitching manners like the mimosa

invite and attract people to him. Unassumingness and conviviality qualify him to make friends. Easy to forgive and ready to befriend characteristically point him out. Kind Nature always partial to her favourites, has been simply prodigal of her gift to him. Noble at heart, his magnanimity on one particular occasion stood the fiery ordeal. One of his bitterest enemies, who had all through life used harsh words and sneering taunts to him at length, by the turn of the wheel of fortune, came within his clutches, but without paying him in his own coin (as retaliation is brutal), he gave him a very cordial treatment, and when the people, recollecting how the rogue had dealt with him, were ready to a man, out of regard for, and attachment to, the Babu, to fall on him, he and his sons, Babus Upendra Nath and Nogendra Nath, forgetting for the time their own position, entreated them not to wreak their vengeance on their behalf on him. While as an additional testimony of high *morale*, both the sons escorted him up to Mauri. Truly, Babu Khetra commands admiration and picks up the good will of all. He intends to construct a separate building for the Benevolent Institution founded after his name, whose permanency has been one of his life's chief care. A charitable dispensary to distribute medicine to the poor, a thorough repair of the Rajgunge Road and the bridge over the Saraswati, are in contemplation, and we hail the day when these will be accomplished facts. In conclusion, I must give all due credit, and it is not small, to the manager, Babu Shib Chandra Mullick, who, like Sada Siva, is quickly propitiable and bears an exemplary character. As secretary to the school, he shows the teaching staff a paternal fondness and gives them every legitimate indulgence. Nothing as an honest soul is further from his mind than the idea to offend and oppress others. It is a great pleasure to see the right man in the right place.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE.

Andul, April 15.

THE PUBLIC SERVICES. EXTENDED EMPLOYMENT OF NATIVES.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. HOME DEPARTMENT.

Resolution dealing with the Recommendations of the Public Service Commission so far as they relate to the Higher Branches of the Executive and Judicial Services throughout India.

No. 9 Public, 1342---1352.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Home Department (Public),---under date Simla, the 21st April, 1892.

Read---The Report of the Public Service Commission and the opinions expressed thereon by Local Governments and Administrations.

The Despatch of the Government of India to the Secretary of State, No. 58, dated the 9th October 1888, reviewing and stating its conclusions on the principal questions discussed in the Report.

The Despatch of the Secretary of State, No. 104, dated the 12th September 1889, communicating His Lordship's decision upon the recommendations made in the Report and by the Government of India, so far as they deal with the higher branches of Executive and Judicial work throughout India.

Letters to Local Governments and Administrations, dated the 14th February 1890, forwarding a copy of the Secretary of State's Despatch, and making suggestions as to the manner in which its decisions may best be given effect to.

Replies from the Local Governments and Administrations consulted.

The Despatch of the Government of India to the Secretary of State, No. 9, dated the 10th February 1892, stating the conclusions arrived at by the Governor General in Council on the subject.

The reply of the Secretary of State, No. 30, dated the 24th March 1892, concurring in the conclusions set forth by the Government of India.

RESOLUTION.

In his Despatch No. 104, dated 12th September 1889, the Secretary of State for India in Council announced the decision at which he had arrived on the recommendations made in the Report of the Commission appointed in 1886 to consider the question of the admission of Natives of India to higher and more extensive employment in the Civil administration of the country.

2. The Secretary of State's Despatch having been communicated to the Local Governments and Administrations for consideration, and their replies having been received, the Governor-General in Council is now in a position to pass orders upon the most important points calling for determination.

3. The following appointments in each province shall for the present be entered in the list as open to the Provincial Service:--

Madras.--Heads of Districts 2, District Judges 4, Sub-Collectors, Head Assistants, and Assistant Collectors 7. Secretary to the Board of Revenue 1, Under Secretary to Government 1---Total 15.

Bombay.--Heads of Districts 2, Judges 2, Joint Judge 1, Assistant

Judges 2, Assistant Collectors 9, Talukdari Settlement Officer 1, Registrar of the High Court 1---Total 18.

Bengal.--Heads of Districts 4, District Judges 6, Joint and Assistant Magistrates 8, Secretary to the Board of Revenue 1, Under Secretary to Government 1---Total 20.

North-Western Provinces and Oudh.--Heads of Districts 2, District and Sessions Judges 4, Joint and Assistant Magistrates 9, Junior Secretary, Board of Revenue, 1, Assistant Settlement officers 2, Assistant Director of Land Records and Agriculture 1, Small Cause Court Judges, Allahabad and Lucknow, 2---Total 21.

Punjab.--Heads of Districts 2, Divisional Judges 2, District Judges 2, Assistant Commissioners 3, Junior Secretary to Financial Commissioner 1, Settlement Collectorships 2---Total 12.

4. Before passing orders as to the Central Provinces, His Excellency will await a further expression of Mr. MacDonnell's views on the question. And the Government of India is constrained to agree in the opinion expressed by successive Chief Commissioners of Assam that that province is not yet ripe for the admission of provincial officers to any of the reserved posts. It appears that the Provincial Service in Assam is largely recruited from Bengal, and that it would be almost, if not quite, impossible, in view of the progress in education and the administrative aptitudes of the people, to find within any time which can now be foreseen an indigenous officer who could be utilized in one of these posts. Assam must, therefore, like Burma, for the present remain outside the scope of the present orders.

5. Dealing in the first instance only with the superior appointments, and reserving for the next paragraph the case of Joint and Assistant Magistrates and Collectors, the following are the rates of pay for officers of the Provincial Service in each grade, which the Secretary of State has sanctioned:--

Madras.--Judicial---Judge, 1st Grade, Rs. 1,600; Judge, 2nd Grade, Rs. 1,200;

Executive---Collector, 1st Grade, Rs. 1,600; Collector, 2nd Grade, Rs. 1,200; Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Rs. 1,000; Under Secretary to Government, Rs. 700.

Bombay.--Judicial---Judge, 1st Grade, Rs. 1,600; Judge, 2nd Grade, Rs. 1,200; Judge, 3rd Grade, Rs. 1,000; Joint Judge, Rs. 800; 1st Grade Assistant Judge, Rs. 600; 2nd Grade Assistant Judge, Rs. 500; Registrar, High Court, Rs. 1,200.

Executive---Magistrate and Collector, 1st Grade, Rs. 1,600; Magistrate and Collector, 2nd Grade, Rs. 1,200; Talukdari Settlement Officer, Rs. 800.

Bengal.--Judicial---District and Sessions Judge, 1st Grade, Rs. 1,600; District and Sessions Judge, 2nd Grade, Rs. 1,200.

Executive---Magistrate and Collector, 1st Grade, Rs. 1,600; Magistrate and Collector, 2nd Grade, Rs. 1,200; Magistrate and Collector, 3rd Grade, Rs. 1,000; Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Rs. 1,200; Under Secretary to Government, Rs. 700.

North-Western Provinces and Oudh.--Judicial---District and Sessions Judge, 1st Grade, Rs. 2,000; District and Sessions Judge, 2nd Grade, Rs. 1,600; District and Sessions Judge, 3rd Grade, Rs. 1,200; District and Sessions Judge, 4th Grade, Rs. 1,000; Small Cause Court Judge, Rs. 800---1,000.

Executive---Magistrate and Collector, 1st Grade, Rs. 1,600; Magistrate and Collector, 2nd Grade, Rs. 1,200; Magistrate and Collector, 3rd Grade, Rs. 1,000; Junior Secretary, Board of Revenue, grade pay *plus* Rs. 150; Assistant Settlement Officer, 1st Grade, Rs. 700; Assistant Settlement Officer, 2nd Grade, Rs. 500; Assistant Director, Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Rs. 400---500.

Punjab.--Judicial---Divisional Judge, 1st Grade, Rs. 1,600; Divisional Judge, 2nd Grade, Rs. 1,400; Divisional Judge, 3rd Grade, Rs. 1,200; District Judge, 1st Grade, Rs. 1,000; District Judge, 2nd Grade, Rs. 800.

Executive---Deputy Commissioner, 1st Grade, Rs. 1,600; Deputy Commissioner, 2nd Grade, Rs. 1,200; Deputy Commissioner, 3rd Grade, Rs. 1,000; Settlement Collector, 1st Grade, Rs. 1,000; Settlement Collector, 2nd Grade, Rs. 800; Junior Secretary to Financial Commissioner, Rs. 600.

These rates of pay will, of course, be liable to alteration at any time should the interests of the Public Service require it.

6. The Government of India have determined, with the approval of the Secretary of State, to amalgamate the scheduled posts on the Executive side subordinate to the headship of a district with the existing grades of Deputy Magistrates and Collectors.

These posts are the following:--Madras 7, Bombay 9, Bengal 8, North-Western Provinces and Oudh 9, Punjab 3.

In all these Provinces the majority of them are at present held by Statutory Civilians appointed under the rules of 1879, while in some they are still occupied by officers of the Civil Service of India or Commissions appointed before 1882. Until these Statutory Civil Servants are provided for, either by promotion or by amalgamation with the new Provincial Service, the posts which they hold cannot be thrown into the general cadre of the latter service; but when that happens, and when the prior claims of officers of the Civil Service of India and Commissions have been satisfied, the posts now specified should be distributed as follows among the

existing grades of Deputy Magistrates and Collectors and Extra Assistant Commissioners :—

Madras.—Two posts in the 1st Grade on Rs. 700 (corresponding to Sub-Collector); four posts in the 3rd Grade on Rs. 500 (corresponding to Head Assistant); one post in the 5th Grade on Rs. 300 (corresponding to passed Assistant).

Bengal.—Two posts in the 3rd Grade on Rs. 600 (corresponding to Joint Magistrate, 1st Grade); two posts in the 4th Grade on Rs. 500, (corresponding to Joint Magistrate, 2nd Grade); two posts in the 5th Grade on Rs. 400; two posts in the 6th Grade on Rs. 300 (corresponding to Assistant Magistrates on Rs. 500 and Rs. 450, respectively).

Bombay.—Three posts in the 3rd Grade on Rs. 600, (corresponding to First Assistant); four posts in the 4th Grade on Rs. 500 (corresponding to Second Assistant); two posts in the 6th Grade on Rs. 300 (corresponding to passed Assistant).

North-Western Provinces and Oudh.—Four posts in the 5th Grade on Rs. 600 (corresponding to Joint Magistrates and Assistant Commissioners, 1st Grade); five posts in the 3rd Grade on Rs. 400, (corresponding to Joint Magistrates and Assistant Commissioners, 2nd Grade).

Punjab.—One post of Extra Assistant Commissioner, 3rd Grade, on Rs. 600 (corresponding to Assistant Commissioner, 1st Grade); one post of Extra Assistant Commissioner, 5th Grade, on Rs. 400 (corresponding to Assistant Commissioner, 2nd Grade); one post of Extra Assistant Commissioner, 6th Grade, on Rs. 300 (corresponding to Assistant Commissioner, 3rd Grade).

7. The addition of these posts to the cadre of the Provincial Service will necessitate recruitment in the lower grades to supply the place of those who will be moved up to fill them; and this can take place at once where the condition of the Service demands it. Those Statutory Civilians who were appointed in the various provinces in 1889 and 1890 on the understanding that they would be transferred to the Provincial Service when it was constituted should now be gazetted to their appropriate places in that Service. In accordance with the decision of the Secretary of State, they will, like other Statutory Civil Servants who join the Provincial Service, be understood to have a preferential claim for promotion to the scheduled posts (subject, of course, to the special claims of members of the Civil Service of India and officers of the Commissions appointed before 1882) over the other members of that Service.

8. The Statutory rules of 1879 now require the approval and sanction of the Governor General in Council to all nominations made by Local Governments. These nominations are at present ordinarily to offices in the subordinate ranks of the Covenanted Civil Service. The subordinate posts included in the list being thrown open to the Provincial Service, the Local Government will no longer require the sanction of the Government of India to appointments to them. His Excellency in Council, however, thinks that for the present it will be necessary to retain the rule requiring such sanction in the case of appointments (whether permanent or officiating for a period exceeding three months) under the Statute to Headships of Districts and District Judgeships in Madras, Bombay, Bengal, and the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and to Headships of Districts, Divisional Judgeships, and Settlement Collectorships in the Punjab. He is willing that in the case of all other scheduled appointments the Local Government should nominate without reference to him. He is also willing that in the case of officiating appointments of Provincial Officers for short vacancies, not exceeding three months at a time, to Headships of Districts and the other posts mentioned above, such reference should be dispensed with. Such short vacancies will afford the means of testing an officer's fitness for more extended employment in those posts; and, in reporting for sanction nominations for longer periods, it should always be stated whether an officer has been tried in this manner, and with what result. As a general rule the Governor General in Council thinks that it will be prudent to take every suitable opportunity of thus ascertaining an officer's capacity before proposing to employ him permanently in these important and responsible posts. His Excellency in Council also desires to correct the impression which appears to have prevailed in some quarters that it will be necessary for a Provincial Civil Servant to go through the whole succession of subordinate grades in the Executive or Judicial Service before he can be selected for a scheduled post. On the contrary, it will always be desirable to select persons for higher executive office who, while they have given proof of distinguished ability by sufficiently long service, are still comparatively young, and possess that bodily activity which is a *sine qua non* for such employment. Every appointment of the kind must be based wholly upon fitness and merit, seniority being regarded only when the claims of two or more officers who are equally fit come into competition. Nor does the Governor General in Council intend that selection should be less absolute or more restricted to the higher grades of the Provincial Service in the case of Judicial appointments. It has been much the custom to regard promotion from grade to grade of the Subordinate Executive and Judicial Services as a mere matter of seniority; and it should be made

publicly known that every Government and Administration reserves liberty to make promotions in these grades without regard to seniority.

9. In Appendix A attached to this Resolution will be found an example of the form in which the Government of India think that the list of appointments open to the Provincial Service should be published by the Local Government. Each Local Government should frame and issue its list accordingly. In the Quarterly Provincial Civil List this form should, with the omission of the last paragraph, be prefixed to that division of the list which exhibits the appointments held by members of the Provincial Service. In lieu of the last paragraph a note should be entered in the list of subordinate offices against each grade to which additions have been made referring to the notification, and stating that "To this grade.....appointments have been added as representing the same number of appointments of.....now treated as open to the.....Civil Service."

10. The Government of India recently directed that each Statutory Civilian appointed before the close of 1889 might be called upon to choose whether he would retain his present position or be transferred to the Provincial Service with an acknowledgment of his preferential claims to promotion to scheduled appointments before other members of the Provincial Service. As regards Bengal, Madras, the North-West Provinces, and Central Provinces, only one Statutory Civilian has elected to enter the Provincial Service. In Bombay and the Punjab they have not yet made their election. But as it is not improbable that some obscurity may still remain in the minds of the officers who were called upon to make their election in regard to the advantages and disadvantages to them of the transfer, a further opportunity ought to be afforded these gentlemen of reconsidering the decision at which they have provisionally arrived. The Governor General in Council will address Local Governments and Administrations again on this subject in a separate communication.

11. The present Uncovenanted Service Leave and Pension Rules, or, in other words, the provisions of Part III, Chapter XIV, of the Civil Service Regulations regarding leave, and of Part IV, Chapters XV to XIX, regarding pension, will be applied to the Provincial Service. But the present Statutory Civilians, whether they enter that Service or not, will continue to be governed by the Leave and Pension Rules now applicable to them.

12. After considering the suggestions made by the Local Governments and Administrations, the Governor General in Council has prepared a revised draft of Rules for the appointment of Natives of India to offices reserved under the Statute of 1861, which will be submitted in due course for the sanction of the Secretary of State for India in Council, and, if approved by him, will be published for general information.

13. As regards the rules for admission to the Provincial Service in each Province, and the precise place where the line should be drawn between the Provincial and Subordinate Services, the Government of India propose to address the Local Governments and Administrations separately, as there are great differences in the circumstances of the several Provinces and the classes from which the local officials must be drawn.

Order.—Ordered, that this Resolution be communicated to Local Governments and Administrations, and that it be published in the *Gazette of India* for general information. [True Extract.] C. J. Lyall, Secretary to the Government of India.

APPENDIX A. (REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 9.)

With the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council, the Governor in Council is pleased to notify that the following appointments in the Madras Presidency, to fill which members of the Civil Service of India have hitherto been recruited, shall be appointments to which members of the Madras Civil Service can properly be appointed, subject to the rules for the time being in force under 33 Vict., Cap. 3, Section 6:—

Four posts of District and Sessions Judge; two posts of Collector and Magistrate of a District; one post of Secretary to the Board of Revenue; one post of Under-Secretary to Government.

2. When these posts are held by members of the Madras Civil Service their pay shall be as follows:—

District and Sessions Judge—If in the 1st Grade Rs. 1,600, if in the 2nd Grade Rs. 1,200, Collector and Magistrates—If in the 1st Grade Rs. 1,600, if in the 2nd Grade Rs. 1,200; Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Rs. 1,000; Under-Secretary to Government Rs. 700.

3. In addition to these appointments the following appointments, for which recruitment has hitherto been made in the Civil Service of India, have been thrown open to the Madras Civil Service, and added to the existing grades of that Service:—

Two posts of Sub-Collector and Joint-Magistrate, four posts of Head Assistant to the Collector and Magistrate, one post of Assistant Collector and Magistrate, converted into—two posts of Deputy Magistrate and Collector, 1st Grade, on Rs. 700, four posts of Deputy Magistrate and Collector, 3rd Grade, on Rs. 500, one post of Deputy Magistrate and Collector, 5th Grade, on Rs. 300.

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THE following publications by the Calcutta Committee in support of the Age of Consent Bill may be had from the Secretaries of the Committee at their office, No. 12, Wellington Square, at No. 1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane, and at 12, Lal Bazar Street.

1. On the Legislation of the Rishis and the Age of Consent Bill. One anna.

2. The Memorial to the Viceroy. Half anna.

3. The Bengali translation of the Memorial. Half anna.

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5. The *Garbhadhan Vyavasta* by Pandit Ramnath Tarkaratna (of Santipore), author of *Vasudeb Bijya* (a Sanskrit epic) and Pandit attached to the Asiatic Society, Bengal. One anna.

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 H. E. the Viceroy, on the same day,
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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, MAY 7, 1892.

No. 523

INTRODUCTION TO THE CAPTIVE LADIE.*

BY THE LATE MICHAEL M. S. DUTT,

Author of "Sermista," (a drama in Bengali and in English,)
"Meghnathvada" (Bengali epic), &c.

Being Stanzas addressed to the Poet's wife.

To—

I.

Come, list thee, gentle one!—and whilst the lyre
Breathes softer melody for thee, mine own!
I'll weave the sunny dreams, those eyes inspire,
In wreathes to consecrate to thee alone,—
Love's offering, gentle one!—to Beauty's queenly throne.

II.

'Tis sweet to gaze upon those eyes where Love
Has treasur'd all his rays of softest beam;—
'Tis sweet to see thee smile as from above
Some child of Light,—such as we often dream
Doth dwell on planet pale,—or star of golden gleam.

III.

The heart which once has sigh'd in solitude,
And yearn'd to unlock the fount where softly lie
Its gentlest feelings,—well may shun the mood
Of grief—so cold—when thou, dear one! art nigh,
To sun it with thy smile,—Love's lustrous radiancy!

IV.

The home of youth, 'tis far,—oh! far away,—
The hopes of youth, they've fled and taught to weep,—
The friends of youth, e'en they,—oh! where are they?
Ask memory and the dreams which haunt in sleep,—
Wing'd messengers and sweet, from Past! thy Donjon keep!

V.

But must I weep e'en now as once I wept,
Midst life's gay—crowded scenes, unmark'd and lone,
Where bitterest thoughts of solitude oft crept
To chill the bosom's glow,—when thou, mine own!
Dost smile in tranquil joy like star on sapphire throne?

VI.

Yes,—like that star which, on the wilderness
Of vasty ocean, woos the anxious eye
Of lonely mariner,—and woos to bless,—
For there be Hope writ on her brow on high:
He recks not darkling waves,—nor fears the lightless sky!

VII.

Oh! beautiful as Inspiration, when
She fills the Poet's breast,—her fairy shrine—
Woo'd by melodious worship!—welcome then,—
Thou'rt the home of Want,—I ne'er repine,
Art thou not there—e'en thou—a priceless gem and mine?

VIII. *

Life hath its dreams to beautify its scene,—
And sun-light for its desert;—but there be
None softer in its store—of brighter sheen—
Than Love—than gentle Love: and thou to me
Art that sweet dream, mine own! in glad reality!

IX.

Though bitter be the echo of the tale
Of my youth's wither'd spring—I sigh not now;
For I am as a tree when some sweet gale
Doth sweep away the sere leaves from each bough,
And wake far greener charms to re-adorn its brow!

X.

Then come and list thee to the minstrel-lyre
And Lay of Eld of this my father-land,
When first, as unchain'd demons, breathing fire,
Wild, stranger foe-men trod her sunny strand,
And pluck'd her brightest gems with rude, unsparing land.

XI.

The world's dark frowns may damp,—its coldness chill
The kindling altar which the Heart hath rear'd
For deep—devoted—life-long worship,—still
Be thine the soothing smile by Love endear'd:—
Eve's dew must heal the flow'r by day's hot breathings sear'd!

NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

THE result of the last Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University, exclusive of the Patna Circle, is, First Division, 398, Second, 876, Third, 592, or a total of 1,866 passed students.

THE Calcutta Gazette of May 4, notifies the new rules under the Indian Factories Act, 1881. Among them occur the following:—

"8. The occupier of a factory shall cause a sufficient supply of good water to be kept at a suitable place or places on the factory premises for the use of the operatives. A tap or taps connected with any public water-works, from which a sufficient quantity of water can at all times be drawn as required, shall be deemed a sufficient supply for the purpose of this rule. When the operatives cannot leave their places, the occupier shall cause the water to be carried to them as required or at reasonable intervals.

9. Every factory shall be provided with sufficient accommodation in respect of latrines and urinals, which shall be kept in a cleanly state. The accommodation for male and female operatives shall be separate.

10. Every factory shall be kept in a clean state and free from effluvia arising from any drain, privy, or other nuisance. All refuse likely to be injurious to health shall be removed with as little delay as possible.

11. Every factory shall be ventilated in such manner as to render harmless, as far as is practicable, the gases, vapours, dust, or other impurities generated in the course of the processes carried on therein that may be injurious to health.

12. All the inside walls of the rooms of a factory, and all the ceilings or tops of such rooms, and all the passages and staircases shall be lime-washed at least once in two years, dating from the time of last lime-washing.

* The Captive Ladie (An Indian Tale). In Two Cantos. By M. S. Dutt. Madras: Printed at the Advertiser Press, 1849.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

13. All the beams, rafters, doors and other wood-work shall be painted or varnished once in six years, and shall be kept in a cleanly state.

14. A factory shall not be so overcrowded while work is carried on therein as to be injurious to the health of the persons employed therein."

These regulations might well be applied to native dwelling houses. But what a hubbub would be raised if the Calcutta Corporation attempted the sanitary reform!

The rules, we find, allow an appeal to the Commissioner of the Division, and in Calcutta to the Commissioner of Police, from every order of an Inspector under section 12, clause C. of the Act, or under certain others of the rules. "The appeal shall be in the form of a memorandum of appeal similar to that contained in the 4th schedule of the Civil Procedure Code, No. 173, and shall bear a stamp the value of which should be regulated by article 11, Schedule II of the Court-fees Act." The rules thus give the Commissioner of Police judicial powers—the first attempt of the kind, we believe. We are not also sure that that any rules under an Act can legally bind her Majesty's subjects to pay any stamp duty where it is not sanctioned by the legislature itself.

MR. C. A. Walsh has been appointed an Inspector of Factories within the limits of the Province of Bengal.

The Senior Covenanted Assistant or Joint-Magistrate, 24-Parganas, is made an Inspector of Factories within the district.

The other Inspectors and certifying Surgeons are:—

I.—For the district of the 24-Parganas and the Town of Calcutta—

- (1) The Resident Medical Officer of the Campbell Medical Hospital for so much of the Town of Calcutta as lies to the south of Canning Street, and for Sealdah.
- (2) The Resident Medical Officer of the Mayo Hospital, Calcutta, for so much of the Town of Calcutta as lies to the north of Canning Street.
- (3) The Civil Surgeon of Hooghly for thana Naihati in the district of the 24-Parganas.
- (4) The Station Staff Surgeon of Dum-Dum for that sub-division.
- (5) The Medical Officer in charge of the Northern Suburban Hospital of Baranagore, in the district of the 24-Parganas.
- (6) Mr. J. M. Comley, M.R.C.S., for the factories at Budge-Budge.
- (7) The Civil Surgeon of the 24-Parganas for the rest of the district.

II.—The Civil Surgeon of all other districts in Bengal within the limits of their respective districts.

WHO was the wealthy Mahomedan gentleman of advanced age who recently died at Ootacamund, of whom it is reported that he lay nightly on chests of specie amounting to no less than eight lacs of rupees?

THE *Morning Post* summarises the reports of violent crimes by the last mail.

"A father near Oswestry killed one of his children, attacked two others, and then made an attempt upon his own life. A man confessed to the murder of his wife and two children in Belfast. A man at Melksham, Wiltshire, shot dead the uncle of a girl who had refused to marry him after the banns had been published. He was at large for several days, and when some constables discovered his whereabouts and proceeded to arrest him, he shot one of them dead. He said his intention was to have shot his sweetheart, could he have found her. At Blaenavon, Wales, a man murdered his wife and then cut his own throat. A mother in Edinburgh murdered her child and then attempted her own life. A man murdered his wife at High Wycombe and then committed suicide."

THE sensation of the Rajabai Tower Tragedy is still being kept up in Bombay. The Committee have prepared a monster petition for presentation to the Secretary of State for India in Council. In the words of the Committee, the memorial,

"after referring to the facts of the case and the strong *prima facie* circumstantial evidence of an actual or attempted outrage supplied by the peculiar injuries on the bodies and the condition of the clothes of the deceased ladies and the verdict of the Coroner's jury, adverts to the monster memorial presented to the Bombay Government for the appointment of an independent commission of inquiry and for ensuring justice in Aslaj's case. Referring to the trial of Aslaj, the memorial points out the very unsatisfactory conditions under which, owing to technical rules of procedure and the conduct and attitude of the police, the trial was conducted, and how important witnesses like Dr. Smith and Superintendent MacDermott, who were subjected to satisfactory cross-examination before the Coroner, escaped all cross-examination before the Sessions Court, and their evidence passed unchallenged, and how witnesses who had given evidence practically in favour of the accused were called, not by the

accused but by the Crown and thus avoided cross-examination,—a proceeding which the learned Judge himself characterised as an act of 'mistaken kindness' to the accused. The memorial proceeds to explain the utter unsuitability of such a trial to discover the truth or to throw any light on the proceedings of the police in reference to the inquiry. It is complained that evidence corroborative of the important evidence of Mr. Enty, though brought to the notice of the prosecution, was not called, and it is said that certain evidence having an important bearing on the case and explaining how the police hampered and misdirected the inquiry, has not yet seen the light. The memorial comments strongly on the acts and omissions of the police, and charges that the failure to unearth the crime and discover the truth has been due to its antagonistic attitude. Commenting on the medical evidence recorded in the case, the memorial shows, that Dr. Smith's evidence consists of mere surmises, and that under cross-examination he was obliged to modify his original confident opinion against the theory of outrage almost into harmony with the evidence of the other doctors, who confidently asserted that it was a case of outrage. It quotes the valuable testimony of the *Lancet* and the *British Medical Journal* which appeared in those papers after the conclusion of the Sessions trial, which strongly supports the popular theory of outrage, and which is confirmed by the unaccountable and unexplained disappearance of the spectacles, the head-dress and, among other items of evidence, sacred thread of one of the ladies, and the peculiar condition of the clothes of the other. Reference is made to the story of the bundle of clothes, and the failure of the police to follow up the important clue for 56 hours, and to Mr. Maizoon's unequivocal contradiction of the police version of that incident. Exception is taken to the opinion expressed by Government that the theory of outrage had been thoroughly examined and discredited, that there was a lack of data for an inquiry such as was demanded of Government, and that the appointment of a commission would argue *prima facie* distrust of the police. It is emphatically asserted that there has been no inquiry at all into the popular theory, that on Superintendent MacDermott's own admission all inquiry in that direction was finally stopped within a few hours of the occurrence of the tragedy, that the real issues have not been raised or determined, that sufficient data have already been furnished by private enterprise and more information would be forthcoming before a strong and properly constituted tribunal, that distrust of the police already exists, and that it would be intensified by an omission to hold the necessary inquiry. It is submitted that the Police in this case has grossly neglected and disregarded its duty and generally exposed itself to serious criticism, and that the public safety and interests of justice alike demand the holding of a full and independent inquiry, which the memorial prays for, not on any personal grounds, but for reasons of public policy."

The memorial has been prepared by Mr. Eardley Norton of Madras at a cost of Rs. 2,500 as his fee and Rs. 500 as remuneration to the gentleman who went to Madras to give Mr. Norton his instructions. The memorial has been adopted at a public meeting. The Sheriff refused to call the meeting, as there was a counter application. The leaders of the Parsee community, it seems, keep away from this fresh demonstration.

Besides the said Rs. 2,500, the Committee have sanctioned another like sum for other expenses.

A HIGHLY revolting conduct of a *Jemadar* of the Lahore Central Jail is being enquired into. On the 18th April, for disobedience of order and neglect of duty, he abused and thrashed with a baton a convict. The convict retaliated by splashing dirty water on his assailant's face. This was highly unbecoming on the part of a prisoner in a jail and deserved adequate punishment. The form of discipline determined upon by the Daroga and executed by the *Jemadar* with the assistance of two mehters, was to put dirt into the mouth of the impertinent convict. The other inmates of the jail resented this treatment of one of them, refused food for two days and threatened to kill the *Jemadar* and the Daroga if they were not properly punished for breaking the caste of their brother convict. Before there was any outbreak, the matter was reported to the authorities, and it is being enquired into by the Assistant Commissioner.

GENERAL Kodolitsch, a retired cavalry officer in the Austro-Hungarian Army, while touring in India with his wife, last touring season, came to Calcutta and lived in the Spence's Hotel. They attended the Vice-regal State ball in January. On their return to their quarters in the Hotel, they found the door of their room on the second floor locked, the key left by their butler Mahadoo Limbajee Bundsaday, an old man, on the ground floor, and Rs. 1,600 in currency notes missing. Suspicion falling on Mahadoo, he was arrested in Poona and his property, consisting of ornaments, bank deposits, &c.,—seized. They are detained in court under section 523 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and the accused released without being pronounced guilty or otherwise. The property is to remain in the magistrate's court, until the contending parties established their claim to it in a civil court.

DEATH is announced of the Rev. William Edward Buckley, who was, for several years, Professor of Anglo-Saxon at Oxford, and afterwards filled the chair of classical literature in the old East India College at Haileybury with distinguished success.

MR. Oertel, who had been deputed from Upper India by the Supreme Government to report on the antiquities of Burmah, has completed his investigations. With Captain Temple, he visited Mandalay, Sagaing, Pagan, Prome, Rangoon, Pegu and Moulmain, and took a large number of photographs of the Buddhist temples and remains of those places.

THE Raja of Manda, in a letter from his Superintendent Nagendra Nath Kar, to the *Pioneer*, has offered to join a movement, if set on foot, to keep alive the memory of the retired Mr. Justice Straight, "whose kind and genial disposition, whose simplicity and whose unreserved intercourse with natives who had the honour of his acquaintance, are not to be easily forgotten."

AT the Madras High Court Criminal Sessions, on the 26th April, Mr. Justice Parker, for misappropriation of Rs. 528, which the accused admitted, sentenced E. L. M. Baber, Deputy Superintendent, Revenue Survey Department, to three months' simple imprisonment. Mr. Wedderburn, on his behalf, had argued that "Mr. Baber did not intend to deprive the Government of money. He practically borrowed money from the public purse, hoping to pay it back, and he did repay a large sum, and the public purse did not suffer, because the pension Mr. Baber would have earned, but had now forfeited, would have amounted to £10,000, and more than covered the actual and alleged defalcations." Besides, his client had already been in jail for three months. These considerations weighed with the presiding Judge, who thought the prisoner had already been punished sufficiently by the loss of his position in the Government service and society and the disaster to his family.

Baber's Brahman clerk, charged with aiding and abetting him, was, on confession, sentenced to two months' simple imprisonment.

NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

HER Majesty has returned to Windsor. The Prince and Princess of Wales too have come back to England.

THE Czar pays a long visit to the Emperor William this month, arriving at Berlin on the 21st.

THE first of May saw a monster Labour demonstration in London. The number present is estimated at three hundred thousand, including Socialists and Anarchists. A contingent assembled on the Thames Embankment at noon and marched in procession to Hyde Park with banners flying and bands playing. At the Park, sixteen platforms were erected at which resolutions were passed supporting an international eight hours' working day. There were many foreign delegates such as Poles and Russians. The proceedings were peaceful and orderly. The chief provincial towns had also their displays.

BUT for Police precautions, May Day would have been a day of blood and woe on the continent. Such was the general consternation. And the consternation was the safety of Europe. Paris was peaceful the whole day. At Tours, a bomb exploded near the barracks blowing up the hands of a man and slightly damaging the property. Two bombs were exploded at Liege with little or no damage.

THE House of Commons has rejected, by 74 votes against 54, a motion by Mr. Clark for a separate Parliament for Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It argues ill for English wisdom that so many as 54 in a house of 124 were ready to support so insane a proposition. Home Rule for Ireland is intelligible and practicable. But a severance of Ireland

from Great Britain to form a new coalition between Wales, Scotland and Ireland, is simply nonsense.

SPEAKING at Birmingham, on the 30th April, Mr. Chamberlain, in view of the approaching dissolution of Parliament, suggested a huge demonstration at Ulster on Whitsuntide to pass resolutions to pay no taxes imposed by an Irish Parliament.

THE Manchester Chamber of Commerce have passed a resolution that the bad state of trade being due to violent fluctuations in silver, the Government should be urged to promote an International Bimetallic League.

AT Bolton, a conference of spinners decided to work four days in the week.

THE cotton strike in Lancashire has ended, the masters and men both conceding. Work will be resumed on Monday.

THERE is again a ministerial crisis in Italy. The Marquis de Rudin and his colleagues have resigned, being defeated on a motion of confidence in the finances of the Government by a majority of five votes. The French press are jubilant, saying that Italy must now choose between quitting the Triple Alliance and bankruptcy. Has it come to this?

IN an interim report, the English Commission on Vaccination advise against repeated punishment of those who refuse to conform to the Act. Such vindictiveness, they say, only strengthens the opposition to the law. We suspect that the Commission are slowly realising the fact that the opposition is not all unreasonable.

MRS. Osborne has been restored to liberty. There was no ground for visiting her sins on the little stranger with whose introduction to the world she had been charged.

MR. Maclean has moderated his ire against Mr. Hume. In reply to the latter's letter in the *Times*, he compares Mr. Hume's conduct to that of the Clanna-Gael leaders, who advised resort to arms on failure of redress of their grievances.

THE cashier, Mr. Jalger, of Messrs. Rothschild of Frankfurt, is accused of fraud to the extent of two millions of marks. He has absconded, having sailed for Colombo.

SIR Charles Elliott opened the local Legislative Council on Saturday the 23rd April. The three new members, Messrs. Woodroffe and Risley and Babu Gonesh Chunder Chunder took their seats. The President made a statement of the Course of Business. Among other things, he said, "We, however, are not confined, like the Supreme Council, to the short period of the cold weather for carrying on our legislation, but we are able to conduct it all through the year." Does that account for the summoning of the Council immediately before the departure of the Lieutenant-Governor for the hills? But we forget. "I trust, however, that we shall meet again in July." Notwithstanding the boasted advantage of the Bengal Chamber, the Rules of Business were suspended, and two ordinary, not to say trifling, Bills—one to further amend the Village Chaudidari Act, 1870, and another for the regulation of Warehouses and the maintenance of a Fire-brigade—were introduced, and referred to Select Committee.

That does not look like a full session.

The Bill to amend the Bengal Municipal Act, not being ready, will be introduced at the July sitting and passed and completed "in that session or else, if necessary, postponed for a month or two later, but at any rate carried through before the end of the calendar year."

The object of the Chaudidari Bill is to transfer from the Panchayet to the Magistrate the power to determine the number of Chaudidars to be employed, and to fix the salary of the Chaudidars within certain limits. The Panchayet will no longer have the power of appointing them, but the appointment will be made by the Magistrate on the nomination of the Panchayet. The village Chaudidar will have more

power than he now exercises. The Chaukidari Village Fund is to be abolished or rather converted into a District Chaukidari Reward Fund under the control of the Magistrate. Indeed, it is a further attempt to assimilate the village with the general Police system.

The Licensed Warehouse and Fire-Brigade Bill proposes the "apportionment of the cost of the Fire-Brigade between the owners of hazardous buildings and the general body of tax-payers by laying down that sixty per cent. of the estimated annual expenditure shall be levied from the former and forty per cent. from the latter; this forty per cent. being again distributed between the Municipalities of Calcutta, Howrah, Cossipore-Chitpur, Manicktola and the South Suburbs in proportion to their assessable valuation."

The Municipal Commissioners will realize the license fees—upon their own valuation, the scale of fees will be fixed by the Local Government, the Commissioner of Police will appoint inspecting officers, and have power to cancel licenses.

Here is a fine plan of division of labour, to be sure, and of responsibility too, unto whittling it down to nothing!

A MISUNDERSTANDING is visible between our Government and the Ameer. There is evidently more at bottom than appears on the surface, and the end must be disagreeable and may turn out serious. The Ameer is undoubtedly showing vigour in administration all round. In his military policy he is strengthening his frontiers. He is trying to extend his influence with the tribes on the East. One would suppose that his British ally would rejoice at such activity and pray for success of his efforts in this direction. These tribes are ugly customers. They have never paid willing deference to the rulers on either side of them. They have often been a thorn in their side and always a source of anxiety. If either the authorities of India or those of Afghanistan can keep them well in hand, repressing their lawless propensities, so much the better for the cause of order, and the security and prosperity of the frontier districts of both states. But the British do not care to conceal their jealousy at the proceedings of the Ameer. It is reported that General Ghulam Hyder, Commander-in-Chief of Afghanistan, has pushed into the Konar Valley and already occupied Asmar as a base of operations against Bajour. According to the traditional policy, British or Afghan, he has set the tribes against one another. The latest news from Peshawar is that the chief of Jhadoun, Omra Khan, has been hard pressed. He has doubtless sought the good offices of our frontier officers, and doubtless at their recommendation and according to its habit of jealousy and meddling, the Government of India has protested against the Ameer's progress to Asman and his designs on Bajour. The tribes on that frontier are pronounced to be beyond the pale of his political influence. They are a sacred preserve for the practice of British sportsmen—a reserve for British bungling. It is a pity that Abdur Rahman Khan's very laudable exertions to put his house in order and clear its objectionable surroundings should meet with such scant appreciation. All the more because the leading spirit in Bajour is a potential danger not only to Afghanistan but also under certain contingencies to India. It is nothing to the purpose that he has up to this shown a friendly disposition to the British. That is a necessary policy with this astute chief to enable him to defy his true suzerain of Cabul.

THE *Dnyan Prakash* of Poona seems to be under a great illusion as to the way the question of sea-voyage is being settled by some busy no-bodies in Hindoo society in Bengal. Our contemporary thus describes the vista of his enchantment:—

"Our countrymen in Bengal and other Provinces are engaged in solving the question of sea-voyage, and from the constant agitation of the question they have kept up, it seems that they will come to a satisfactory conclusion by the time the Congress comes to be held in London."

'Tis distance lends enchantment to the view, and the question of sea-voyage, despite the fitful and hysterical talk of some pseudo reformers, scarcely advanced a stage further than what it had attained at the time of Raja Ram Mohun Roy or Dwarkanath Tagore.

THE Chief Court at Lahore has upheld the conviction by the Sessions Judge of a Mahomedan, under section 342, I. P. C., for wrongful restraint, in not allowing his wife—a *pardah* lady—according to the custom in the family, to visit her parents on Fridays.

"The Judges were of opinion that sitting, as a Court of Revision in this case, they should accept the findings on the facts come to by the

Sessions Judge as substantially correct. The Chief Court, after full consideration of the facts, held that the offence within the meaning of section 342, I. P. C., was established. The offence of wrongful confinement was complete when a person was wrongfully restrained in such a manner as to be prevented from proceeding beyond certain circumscribed limits, and a person was wrongfully restrained when he was voluntarily obstructed so as to be prevented from proceeding in any direction in which he had a right to proceed. But in the present case, the Judges said, the facts were peculiar. Though, no doubt, there were faults on both sides, and they were not prepared to say that the complainant and her relatives were not to a great extent responsible for the strained relations which existed between the accused and his wife, still there were also circumstances which rendered it incumbent upon the accused to show some consideration to his wife in the matter of her intercourse with the outer world and her own relatives, and on the finding that the accused had overstepped the limits of lawful restraint, which his position as husband warranted, and as in addition, he failed to act up to his undertaking and the custom of exchanging visits between his wife and her relatives on Fridays, the Judges considered that the conclusion that the accused had prevented his wife from proceeding where she had 'a right to proceed' was sound in law and should be upheld. As to the question of punishment, they considered that as no positive act of cruelty was proved, a fine of Rs. 500 would meet the merits of the case."

It is very much to be regretted that our countrymen should be kept straight in the path of the commonest duties of life—in their social and domestic relations—by judicial coercion. But the courts are scarcely to blame. Complaints being preferred, courts are bound to adjudicate. And if there be a failure of justice from defect in the law, the Government will stir and the Legislature will supply the want and make the law required, as on a memorable occasion about two years ago. It is no use complaining. Courts and Governments have their duties no less than we have ours. The misfortune is that such complaints are made. Hindus and Mussulmans are so sensitive to foreign interference, that they may well be expected to keep themselves out of courts. But the obstinacy of one man may defeat the best laid plan, while the very existence of foreigners in authority and of foreign courts, paralyzes indigenous society. It is a dark prospect for these races, but the cheering fact is that foreigners use their power with great moderation and wisdom or leave the natives to their own devices.

It is interesting and not a little useful—as conducive to correct thinking and universal sympathy—to mark the identity of man through all his varied guises or disguises of clime, color, creed, class, and fifty other things besides. It is only by intellectual obstinacy that nations can give other nations bad characters. Thus when foreigners delight to vilify the natives of India or the people of Russia as incurably addicted to fraud and falsehood, they unconsciously for the moment forget the practices of their own tradesmen and the hard swearing that daily goes on in their own courts. Reading the Anglo-Indian papers, one would suppose that the vocation of the Native Press was to deal in fables. Yet the Anglo-Indian Press itself has times out of number been caught in the act. Nor are the journals of Europe above the common frailty of news-mongering humanity. The best of them are from time to time found not unwilling to make a point or create a sensation with the help of contemporary mythology. The greatest men and women are not safe—not even Royalty—from the art of these newsmen.

ABOUT three months back, a paragraph went round the Indian press to the effect that, while the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief were reviewing the troops at Delhi, a rain storm burst on the scene and the English officers put on their rain cloaks, at which a Russian officer present laughed at the unsoldierly readiness for comfort, but Lord Dufferin immediately let fall his cloak, followed by his staff. It was added that Lord Tennyson's son, who was of the party, was in consequence drenched to the skin, got cold, which soon turned to fever, and died. Thus the proximate cause of the death of Lionel Tennyson in his visit to India was a Russian joke and Lord Dufferin's sensitiveness.

That story was given by the well-known journalist Mr. Stead, on the authority of the prince of journalists Sir Edwin Arnold. It was improbable on the face of it. At any rate, the *Morning Post* of Allahabad, which knows the trick of the trade, at once condemned it, as a pure fabrication. It has now been authoritatively exposed, not indeed by the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava but by the next best man—Colonel F. Rowan Hamilton, who, it will be remembered, was aide-de-camp in waiting to this Lordship when Viceroy.

Writing to the *Review of Reviews*, Colonel Hamilton, who was present on the scene, says that

"Lord Dufferin wore a plain frock coat on the occasion and never put on a cloak of any sort or description from the beginning to the

end of the day; secondly, that neither Lord Dufferin's staff nor the Commander-in-Chief's staff wore cloaks on the occasion; thirdly, that Mr. Lionel Tennyson was not at the time Lord Dufferin's guest, that he did not accompany His Excellency to the field, that he did not form part of the staff, that he did not wear uniform, and that he was consequently at liberty to protect himself from the weather in whatever manner might have been requisite. 'I do not even believe,' adds Colonel Hamilton, 'that he was on horseback, but he was staying with Sir Euan Smith at the time and was not in our vicinity. The fact is the whole story about the rain cloaks, the Russian officer and his criticisms, is a myth from beginning to end.'

On Friday, the 29th April, an auspicious day according to the Hindoo Calendar, Chhura Chand of Manipur was presented with the Sanad which made him Raja of Manipur. The Polo Ground was for the nonce converted into a Durbar Hall. All the civil and military officers in Manipur were present. The leading ministers were grouped behind the Raja. The Raja's mother supported by a group of Manipuri ladies lent grace to the scene. Major Maxwell, the Political Agent and Superintendent of the State, made a speech, reviewing the late disasters, and advising the Raja as to the way he should go. He next gave the programme of his own reform in the State. The first measure, he said, would be the abolition of Lallup, or ten days' free labor in every forty, which would cease from that date. Instead, there would be a house tax of two rupees a house per annum. The next measure would be the gradual abolition of slavery, the slaves being redeemed in five years, but with immediate prohibition of sale of minors. As regards land, tenure holders would be secured in their property on an annual rental of Rs. 5 a pari.

We regret to learn that, after a long course of model management, the good name of the great Cossimbazar Estate is threatened—not successfully, let us hope. For sometime past, the relations between the Zemindar and the tenantry at one village have been strained. We refer to Beldanga, in the Southern skirts of the Moorshedabad District, not many miles distant from Berhampore, the District head-quarters, or from Cossimbazar, the residence of the Maharani. Beldanga originally belonged to the Rajput Baboos of Nakasipara. In the fall of the Nakasipara family, it passed to other hands, until in course of time it came to the Cossimbazar Raj. It is a large township rather than village, with a prosperous population and a considerable trade. The tenants claim permanent rights and with their wealth and by combination, aided doubtless by collusion with the Amla, during several *regimes*, manage to defy the landlord. The recent activity of the Maharani's agents in asserting her rights has been met by well-concerted resistance. The usual rows have been followed by the usual complaints in the criminal courts from both sides. Mr. Mano Mohan Ghose has gone up from Calcutta in the landlord's behalf. He is watching the depositions in support of the prosecution against the Maharani's people, reserving his cross-examination.

THE British Indian Association have elected Maharaja Doorga Churn Law as their President for the current year. They would not accept a proposition to elect the Maharaja of Durbhanga or any of the Behar Chiefs or landlords for the place. An amendment to that effect had not even a seconder. This is an insult not only to the Maharaja of Durbhanga and his brother Chiefs but to the whole Province. If the historic Houses which won their possessions by their good swords and enjoyed them by the grants of successive sovereigns, before the English Company became the Dewan of the Mogul,—houses, too, which the Baboos who have by favour of impecunious British officials been dubbed Rajas and Maharajas and what not besides, and their fathers and uncles were yesterday only too glad to serve—can be thus summarily suppressed, what hope for any minor fry? The reason given for non-acceptance of the amendment was that arrangements for the year had been complete. A lamer excuse or one more discreditable, could not have been put forth. If everything was prearranged, what was the necessity for the meeting? The members outside the clique might have been saved a drive to the close closet in this grilling weather. We wonder the gentlemen present did not resent the insult offered to them by the plea. It was a distinct suggestion that they were a packed set got together to register the decrees of the ruling Clique. The plea was true, however, that all arrangements had been made before the suggestion about the Maharaja of Durbhanga was made. Only it was not the whole truth. The

complete truth is that all arrangements had been made from the beginning of the Association, and indeed the whole hierarchy settled for the first century of its existence. And there is no room in it for the Duke of Durbhanga or Babu Jadu Lal Mullick—In spite of the latter's unaccountable weakness on the last occasion—or for anybody else out of the charmed circle.—In point of fact, Rai Shib Chunder Banerjee did not spring a mine. He gave notice of his amendment before the commencement of the meeting, which was, in consequence, opened long after the appointed hour. Great efforts were made to dissuade the Baboo from his intention. When he was found to be resolute, the ruling Associationites wanted time to marshal their forces for defeating him. His persistency was due to the fact that his proposition was not a new one at all. The Behar members had long been complaining of not receiving justice, and of their Chiefs being systematically left in the shade. The amendment was Behar's ultimatum.

CHOLERA is reported from Benares, Patna and Chittagong. In the first, they are burning sulphur to check the spread of the disease. A correspondent in the *Indian Daily News* complains that the Municipal Commissioners are quite apathetic in the second. In the last, Sir Henry Harrison and one of his daughters have fallen victims. Both the members of the Board of Revenue had been to Chittagong on tour. On account of the virulence of the disease, Mr. Stevens who had preceded him, advised Sir Henry Harrison not to go there, but Sir Henry chose to go. He has paid the penalty of his rashness with his life, dragging along with him his poor daughter, scarcely budded into life.

The news was published in some of the morning papers of Friday. The Board of Revenue, the Port Commissioner's office and the municipal office were closed that day in memory of the deceased. The municipal office remains closed this day too.

Sir Henry Harrison had some grave weaknesses, but all the same his death is a loss to all Calcutta and the entire Bengal Civil Service. A brilliant penman and a formidable controvertist, a fluent speaker and adroit debater, who often rose to the heights of persuasive eloquence, his place will not be easily filled. He had a wonderful tact in dealing with men, and specially the natives of this country. He served in various lines of the administration, with distinction in each. He has been equally successful as a criminal magistrate and a civil judge, an educational officer and a Secretary, in the Legislative Council and in the Board of Revenue,—though his success in every instance was more of the intellectual kind than the active. His greatest achievement was to save the Calcutta Corporation and the right of self-government of the citizens from the uplifted hand of violence of the then Governor of Bengal, Sir Rivers Thompson. Take him all in all, we shall not look upon his like again.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, May 7, 1892.

THE MARTYR TO DUTY AND VICTIM OF AN OFFICIAL "FAD."

By the will of God, a Bishop has been burned sooner than we had reason to hope for, and we may now, we suppose, expect a reform. A senior Divinity of the Board of Revenue and his lovely daughter into the bargain have perished—as a sacrifice to the Moloch of Irrational Symmetry and Steadfastness of Rule—and we suspect the credit of the shrine itself is in jeopardy. Men must now begin to perceive not only the worthlessness, but the wickedness also, of the idol set up for our adoration. Kali-ghat is sacred, and respected even by strangers, and the hecatombs of goats slaughtered there only adds to the *clat* of the goddess. But human sacrifices cannot be permitted in favor of any idol however exalted. Still less the sacrifice of an English chief and an accomplished English lady. If the latter offering was a mere mishap, there ought

to be no possibilities for such accidents. Down, therefore, down with Kali! Down with the whole Pantheon, if need be.

However deeply we may deplore the sudden and premature death of Sir Henry Harrison, we cannot but take consolation from the prospect of compensation which the event offers. Nor can we conceal from ourselves the fact which is the talk of every respectable native and every European house in the Province. It goes without saying that the disastrous event is sure to open the eyes of the present Ruler of Bengal to the great danger, to which his recent circulars on the subject of tours of inspection are exposing the executive officers under his Government from the top to the bottom. The hard and fast rule which he has prescribed, makes no allowance whatever for the age, position and health of the officers, or for the time of the year when the tours are to be undertaken. It takes no notice of the means of travelling available, whether in the shape of boat or steamer, whether by palki or horse dak, by riding or walking. It ignores the state of public health at stations, which must be visited on certain dates. The result of such a cynical institution was foreseen. This stern barbarity has from the outset proved very disastrous to many an executive officer; but being mostly natives no notice has hitherto been taken of their woes by the Head of the Government.

On the principle of great abuses attracting the notice of the authorities, only when a great magnate of the Church or the State becomes a victim thereto, and being then rectified,—we have no doubt that the present catastrophe will lead to the annulment of the inhuman rule in question.

The work of inspection used to be carried on, under former régimes, in the most practicable manner, and no harm of any description ever resulted from the modest practice. The present Ruler of Bengal, however, early came to the conclusion that the system of inspection, which was in vogue in the time of his predecessors since 1853, when Bengal was formed into a separate Lieutenant-Government, was a faulty one; and the only way to rectify it was by prescribing rules with an iron hand, whereby all executive officers from the members of the Board of Revenue to the smallest hospital assistant and pound-keeper, might be harrassed out of their lives, without the least commensurate advantage. Such has been the corrective applied, and such has been the result. Who shall dispute with that King? The misfortune is that the present Lieutenant-Governor has no experience of Bengal, and has no respect for the opinions of those eminent administrators who have gone before him. He thinks that the panacea of all evils is to be found in constant inspections, in and out of season; but he forgets the large amount of serious and delicate thinking his officers have to go through, requiring leisure and repose. Thus, real efficiency in the administration is sacrificed to the necessity, the different officers are under, of carrying out his instructions, detailed in the various circulars which he has been firing off ever since he has ascended the *musnad*. Sir Henry Harrison has evidently fallen a martyr to this disastrous system of inspection.

He had lately been inspecting in Midnapore. At Contai, the cholera was raging, and he was warned off, but he could not help it, said he; he must obey orders. He next took steamer to Chittagong. There too was the cholera. The

natives were dying in large numbers. His colleague at the Board had preceded him there and prudently ran away to inspect another time if need be. He advised Sir Henry against risking a visit to such a place. But the loyal servant of the state thought he was bound to proceed. He went only to die of cholera.

GOVERNMENT PROTECTION TO OFFICIAL WRONG AND JUDICIAL WRONG-DOERS.

OUR readers can scarcely have forgotten our article headed, "An administrative blunder, or, the story of a sacrifice," published on the 30th January last. Such a story is not easy to forget. It is once in a generation only that one comes upon such triumphant official wrong-doing. Adverting to our account, the *Times of India* observed, "the whole story is an incomprehensible one, but at the same time it is one that, told in the calm language of *Reis and Rayyet*, and left uncontradicted and unexplained, will do the Government infinitely more harm than the wild vapourings of journals like the *Bangabashi* type. Whatever be the facts, the case demands enquiry." And so will say every respectable man throughout the universe. There is one journal, however, which thinks and feels differently. Yet we are not surprised at an effort made by the *Hindoo Patriot* for screening the accused Sub-Judge. That journal is not now what it was. It has reached a depth of degradation at the hands of its present conductors that is truly pitiable. It indulges copiously in all the tricks of inferior journalism. In almost every new work it reviews, it discovers a genius. It congratulates Sally of the alley if that good girl becomes housekeeper to Mr. Gorge Augustus Russel D'Cruz of Chunam Gully, sheds tears of bitter grief at the death of the favorite parrot of a Famine Rajah, and finds itself in transports of delight if the major domo of a landed house receives a ten rupee note as *bukseesh* from his master on the occasion of a marriage, and girds up its loins for defending the most rotten cases if the accused happen to command wealth and power. The numerical strength of its clientele,—of men, that is, whom it seeks to serve but practically injures by its advocacy,—bears an inverse ratio to its regular readers. Perfectly unconscious of the figure it cuts, it rushes to heights where sober men feel a diffidence to tread. Having reduced the business of editing to a work of scissors and paste, it surveys its own labours with perfect complacency, never doubting that its pretensions would not be admitted. Itself a stranger to the graces of style, the ability of literary presentation in others provokes in its bosom an eunuch's spite. That the great organ of Hurris Chunder Mookerjee should sink into such a depth, is, perhaps, a national calamity. The case, however, is desperate. Gentle remedies can no longer be of any effect. Literary cautery itself, without curing, can only assist the poor decrepit in moving amongst men with tolerable decency, without, that is, exposing its gangrenous wounds and leprous festers. It is only for this that we have resolved for once to notice its last escapade.

It concerns the public still more. It concerns the purity of the judiciary and the efficiency of the judicial administration. It concerns that reputation of British Justice which is the foundation of Indian Loyalty. Considering the serious nature of the charges made against the Subordinate Judge by his chief ministerial

officer in his petitions and memorials addressed to Government, the least that the authorities could do would be to order an open enquiry with full liberty to the accuser to prove his statements. In one of the enclosures of his memorial addressed to the Viceroy, but wrongly withheld by the Local Government, the memorialist urges, "I am fully aware of the gravity of the accusations I bring in this paper against a judicial officer of Babu.....'s standing in the service. I know also how the reputations of persons are guarded in the Indian Penal Code by the sections on defamation. I know what punishment awaits me if I fail to prove by even judicial evidence the statements made above, I hope, therefore, that the Government will not pass over these statements made by me. I deliberately risk all the terrors of the criminal law in addressing this paper to the Government,"

Can any civilized Government with any care for its reputation resist that appeal? Will our Government not accept the challenge?

* *The Hindoo Patriot's* defence of the accused Sub-Judge is characteristic. Briefly, it amounts to this. The Sheristadar has been dismissed properly; the District Judge found him guilty; upon a reconsideration by the same authority, after hearing the victim, the same conclusion was arrived at; the dismissed servant thrice appealed to the Government of Bengal and thrice his appeal was rejected, because the Government of Bengal could not come to any other conclusion than that the District Judge was right in holding him guilty; his last appeal to the Supreme Government has been withheld by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, because his pay was less than Rs. 100 a month and because there was no chance of his prayer for restoration to service being granted by the appellate authority; that it was in his last petition addressed to the Supreme Government that the dismissed officer first alleged that his dismissal had been brought about by the Sub-Judge through circumstances connected with the latter's drunkenness and immorality, and as there has been so much delay in bringing those charges against the Sub-Judge and, further, as such charges "are in the nature of things very difficult to prove," the Government should take no serious notice of them. In conclusion, the story of the nocturnal revels, the assault by the Afghans, the Sub-Judge's rescue by the Sheristadar, &c., are all a myth due to our own habit of "romancing."

Surely, if the writer in the *Hindoo Patriot* had possessed the slightest share of common sense, he would never have rushed into print with such a defence. The District Judge first dismissed the ministerial officer. Every body knows how obstinate men are in defending their own convictions. In the ordinary course of things, that judicial officer would, every time he reconsidered the case, come to the same conclusion. Without imputing motives, his having twice arrived at the same conclusion cannot certainly operate as a clincher in respect of the Sheristadar's guilt.

In our previous article, we have shown what the intellectual calibre is of this Civilian Judge, and with what frame of mind he came to consider the case. He had actually collected together all the confidential letters written to him by the Sub-Judge and caused them to be sealed up and kept in that state amid the public records of his office, refusing copies to the dismissed servant. Except one who has lost his senses, no one, we believe, would regard such an officer to have been in a proper frame of mind, far less, in a

judicial frame of mind, when he considered naturally. When to this we add, as pointed out in our fore his
the District Judge simply opened a mine upon the
Sheristadar by judging the case upon grounds, ^{by his}
together remote from those that were legitimate.
before him and that, therefore, the first judgment
was in effect a conviction for smuggling in a prosecution
for battery, we think no one will accept that
judgment as infallible. As a matter of fact, again,
it is characterised by many gross errors. The very
date of the petition upon which the matter came up
before the Judge, is given incorrectly. The re-affirm-
ance, upon hearing the Sheristadar, of that judg-
ment amounts to nothing. The less said of that
hearing the better for all concerned on the other side.
The Sheristadar was not allowed the assistance of a
pleader. He prayed for an opportunity to clear his
character in a regular criminal trial on the principal
point, *viz.*, the authorship of a certain letter which
he had denied. His prayer was rejected on the
flimsiest of pretences. His other plea that he would
be prejudiced by a summary hearing, inasmuch as he
could not, if the Judge chose to travel out of the
record, there and then call witnesses, was disallowed.
This then is the vaunted judgment of the District
Judge upon which the Bengal Government relied in
rejecting the Sheristadar's first and second appeals.
His third appeal to the Local Government was reject-
ed on the technical ground of *res judicata* and not
upon the merits. The Sheristadar, for having thrice
appealed to the Local Government, cannot be taken
to have lost his right of appeal to the Supreme
Government. A Civilian Secretariat always advances
pretensions to infallibility. Its reaffirmance of past
orders follows as a matter of course. To argue from
such re-affirmance that there should be no appeal to
a superior tribunal, would be the very height of folly.
Seeing that his fate rested in the first instance upon
the verdict at the Local Government, the petitioner
was fully justified in exhausting his arguments upon
that Government for obtaining a favorable verdict.
The persistence of the Local Government in refusing
to admit the validity of his arguments, does not
certainly prove either that that Government is in the
right or that those arguments would fail to convince
a superior tribunal. In withholding, therefore, from
the Viceroy the victim's memorial to that august
authority, the Local Government has been guilty of a
perverse exercise of discretion. The reason alleged,
viz., that there is little chance of its own orders being
upset, is an unwarrantable assumption, not to say
presumption. The inferior Authority, after doing
what the memorialist believes to be an act of
injustice and wrong, takes upon itself to decide what
the probable action of the superior Authority would
be. This is statesmanship and administrative fairness
and justice in India! And this is what a public
journal quotes as a proper reason for preventing
the injured from going up to higher fountain of Power
to seek justice long and repeatedly denied.

The stress laid by the Patriotic journalist on the delay that has occurred in explaining the real origin of the case, discloses the utter weakness of the defence. The charges brought against the Sub-Judge are grave. If true, his retention in service is an insult to his fellow-judges, and a wrong to the subjects of the crown. Every newspaper that has noticed the case has in no uncertain tones called for an enquiry. Only the Sub-Judge's gallant defender in the *Patriot* is for quietly hushing the matter up. The charges are either true or false. On either supposition

to be no Sub-Judge ought to whip away from his therefore such a friend as the writer in the *Patriot*. A powerless enemy could not possibly have discovered a better way of convincing the public that, grave though the charges are, they are all incontestably true. The advisers of the Sheristadar knew that there is no limit to which the stupidity of individuals might go. They, therefore, took the greatest care in explaining the cause of the delay. In the memorial addressed to the Viceroy but withheld by the Local Government, the Sheristadar observes, "with your Excellency's permission, your petitioner will advert to them [the leading facts of the case including its origin] for the first time in the following paragraphs, being convinced by the severe logic of experience that the reticence he had observed about the origin of the case, and the consideration he had shown for the late Subordinate Judge of—, have brought about his ruin by preventing the Local Government from viewing the accusations against your petitioner in their true light, *viz.*, as trumpery charges dictated by malice and accepted by superior authority under the influence of prejudice and haste." In his last representation to the Lieutenant-Governor, the poor man observes, "My accuser being such, (and there are many graver charges against him, which if opportunity be given me, I am prepared to prove), and my own character having been such, it behoves the superior authorities to give their best attention to the case instead of evading investigation on purely technical grounds. My unwillingness at the outset to disclose the secret history of my case was, like that of Mr. Burchell in the story, the result of my confidence that the reasons openly assigned by me against the propriety of my sentence would prove sufficient and incontrovertible. I acted with delicacy and consideration towards the person who had injured me. I refused to be a party to the formal publication of a grave scandal. When, however, I found to my misfortune, that the trumpery charges preferred against me led to such serious consequences against myself, I had no longer any option left to me about the disclosure of the real history of the case, and the real character of the officer who chose to proceed against me and play the rôle, for the time being, of a hater of ministerial corruption."

As a matter of fact, again, although these serious charges were for the first time brought in a clear and formal way in the Sheristadar's memorial addressed to the Viceroy and withheld by the Local Government, yet they are not perfectly new. Intelligible indications occur in the third petition to the Government of Bengal, dated 4th December 1890 and in the host of certificates and other expressions of opinion from almost all the eminent men of the District connected with the courts. The existence of ill-feeling, though not its cause, had also been alluded to in the very first petition presented to the District Judge on the 16th September 1887.

Voluminous as the record of the case is, the leading facts lie within a nutshell. The Sheristadar has been dismissed informally and unheard. The charges against him had never been drawn up and his defence had never been called for. A portion of the case came up before the District Judge upon a petition made by the Sheristadar himself. The Judge, who was not in a frame of mind to do justice, disposed of the case summarily without granting full opportunities to the petitioner to clear his character. The Local Government has rejected his first and second appeals and refused to admit the third.

The unfortunate man's petition to the Viceroy, praying for a full enquiry with liberty to him to prove his own innocence and the grave charges he has preferred against his immediate superior, is sought to be withheld on technical reasons. While all the respectable organs of public opinion and hundreds of eminent men belonging to the District where the case arose loudly call for a proper enquiry, the Sub-Judge's solitary defender in the columns of a third-rate journal beseeches the Government to hush up the matter. The papers of the case had very lately been examined by a gentleman who while in service was regarded as one of the brightest ornaments of the subordinate judicial service and who for sometime had officiated as a puisne Judge of the Calcutta High Court. His written opinion freely granted to the dismissed ministerial officer for whatever use the latter might make of it, is that "upon reading the papers of his case, I am of opinion that Babu * * * has been unjustly thrown out of Government employ." So far as the public is concerned, can there be a doubt that, as the case stands at present, it affects the Sub-Judge more than the Sheristadar?

DEBATE ON THE INDIAN COUNCILS BILL.

Mr. Curzon, in moving the second reading of this Bill in the House of Commons, said that he was glad, at this early period of the Session, to be able to introduce to the notice of the House a Bill which, if carried into law, would, he believed, be fraught with advantage to the interests of our fellow-subjects in India. It was sometimes said that the House showed but a scant and reluctant concern in the interests of the millions of India, and yet he was sure that this alleged indifference of the many—even if it were true, which he did not altogether accept as a fact—was more than compensated for by the diligence and uncompromising attention of the few. He had heard it said that a greater interference of this House in the government of India might not be a source of unmixed benefit to that country. He hoped this Bill would be one that would commend itself to both sections of opinion in the House—to those members who might not have a direct and personal experience of India, and to that smaller section who, either from long residence or official experience, were emphatically entitled to speak on Indian questions. He might, perhaps, be permitted to take that opportunity of expressing the regret which was felt on both sides of the House at the disappearance from among them of the omnivorous intellect of the late hon. baronet the member for Kirkcaldy (Sir G. Campbell). The object of this Bill was to widen the basis and expand the functions of the Government of India, to give further opportunities than at present existed to the non-official and native element in Indian society to take part in the work of government, and in that way to lend official recognition to that remarkable development both in political interest and capacity which had been visible among the higher classes of Indian society since the government was taken over by the Crown in 1858. In form this Bill was one to amend the Indian Councils Act of 1861. Legislative powers of some sort or other, but of a somewhat confused character, had existed in India for a very long time. They existed under the rule of the old East India Company; but the modern legislative system under which India at present existed owed its origin to Lord Canning when Viceroy, and Sir Charles Wood when Secretary of State in 1861, in which year the latter carried the Indian Councils Bill through the House. The Act of 1861 constituted three legislative Councils in India—the Supreme Council of the Viceroy and the Provincial Councils of Madras and Bombay. The Supreme Council of the Viceroy, or, as it was called the Council for the purpose of making laws and regulations only, consisted of the Governor-General and an executive Council of a *minimum* of six and a *maximum* of 12 members, nominated by the Governor-General. The legislative Councils of Madras and Bombay were also recruited by a *minimum* of four and a *maximum* of eight additional members nominated by the provincial Governor, of whom half, at least, must be non-official. Since the passing of the Act of 1861 Legislative Councils had also been called into existence in Bengal and in the North-West Provinces. In Bengal the Council consisted of the Lieutenant-Governor and 12 nominated Councillors, and in the North-West Provinces the Council consisted of the Lieutenant-Governor and nine nominated Councillors. In both cases one-third of the nominated members must be non-official. This system had undoubtedly worked well. It had justified itself and the anti-

icipation of its promoters. Operating to a very large extent through the agency of sub-committees, composed of experts, it had proved to be an efficient instrument for the evolution of law. The publicity which had attended its proceedings had had a good effect, a number of native gentlemen of capacity and public spirit had been persuaded to come forward and lend their services, and undoubtedly the standard of merit in these Councils had been high. At the same time these Councils had been subject to restrictions and limitations which were intentionally, and he thought wisely, imposed upon them. In the first place, they were in no sense of the term Parliamentary bodies. They were deliberative bodies with a comparatively narrow scope, inasmuch as they were assembled for the discussion of the immediate legislation which lay before them and were not permitted to travel outside that very circumscribed area. Under these circumstances it had been felt that there was wanting to the Government an opportunity for explaining policy and for replying to hostile criticism or attack, and at the same time that there was also wanting to the non-official element—to those who might legitimately call themselves the guardians of the public interest—an opportunity of asking for information, of stating their grievances, and of becoming acquainted with the policy of the Government. These feelings had been expressed in many memorials that had been addressed, over a large number of years to the Government of India by important public bodies and associations throughout the country. Lord Dufferin, in February, 1887, the occasion being the celebration of the Queen's Jubilee, spoke of the desirability of reconstituting the Supreme Legislative Council of the Viceroy on a broader basis and of enlarging its functions, and in November of the following year he sent home a despatch in which he recommended, in the first place, an early financial discussion in the Supreme Legislative Council of the Budget of the year. Lord Dufferin said in that despatch that he did not mean that votes should be taken in regard to the various items of the Budget, or that the heads of expenditure should be submitted in detail to the Council, but simply that the opportunity should be given for a full, free, and thorough criticism and examination of the financial policy of the Government. In the same despatch Lord Dufferin suggested that questions should be asked in the Supreme Legislative Council on matters dealing with native as opposed to Imperial interest. In 1888 Lord Dufferin left India, and early in the following year he was succeeded by the eminent statesman who now held the office of Viceroy. Since his accession to the Viceroyalty Lord Lansdowne had signified his approbation of the annual discussion of the Budget in the manner suggested and also of the right of addressing questions to the Government on matters of public interest. Both these propositions were treated of in a despatch by the Secretary of State in August, 1889, and he dealt with them in relation to the Legislative Council of the Viceroy and also to the Provincial Councils. In the same despatch the noble lord signified his desire for the enlargement of the representation of the public in India by an addition to the number of members of the Council and by some extension of the present system of nomination. Inasmuch as this could not be carried into effect without legislation, the noble lord had enclosed in the despatch a draft Bill, upon which he invited the opinions of the Central and the Provincial Governments of India. These and other criticisms and suggestions were found to be eminently favourable to the contemplated measure, and from these germs sprung the Indian Councils Bill of which he now moved the second reading. A few words as to the Parliamentary history of the measure. It had been in no ordinary degree the victim of Parliamentary vicissitudes, and up to the present its career had been one of mingled success and disappointment. It was introduced for the first time in the House of Lords in 1890, and a most important discussion—a model of what such a discussion should be—took place on the second reading. In Committee a number of important and valuable amendments were made by noble lords who had had experience in the government of India. So amended, the Bill passed and came down to the House of Commons, where it did not succeed in getting beyond the first reading. In 1891 it was introduced in the House of Commons and fell a victim to hardship of fortune or the immoderate interest displayed by the Opposition in other topics of Parliamentary interest. In the present year the Bill was again introduced in the House of Lords in its amended form of 1890, and it had passed through its various stages without alteration, but supported by expressions of strong approval from several noble lords. The delay in passing the Bill had naturally been a source of regret to the Government at home, and regret had been equally felt in India, where there was a good deal of disappointment at the tardy arrival of a long-promised reform and at the apparent willingness of this House to postpone the consideration of a non-controversial and constitutional change for India to the perennial and unprofitable discussion of constitutional changes of a highly controversial character for other parts of the United Kingdom nearer home, which, from an Indian point of view, were infinitesimally small and comparatively unimportant. This disappointment in India had been legitimate, and undoubtedly it had been felt by the present Viceroy, who, having inaugurated his term of

office by signifying his hearty approval of this Bill, had naturally looked forward to being able to carry it into execution before his term of office expired. These feelings were shared by members of the House, if he might judge from questions addressed to his predecessor, and also by those who held extreme opinions, and who, while regarding the Bill as inadequate, were yet desirous that it should pass into law. In July of last year the British Committee of the Indian National Congress, who might be supposed to represent the more extreme views on this subject addressed a letter to the Secretary of State, in which they expressed their deep regret at the withdrawal of the Bill, which would cause such bitter disappointment in India. In the present year Lord Kimberley, who had been Secretary of State for India, had spoken in the same sense, adding—"I echo most sincerely the hope that this measure will be pressed by her Majesty's Government and will pass into law. It is really a misfortune that a measure of this kind should be hung up Session after Session. However important to us may be our domestic legislation, let us not forget that we have an immense responsibility in the government of that great Empire in India, and that it is not well for us to palter long with questions of this kind. And I am the more desirous that this measure should be dealt with because I have observed with great pleasure that in India the tone has much moderated in dealing with this subject, and that very sensible views have been expressed at meetings held in India; and there is now a reasonable promise that there will be an agreement as to a tentative and commencing measure upon this subject. We must not look for it all at once; but if we can make a beginning I believe we shall lay the foundation for what may be a real benefit and a real security to our Indian Empire."

It was a legitimate inference from these expressions of opinion that the Bill would be welcomed on both sides of the House, and that even those who held advanced views would facilitate its passing. (Hear, hear.) The changes which it was proposed to make by the Bill were, broadly speaking, three in number. The first was the concession of the privilege of financial criticism in both the Supreme and the Provincial Councils; the second was the concession of the privilege of interpellation; the third was the addition to the number of members in both classes of Councils. First as regarded financial discussion, he had already pointed out that under the existing law this was possible only when the Finance Minister proposed a new tax. At other times the Budget in India was circulated in the form of pamphlet, and no discussion could take place upon it. During the 30 years since the Councils Act of 1861 there had been 16 occasions upon which new legislation had been called for and such discussion had taken place and there had been 14 on which there had been no discussion at all. By this Bill power would be given to discuss the Budget annually in both the Supreme and the Provincial Councils. It was not contemplated, as the extracts he had read from the despatch of Lord Dufferin would show, to vote the Budget in India item by item, as was done in that House, and to subject it to all the obstacles and delays Parliamentary ingenuity could suggest; but it was proposed to give opportunity to the members of the Councils to indulge in a full and free criticism of the financial policy of the Government, and he thought that all parties would be in favour of such a discussion. The Government would gain, because they would have the opportunity of explaining their financial policy, of removing misapprehension, and of answering criticism and attack; and they would profit by criticism delivered on a public occasion with a due sense of responsibility and by the most competent representatives of unofficial India. The native community would gain, because they would have the opportunity of reviewing the financial situation independently of the mere accident of legislation being required for any particular year, and also because criticism upon the financial policy of the Government, which now found vent in anonymous and even scurrilous papers in India, would be uttered by responsible persons in a public position. Lastly, the interests of finance would gain by this increased publicity and the stimulus of a vigorous and instructive scrutiny. These discussions could have no other result than to promote sound economical administration in India. It was now 20 years since Lord Mayo, that wise and enlightened Viceroy, first proposed the submission of provincial Budgets to Provincial Councils. At that time he was overruled by the Government at home, which he believed was one of the Governments of the right hon. gentleman opposite; at any rate he hoped both sides of the House would now co-operate in making a change which spoke for itself. The second change introduced by the Bill was the concession of the right of interpellation or of asking questions. It was proposed to give to members of both Councils, the Supreme and the Provincial Councils, this right of asking questions on matters of public interest. But both this privilege and the one to which he had previously alluded would be subject, under the terms of the Act, to such conditions and restrictions (an ironical cheer) as might be prescribed in rules made by the Governor-General or the provincial Governors. In answer to the hon. gentleman who cheered somewhat ironically, they were not altogether unfamiliar with such rules and restrictions in this House (hear, hear,) and if these were found necessary here, where we had the most perfect

and elaborated system of Parliamentary government ever known, how much more were they needed in India, where Parliamentary institutions could not as yet be said to exist? (Cheers.) The merits of the proposal, he thought, were obvious. It was desirable, in the first place, in the interests of the Government, which at the present moment was without the means of making known its policy or of answering the criticisms or animadversions or of silencing calumny. And it was also desirable in the interests of the public of India who, in the absence of official information, were apt to be misled to form erroneous apprehensions, and to entertain unjust ideas. The third proposal was to add to the number of members upon the Councils. The Supreme legislative Council consisted at present, in addition to its *ex-officio* members, who number seven, of *minimum* of six and a *maximum* of 12 nominated members; under the Bill the *minimum* would be raised to ten and the *maximum* to 16. The Madras and Bombay Councils consisted, in addition to their four *ex-officio* members, of a *minimum* of four and a *maximum* of eight nominated members, of whom half were non-official; under the Bill the *minimum* would be eight and the *maximum* 20. The Council of Bengal consisted at present of 12 nominated members, of whom one-third were non-official; under the Bill the number would be increased to 20. The Council of the North-West Provinces at present consisted of nine nominated members, of whom also one-third must be non-official; under the Bill they would be raised to 15. The object of these additions was easily stated and would be as easily understood. It was simply, by extending the area of selection in each case, to add to the strength and representative character of the Councils. The late Mr. Bradlaugh, who at different times introduced two Bills dealing with the reform of the Indian Councils into the House, proposed in those measures to swell the numbers to quite impracticable and unmanageable proportions. Under his first Bill their totals would have amounted to 260 and under the second to 230.

Mr. Schwann asked whether the figures just quoted referred to the Councils altogether or to each separately?

Mr. Curzon replied that he was speaking of the five Councils he had mentioned, and the totals for those five Councils. Any one who had any practical acquaintance with India must be aware that the number of persons both competent and willing to take part in the functions of those Councils was nothing like adequate to supply those ambitious totals. At the same time the number of persons so available was sufficient to justify an addition, and, perhaps, a not inconsiderable addition, to the present totals. Every year most fortunately the number of native gentlemen who were both qualified and willing to take part in the work of government was increasing, and every year the advantage of their co-operation in government increased in the same ratio. More especially in the case of the Provincial Councils had it been thought that more effectual means were wanted to reinforce in those Councils unofficial and native opinion. The Government believed that the moderate extension of the numbers which they proposed would have the effect which they contemplated, and at the same time would be compatible with efficiency. Coming to the concluding question, the mode in which those additional members were to be appointed, he noticed that the hon. member for North Manchester had on the paper an amendment declaring that no reform of the Indian Councils which does not embody the elective principle would prove satisfactory. But the Bill, he had to point out, does not exclude some such principle, be the method election, or selection of delegation, or whatever particular phrase they liked to employ. The 4th subsection of Clause I runs as follows:—"The Governor-General in Council may from time to time, with the approval of the Secretary of State in Council, make such regulations as to the conditions under which such nominations, or any of them, shall be made by the Governor-General, Governors, and Lieutenant-Governors respectively, and prescribe the manner in which such regulations shall be carried into effect." Lord Kimberley himself had elsewhere, in an earlier state of this Bill, expressed himself with reference to this clause as follows:—"I am bound to say that I express my own satisfaction because I regard this as, to a certain extent, an admission of the elective principle," and upon another occasion—"I myself believe that under this clause it would be possible for the Governor-General to make arrangements by which certain persons may be presented to him, having been chosen by election, if the Governor-General should find that such a system can be established."

Mr. Maclean:—Does the Government accept that view of Lord Kimberley?

Mr. Curzon:—Undoubtedly, Sir, the opinions expressed by Lord Kimberley are also shared by the Secretary of State. Under this Act it would be in the power of the Viceroy to invite representative bodies in India to elect or select or delegate representatives of themselves and of their opinions to be nominated to those Houses, and thus by slow degrees, by tentative measures—and measures like this could not be otherwise than tentative (hear, hear)—they should perhaps approximate to the ideal which the hon. member for Manchester had in view. He might mention as indicating nothing more—the character of the bodies and associations

to which he alluded, such bodies as the association of the Zemindars of Bengal, the chambers of commerce of India, the municipalities of the great cities, the Universities and perhaps the various great religious denominations in that country. (Hear, hear.) He could not conceive anything more unfortunate than that this House should draw up and send out to India a hard-and-fast elective scheme within the four walls of which the Government of that country should find itself confined, and which if at some future period it proved inadequate or unsuitable, it would be impossible to alter without coming back to this House and experiencing all the obstacles and delays of Parliamentary government in this House. He was well aware the proposal of the Government might not altogether suit those hon. Gentlemen on the other side whose ideas of political progress had been formed in the breathless atmosphere of our life in the West and who were perhaps unable to accommodate their mood to the slower movement of life in the East. The hon. member opposite, for instance, was anxious to have the elective principle more clearly defined and more systematically enforced. He had put an amendment on the paper in which he asked the House to express the opinion that no reform of the Indian Councils which does not embody the elective principle will prove satisfactory to the Indian people (hear, hear) or will be compatible with the good government of India. That amendment was vitiated by a two-fold fallacy. It affected to speak on behalf of the Indian people, and it ignored the primary conditions of Indian life (Ministerial cheers.) When the hon. member presumed to be the mouthpiece of the people of India he must, with all respect, decline to accept his credentials on that point. No system of representation ever devised, no system of representation that the ingenuity of the hon. member could suggest, no system of representation which would bear 24 hours' test of operation could possibly represent the people of India. The people of India were voiceless millions, who could neither read nor write their native tongue, who had no knowledge whatever of English, and who were not perhaps universally aware that the English were in their country as rulers. (Hear, hear.) The people of India were rayyets and peasants; and the plans and policies of the Congress party in India would leave this amorphous residuum absolutely untouched. He did not desire to speak in any other than respectful terms of the Congress party, which contained a number of intelligent, capable, and public-spirited men. They undoubtedly represented that part of the Indian population which had profited by the educational advantages we had placed at their doors; but the constituencies the Congress party represented could not be described otherwise than as a minute and microscopic minority of the population. According to the last census the population of British India was 221 millions, and of that total it was calculated that not more than three or four per cent. could read or write in any of their native tongues and only one-fourth or one-third per cent. could read or write in English. It appeared to him that we could as little judge of the feelings and political aspirations of the people of India—if, indeed, they had any aspirations outside the more material needs of their existence—from the plans and policies of the Congress party as we could judge of the physical configuration of a country which was wrapped in the mists of the early morn, though all its topmost peaks might happen to be touched by the sun. To people in this stage of development they might be at least premature and unwise; and even with such a scheme to speak of the representation of the people of India would be a misuse of terms. The Government assumed the responsibility of stating that in their opinion the time had not come when representative institutions, as we understood the term, could be extended to India. The idea of representation was alien to the Indian mind. We had ourselves only arrived at it by slow degrees, and it was only in the last 25 years that we had in this country entered into the full enjoyment of that system. While it was impossible so to remodel the Indian Councils as to give them the character of representative chambers, he would be sorry to deny the importance of criticism by gentlemen representing native society in India. At present the sole vent available for that opinion was in the native Press and in organized meetings such as the Indian National Congress. Everybody agreed that this knowledge and activity might be better utilized, and the Government believed that the subsection of Clause I. would provide means by which representatives of the most important sections of native society would be appointed to the councils. This Bill was, perhaps, not a great or an heroic measure, but at the same time it marked a decisive step, and a step in advance. As such it had been welcomed by every living Viceroy in India. It was foreshadowed by Lord Dufferin, it was earnestly asked for by Lord Lansdowne, and it had received the emphatic approval of Lord Northbrook not less than of Lord Ripon. There were two main objects which the House was entitled to require in new legislation for India—that it should in no sense impair the efficiency of government and that it should also promote the interests of India. (Hear, hear.) It was because he believed the measure would promote both these ends that he commended the Bill to the sympathetic attention of the House. (Cheers.)

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AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1892.

} No. 524

A MOTHERLESS CHILD.

BY THE LATE BABOO SHAMA CHARAN DUTT.

. 1.

HE knew no speech, he spake no word ;
But who alas ! can say
What secret agony upon
His little heart did prey ?
The fresh rose on his cheek was pale,
The cherub smiled no more ;
Nor sparkled bright his violet eye—
Its radiance soft was o'er.

2.

"Why many a day he saw not once
Mamma's sweet smiling face ?
Why many a day she gave him not
Her wonted dear embrace ?"
So asked his wild uneasy air,
The hurried language of his eyes ;
So asked his endless discontent,
His fretful screams and frequent sighs.

3.

No comfort knew his little soul,
All cheering words were vain ;
Mamma ! Mamma ! ah where was she ?
He'd see her once again.
You saw him round his nurse to cling,
His ev'ry look demanding change ;
From place to place, impatience all,
His ev'ry motion bade her range.

4.

And oft with eager searching eyes,
He sought amid the female train
That smiling face on which he smiled,
And sorely sighed—the search was vain.
At ev'ry sound he started up,
But soon hung down, nor looked around :
It was not she, alas ! not she,
Whose footstep caused the sound.

5.

Poor babe ! at length he seemed convinced
His fond hopes all were vain ;
Convinced he could not see her more,
He asked not now to see again :
And patience now his manners marked,
And calm he looked and looked resigned ;
And other's kindness needing now,
Grew more, to all, than ever kind.

6.

They called to him—his upraised head
Replied to ev'ry friendly call ;
Tho' soon upon his nurse's breast
The drooping head again did fall.
They smiled to wake responsive joy ;
It were ungrateful not to smile,
And you saw on his clouded brow
The fitful sunshine burst awhile.

7.

They gave him toys, which he received ;
The sorrowing infant fain would try
If these would bring his heart relief ;
They would not, and he laid them by :
He laid them by, but gently so,
He'd show no discontent ;
For tho' not pleased, he knew, who gave,
Did give with kind intent.

8.

In secret still the baby pined,
Deep on his face was painted care ;
You could trace in his "sad sweet eye"
The lines of placid, still despair :
Till like a primrose, day by day,
He waned and languished in his bloom ;
And to his sire's redoubled woe,
Re-met his mother in the tomb.

NEWS AND OUR COMMENTS.

CHOLERA has shewn itself at Cabool and Srinagar. At the former, one sowar of the escort of the British Agent has died. The Amir has removed himself from the capital to the Paghman hills. At the Hindoo capital, in three days, there were 27 attacks and 16 deaths.

••

THE sum raised in Quetta for the Sandeman Memorial amounts to Rs. 6,000. The chiefs and people of Baluchistan have already subscribed Rs. 22,000 for a "Jirga" Hall, and more is expected.

••

To induce them to extend their service in India, the Secretary of State has sanctioned bounties to men of the garrison artillery and six battalions of infantry. Soldiers of not less than six years' service and willing to extend their service for one year, will receive Rs. 70, double the amount for double extension or more.

••

THERE will be a war reserve in India of one thousand imported horses for British cavalry and artillery, to be collected as funds are available, and mostly kept at the Saharanpore depot.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

A DETACHMENT of troops has been told off to Nowgong to suppress the dacoits in that district.

ON his return to India, Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Hughes, Commissary-General, Bombay Army, does not revert to his own, but goes to Madras in the same capacity, his place in Bombay being taken up by Lieutenant-Colonel Hobday from Bengal.

THE net salt revenue of India during the last official year was a little over 8¼ crores of rupees, against seven crores and twenty-nine lacs of the year before. Of this total, Bengal supplied 251 lacs, Northern India 184, Madras 204, Bombay 162, Siindh 6, and Burmah 16 lacs of rupees.

Woman descants on the truly womanly subject of Pearls.

"Pearls are very perishable. They cannot be considered a first-rate investment like diamonds. After a time they decay. Sometimes a fine specimen will lose its lustre and beauty within a few months, so that the possessor of such treasures does well to keep them put away in a sealed place. They are very delicately made, consisting of thin films overlaid one upon another, with more or less animal matter between the layers, and it is no wonder that they deteriorate. After being buried in the ground for a while they are found worthless. Those which are dug out of Indian graves—some of them of great size and doubtless of wonderful beauty when they were new—are utterly valueless, even when they are not pierced. Nevertheless, there is a pure and evanescent beauty about them which seems better to become the maiden than any other sort of jewel. Nothing varies so much in value as pearls. With them fashion affects the market constantly. Sometimes white ones are sought, while other times at intervals are in demand. For some years past black pearls have been the rage. A fine specimen worth £120 will fetch £200 perhaps, if another can be got to match it perfectly."

WE learn from the London *Athenæum* that Mr. F. C. Danvers, Registrar and Superintendent of Records at the India Office, is now on a second visit to Lisbon to examine the Portuguese Indian Records. In the course of his first visit, during last autumn, he took a full survey of the records from the sixteenth century to the year 1635. He will now take up the work from that date. These reports ought to be published.

THE Calcutta correspondent of the *Rangoon Gazette* passes a sweeping condemnation upon the entire native Press of the metropolis, for having made unkind and uncalled for reflections on the European officers of the Botanical Gardens, in connection with the Sadharan Brahma Samaj disturbance. The correspondent, whoever he may be, very properly does not include in the Native Press the daily *Hindoo Patriot*, which has become the sworn apologist of Government and which, so far from attacking the European officers of the Botanical Gardens, went to the opposite extreme of abusing the Brahmos. But he might have known that *Reis and Rayyet* kept studious silence over this ugly affair, which should never have been brought to the fierce light of the public gaze. To accuse, therefore, the entire native Press for the flippant and incoherent talk of the Surrender Nots and Norender Nots, is simply unfair.

THE old delusion of spontaneous human combustion has been revived in the columns of the *Advocate of India*. It comes, this time, however, in such a questionable shape that we must speak to it. Our contemporary does not pin his faith to the bullbeggar of the inveterate toppers, but notices a phenomenon of a very different kind. The unique case reported is most interesting, and deserving of scientific notice:—

"There is only one known condition of the body which admits of what is called 'spontaneous combustion' and that is in the inordinate gin drinker. In such cases it is said by some that active chemical action takes place within the body somewhere in the chest or belly, and a flame is raised which consumes the tissues and causes death. Others say that combustion is not 'spontaneous,' but that the tissues of the body being fully saturated with gin, the breath becomes inflammable, and on the approach of the flame of lamp within the combustion area, the alcoholic vapour of the breath is ignited; the flame is conducted down the throat and combustion is set up. Marryat explains in 'Jacob Faithful' that this is how Jacob's mother came to an end. It is easy to understand how tissues saturated with alcohol come in time to possess an increased combustibility, but the gin drinking must have been practised for a very long time and the daily quantity of gin swallowed must have been enormous. The recorded cases of 'spontaneous combustion' as the result of inordinate spirit drinking are not as clear as would be wished. However there is a popular belief that persons may burn themselves to death by spirit drinking. A very lean body it is said cannot be burnt from chemical action beginning within. It is necessary that the body should be

fat as well as saturated with alcohol before combustion will begin in it. The fat within keeps up the combustion and causes death. It now appears that the human body will sometimes burn without alcohol. It may occur in persons not addicted to alcohol. It has always been said that combustible people must be old, must be obese, must be women and must be great gin drinkers. But it is now discovered that there are persons presenting none of these characteristics whose flesh will burn and who will die from the combustion of their own flesh whenever it is fired by flame from without. Death by burns only destroys the true skin, the water of the tissues of the body put out the fire so to speak. The body is burnt but does not burn itself. It appears that there are persons whose flesh possesses an undue liability to burn. They may possess this peculiarity and, of course, be ignorant of it. An American Doctor has just recorded an instance of this susceptibility to burn. The case is curious and unique. The doctor was summoned by a young woman to come to her mother who was burning alive. On reaching the spot he found a woman aged forty-nine who while burning stumps had set fire to her clothes. By the time the doctor reached her she was half consumed; her intestines protruded, her large joints were laid open, and her belly and both legs were much burnt. Her flesh was itself supporting the combustion. This woman was not obese. If the combustion of fat was aiding the burning there was not very much of it. The flesh itself seemed to be combustible. The explanation, as we have said, is that the fleshy tissues of the body possessed the most unusual quality of a liability to burn. This natural curiosity was observed on the outskirts of the town of Massachusetts; it has been observed no where else."

The only drawback of that case is that it comes from America.

LADY Mackenzie being seriously ill at home, Sir Alexander Mackenzie has left Burma to be by her side. Mr. Smeaton has taken temporary charge as Chief Commissioner. Mr. F. W. R. Fryer, C.S.I., Commissioner of the Derajat Division in the Punjab, officiates in the place during Sir Alexander Mackenzie's absence. Mr. A. P. MacDonnell had a prior claim. But it was not thought advisable to disturb the Chief Commissionership of the Central Provinces, which has had so many men in rapid succession.

THESE restless Europeans will not let ill alone even in the far East Cairo is about to be drained. An International Commission have been studying the subject. They have rejected thirty projects and then offered their own. Perhaps it was time something was done, considering that the death rate at Cairo is over 46 per 1000, while it is 29 at Marseilles; 23 in Paris and Berlin; and 17 in London.

THERE is a hectograph journal published at the Causeway, Salisbury, South Africa, called *The Mosonaland Herald and Zambesian Times*, of the size of a sheet of foolscap, priced one shilling.

MR. Sala in the *Englishman* adds:—

"I wot of an even more curious specimen of journalism published in some part of the Deccan in which stone of a nature suited to lithographic purposes was abundant. The Anglo-Indian publication was published every morning, lithographed on a square of white cotton stuff. After being perused it could be utilised as a pocket handkerchief; and in the evening this *Journal Mouchoir* was returned to the local dhobi or washerman, who, after it had gone through the requisite lavatory processes, returned it to the newspaper office to be re-issued to subscribers."

Is that fact or fancy? Where is the local habitation and what the name of this wonderful journal? Our Deccan friend ought to tell.

NOTHING is so useless as to be good for nothing. Here is a tribute to the worth of the distilled damnation of Jamaica or Bengal which must shut up the irrepressible Sir Wilfrid Lawson himself:—

"The Emperor, always on the look-out for anything that might kindle the spirit of emulation among the troops, decided that General Morland's body should be placed in the memorial building which he proposed to erect on the Esplanade des Invalides at Paris. The surgeons, having neither the time nor the materials necessary to embalm the General's body on the battle-field, put it into a barrel of rum, which was transported to Paris. But subsequent events having delayed the construction of the monument destined for General Morland, the barrel in which he had been placed was still standing in one of the rooms of the School of Medicine when Napoleon lost the Empire in 1814. Not long afterwards the barrel broke through decay, and people were much surprised to find that the rum had made the General's moustaches grow to such an extraordinary extent that they fell below his waist. The corpse was in perfect preservation, but, in order to get possession of it, the family was obliged to bring an action against some scientific man who had made a curiosity of it."

Hurrah for Rum!—for the moustache if not the mouth and the inner man.

MONS. Renan in his last book says:—

"I should be very glad to feel sure that there is a hell, for I prefer the hypothesis of a hell to that of annihilation. I imagine that if

in His severity, the Eternal were to send me to that unpleasant place I would manage to get out. Paradise seems a place where people must be very much bored. What I should prefer is purgatory, which I picture to myself as place replete with a certain melancholic charm—a large park illuminated with a polar light and interspersed with groves, where the loves commenced on earth will be purified pending complete etherization. What exquisite romances will be completed there!

With what familiarity these Westerners speak of the horrible regions! Indian serpent-charmers handle snakes with more caution.

It is said that kerosine will take off iron rust and fruit stains from almost every kind of goods, without injuring the fabric. This washing, if preceded by soap and water, will be of no use.

SIR DENNIS FITZPATRICK will be off for the hills on the 16th. He breakfasts the next morning at Solon and reaches Simla in the afternoon.

The Civil Secretariat office of the Punjab Government opens at Simla on the 21st.

NOTES, LEADERETTES, AND OUR OWN NEWS.

THE German Emperor is encouraging rowdyism in the military. The other day much public feeling was evoked on the occasion of the violent death, in a street in Berlin, of a citizen by the hand of a sentinel who, provoked by some insolence, shot him dead. That rash act was universally condemned. It now appears that the Kaiser was of a different mind. He has publicly commended the soldier for his conduct and given him promotions.

THE Bulgarians, Georgi Merdjan and Christo, have been sentenced to death for the murder of Dr. Vulkovitch. The brothers Tufekchieff, who devised the murder and afterwards fled to Russia, have, in their absence, been sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment.

THE ministry are preparing a Bill for the exclusion from Great Britain of destitute aliens.

COLONEL Kitchener has been gazetted Brigadier-General, while holding the appointment of Sirdar of the Egyptian Army. That word "Sirdar" is not our own. Sirdar of the Army, indeed!

COLONEL G. G. Walker, 3rd Battalion, Scottish Borderers, and two Colonels of Volunteer Regiments have been appointed Commanders of the Bath, while eight Colonels of Volunteer Regiments have been appointed Companions of the Bath.

THE Unionist cotton operatives have not resumed work at Stalybridge, because all of them are not re-engaged.—A renewal of the great strike of 1890 is apprehended at the London docks. The Directors of the London Dock Company are not despondent. They think that their disputes with the labourers are of a trivial nature and will be easily solved.

THERE is distress in the North of England. On account of the strike of the Durham miners which has stopped all dependent industries, one hundred thousand people are without work and without food. The Mayors of Hartlepool, Middlesburgh, Stockton and Darlington have appealed for public help.

ON the 11th, a deputation of workmen waited on Lord Salisbury to urge the eight hours' movement. In reply, he deprecated compulsion in the matter, either by strikes or legislation, and pointed out the danger of hampering employers as tending to drive capital out of the country.

THE same day, Mr. Goschen received a deputation of the Bimetallic League, including several members of the House of Commons, representatives from most of the eastern banks and firms and delegates from the Lancashire operatives. Mr. Goschen would not commit himself to any principle, and dismissed the deputation with the information,

hardly new to them, that Government had accepted [the invitation of the United States to attend the Silver Conference to consider the question of the increased use of silver money and that Government would bear in mind the views and interests of India, and that he hoped that the Conference would come to a satisfactory solution.

THE *Times*, while admitting that Government is hard pressed by India to relieve her finances, says that the English acceptance of the American invitation will merely further the Washington election tactics. For it is impossible for the Conference to establish a parity of gold and silver while it will help to keep the silver market in an unsettled state.

Italy and Austria have joined the Conference.

AT a crowded meeting of the Primrose League, held on the 6th at Covent Garden, Lord Salisbury spoke of the paramount importance of the Irish question. Parliament, he said, had no right to sell Ulster into slavery. Home Rule did not mean a message of peace for Ireland, but civil and religious war. At Bristol, Sir W. Harcourt denounced the Premier's speech as an incitement to rebellion, and the watchword of religious bigotry, race hatred, and insolent ascendancy.

MR. Patrick Greville Nugent, M.P., charged with indecent assault on Miss Price on the Brighton line, pleaded guilty of common assault, and has been sentenced to six months' hard labor. And what will the House do with him?

MR. Mowbray, the publisher of *Commonweal*, has been acquitted, but the editor, Mr. Nicholls, been sent to prison for eighteen months.

A BILL for a tramway system throughout London has passed the Committee stage of the House of Commons. It empowers the County Council to construct a tramway over Westminster Bridge and along the Thames Embankment.

THE Russians are adopting stringent measures on the Afghan and Persian frontiers to ward off cholera.

THE Indian Councils Bill has passed through Committee.

MR. Justice Wilson having accepted the post of Legal Adviser and Solicitor to the Secretary of State for India, on the retirement of Mr. Charles Pontifex, an ex-Judge of the Bengal High Court, Mr. Justice Hill has been confirmed as a Puisne Judge of the High Court.

THE omnipotence of Parliament was lately defied by a Welsh railroad corporation, and the British Chamber of Deputies has escaped with the loss of its whiskers. A Select Committee of the House of Commons, presided over by Sir Michael Hicks Beach, had called as a witness before it one Hood, a station-master in the employ of the Cambrian Railway Company. His evidence having gone against the Company, the Directors summarily dismissed him for punishment and, doubtless, by way of warning to their servants against unwise disclosures. The House of Commons naturally took umbrage at the insult to its dignity. The Directors were cited for contempt. They made their submission and tendered an apology. The party leaders were prepared to accept this and make an end of it. But others were differently minded. They smiled at a mere apology, whatever its terms, and justly contended that the Directors should either reinstate their dismissed station-master or grant him full compensation. A little exhibition of firmness on the part of the House would have brought the Directors to its feet. Here, unfortunately, the Inexplicable Old Man interfered. With an eye probably to the interest of the corporations at the coming general Election, such as Pitt had before the general Election of 1784, Mr. Gladstone threw in his whole weight in favour of accepting the apology and dismissing the Directors with an admonition.

He could not deny the seriousness of the Directors' offence. He also admitted, that "it was the bounden duty of the House to maintain the perfect freedom of its witnesses and therefore to punish those who had undoubtedly assailed that freedom." But he took good care that the House should not do its duty. The Commons' satisfaction under his persuasion with a simple apology, surely

amounted to such a dereliction of duty. There was no generosity in the Leader of the Opposition in coming thus to the rescue of the Government and his political enemy Sir Michael Hicks Beach from impending defeat on what was no question of party politics nor point of honour. So extraordinary was the conduct of Mr. Gladstone that his chief organ in the morning press, the *Daily News*, could only whine that Mr. Gladstone acted on the side of mercy instead of justice. But justice is often the true mercy. It would have been so here.

To accept an apology until the wrong was righted, was to eat very humble pie. But that is not the worst evil. So long as the House of Commons is supreme, it may regard an insult with equanimity. But the punishment of station-master Hood by destroying the protection of parliamentary witnesses, impairs the value of their testimony. That is a national calamity.

THE Bengal Government thus mourns in the Gazette the loss of Sir Henry Harrison:—

"NOTIFICATION.

The 7th May 1892.—The Lieutenant-Governor announces with profound regret the death by cholera at Chittagong, on the 5th May 1892, of Sir Henry Leland Harrison, Knight, Senior Member of the Board of Revenue and Member of the Bengal Legislative Council.

After a distinguished University career, Sir Henry Harrison joined the Indian Civil Service in 1860. He early attracted the attention of Government and was appointed Junior Secretary in 1867. For nearly six years he was Magistrate and Collector of the important district of Midnapore, and acquired the reputation of being one of the best district officers in Bengal. He then served as Secretary to the Board of Revenue, and for a short time as Secretary to Government. In April 1881 he was appointed Chairman of the Corporation and Commissioner of Police, Calcutta. For nine years he discharged the duties of this difficult office in a manner which won for him the approval of Government and the esteem and respect of the public. His name will always be associated with a period of greatly improved Municipal administration, and his public services to Calcutta constitute a large part of the history of the Metropolis during the past decade. In April 1890 he was appointed a Member of the Board of Revenue. The news of the sudden death, while visiting the district of Chittagong in the discharge of his duties as Member of the Board, will be received with universal sorrow. This calamitous event has deprived the Lieutenant-Governor of one of his most trusted advisers, the Civil Service of one of its most distinguished ornaments, and the province and people of Bengal of one of their truest friends.

H. J. S. COTTON,
Offg. Chief Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal."

That is, on the whole, a niggard tribute to the memory of a brilliant officer. It was perhaps unfortunate that the drafting of the official obituary fell to the hands of Mr. Cotton. He could have spoken out his own mind, but he had to express for another of whose mind he was, perhaps, not sure. Besides, in his solicitude to sink the friend in the Secretary, he has scarcely done full official justice to the sacrificed official. The deceased was one in a thousand—the notification might apply to fifty officers, and is the common form of courtesy for all officers entitled to a Gazette notification on their death, whether they be strictly entitled to the praise or not. The pathos of Sir Henry Harrison's early end, with all its pitiable attendant circumstances, is but faintly adumbrated in the lifeless document. The cruel fate of this high functionary, next in position to the Lieutenant Governor himself, does not touch one sympathetic cord of gubernatorial feeling. Sir Charles Elliott announces the death of Sir Henry Leland Harrison, Knight, Senior Member of the Board of Revenue, Member of the Bengal Legislative Council, "with profound regret." The death of a pet parrot excites a more tender emotion. Of a piece with this perfunctory performance of the duty to the dead, in setting forth for the last time the name and titles of the deceased, his honorific title as a member of the Bengal Council is buried. For the rest, the biographic notice seems taken from a "Men of the Time" in which all colour and sentiment are tabooed. Sir Henry's great services to Calcutta are dismissed with the commonplaces of compliment. Justice no doubt is done at the end. Only we should have liked it in more burning terms. The words themselves are good and of noble signification, but then they have been depreciated by indiscriminate bestowal on the undeserving, like the titles of Rai Bahadur and Raja. No generous ardour is visible in the document. To be personal and mechanical is the official way, to be sure, but if ever there was an occasion for departing from it, it was here.

We hope, at any rate, the Bengal Government will now relent and remove the cause that exposed so valuable an officer to such a sudden and lamentable death.

THE Corporation of Calcutta, we are glad to find, is willing to its duty to its dead old Chief. On a requisition from several of the Commissioners, the Chairman has called a special Meeting of the Commissioners, "to express their sense of deep regret at the death of the Hon'ble Sir Henry Harrison who, for nine years, was the Chairman of the Corporation." All the same, the requisitionists, including the *proprietors* and *pets* of the deceased, do not advance beyond cold formality, any more than the Government. They only translate the Bengal office phrase in describing their feeling as one of "deep regret." The Government have the more sounding and sonorous epithet, but then their scribe had the first choice of the vocabulary.

Alas! for the degradation of the times! Had a promising lordling or an obscure princeling so died, there would have been no end of gush on every side. But people are ashamed to mourn a valuable public servant who falls a sacrifice to duty.

ON the departure of Mr. C. A. Roe on furlough, Mr. F. D'Olbart Bulluck, Divisional Judge, Jhelum, will officiate as a Judge of the Punjab Chief Court, till the 26th July, when Sir M. Plowden returns. The Punjab Government is alive to the fact that, since the death of Pandit Ramnarain no native has been appointed to the bench of the Chief Court. Mr. Bulluck has, therefore, been given to understand that it was "not improbable that he would have to give way to a gentleman of the native Bar in the event of some permanent, or perhaps in certain circumstances, in the event of a future temporary vacancy occurring." All thanks to Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick, for his liberal promise! We only hope he will not succumb to the unmeaning cry of a native of the Province for the Chief Court Judgeship, but appoint the best available native, and at once. A native is a native, whether born in one Province or another. Besides, there are natives in the Lahore Bar, who are essentially of the Punjab, though born out of it. They have made Punjab their home, living and labouring in it, and to leave them out on the plea that they were not of the Province, is absurdly unjust, and barbarously cruel.

MR. Pearson, officiating Chief Reporter of the Indian Law, is now dispensing justice in the Police Court, as officiating Chief Magistrate. Mr. Hyde acts as officiating Chief in Mr. Pearson's place, Mr. Abdur Rahman acts for Mr. Hyde in the High Court. The native community have reason to be grateful to the Chief Justice and the Government of India for once more recognising the claims of the Indian section of the Bar in the matter of law reporting. Let us hope that, under the liberal lead of Sir Charles Elliott, the Government of Bengal will follow the example and recognise the claims of the native Barristers in the new Provincial Service. In their respective evidence, both the Chief of the Judiciary in Bengal, Sir Comer Petheram, and the Chief of the Bar in Bengal, Sir Charles Paul, strongly pressed upon the Public Service Commission the advisableness of appointing qualified men, who have had sufficient practice in civil and criminal litigation, as District Judges. Of the six District Judgeships allotted to the Provincial Service, it is only fair and just that at least two should be reserved for native barristers, who besides being young, able, possess the confidence of both the Government and the High Court.

THE habits of one of the district civil courts of the Twenty-four Parganas are suffering cruelly from the effects of a singular judicial Clature. The Pleaders of the Alipore Bar have complained to the District Judge, Mr. Garrett, that the First Subordinate Judge, Baboo Purna Chunder Shome, holds his court from 11 in the forenoon till a late hour in the evening, with every door and window closed, and that he would not relax his practice, though repeatedly reminded of the inconvenience and unhealthiness resulting therefrom. Instead of appealing to the District Judge, the Pleaders might have subscribed between them and sent the Sub-Judge one or two sanitary primers. Perhaps they know their man better than we can teach them. We suppose Baboo Shome cherishes the notions of his grand-mother and the Vaidyas, so ignorant of the science of life. After all, he is by no means singular in this country in living like hermetically sealed provisions and recommending the regimen to others. Our very medical men, graduates of the Medical College—the Garbadhanists in particular, we suspect, have a horror of the air of the atmosphere. We only wonder how this Sub-Judge manages to live under his irrational arrangement. Even without closure of all doors, these courts are worse than ovens. The

cloture converts them into Black Holes. This Shome Nath is a veritable cat.

It is wellknown that Jack Tar is an easy prey to the landsharks of every port. But alas! the poor fellow has no better fate reserved for him at Home. As at Calcutta or Hongkong, Sydney or Valparaiso, so at Liverpool or Hamburg. How Jack Bull fares in London itself hear Mr. Sala in the *Englishman* :—

"Forty years ago, in Charles Dickens's 'Household Words,' I wrote an article called 'Jack Alive in London,' describing as faithfully as I might the humours,—rather tragic humours, some of them—of Ratcliff Highway, and I have never been to that highway since. In the innocence of my heart I have long since imagined that Ratcliff Highway, thanks to missionaries, district visitors, and Mr. G. R. Sims, had become quite a reformed neighbourhood, and that Jack was now only alive in London in the most innocent and decorous fashion. Alack! I found a rude awakening from my dream when I read a report of a meeting of seamen of all nationalities gathered at tea at the 'Strangers' Rest' in the maritime boulevard I have mentioned. A question put to the meeting was 'Are sailors still drugged and robbed in this neighbourhood?' A chorus of voices arose unanimously affirming that mariners were still liable to be relieved of their clothes, and even of their boots while in a state of insensibility arising from drugged drinks, while others declared that sailors were often robbed without being drugged at all. The local publicans, who are as respectable at the Eastend as they are at the West, have, I should say, nothing whatever to do with this abominable system of hocussing and plundering seamen. It is in the low lodging-houses, and when he is in 'gay' company, that Jack is rifled and stripped."

And so in Calcutta. The rifling and stripping is done by a set of crimps who ought to be wellknown to the Police, who inveigle honest Jack to the haunts of gay company at lodging-houses or rather low brothels. Jack has a sneaking weakness for the society of "Indian Queens" and he is introduced to pariah women rudely personating royalty, with whom he booses and is soon drugged out of his senses and then plundered and finally bundled out into the street pavement.

WE have much pleasure in cutting for our readers' benefit the following body of

"FACTS ABOUT MAN.

The average number of teeth is 32.

The weight of the circulating blood, is 29lbs.

The average weight of an adult is 150 lbs. 6 oz.

The brain of a man exceeds twice that of any other animal.

A man breathes about 20 times a minute or 1,200 in an hour.

The average weight of the brain of a man is 3½ lbs.; of a woman 2 lbs. 11 oz.

Five hundred and forty pounds, or one hogshead and one and a quarter pints of blood pass through the heart in one hour.

The heart sends nearly 100 lbs. of blood through the veins and arteries each beat, and makes four beats while we breathe once.

One hundred and seventy-five million cells are in the lungs, which would cover a surface thirty times greater than the human body.

The average of the pulse in infancy is 120 per minute; in manhood, 80; at sixty years, 60.

The pulse of females is more rapid than that of males."

Some of these facts are very interesting, e.g., the difference in weight between the brain of man and the brain of any other animal. That undoubtedly fortifies man's position. Still more valuable a truth is the physiological difference, over and above sexual, between man and woman. Talk of equality, after that!

MR. Sala notices that Prince Bismarck

"has recently told a visitor that northern nations all require a wetting, and that if the German is to become fully conscious of his strength he must first have swallowed half a bottle of wine, or better still, a whole one."

That is founded on an old delusion. But it has been proved over and over again that teetotallers endure cold and fatigue much better than drinkers. Very properly,

"The Man of Blood and Iron does not admire liquors and 'such sweet stuff.' He avers that a good glass of cognac is more in his line."

But then, it is said that

"the ex-Chancellor, many years ago, is said to have invented a kind of glorified 'shandigaff' or sublimated dog's nose, composed of champagne and Guinness's stout, well bricked up with Cayenne pepper."

The vile barbarian! Dog's nose, indeed. Dog's something worse, we suspect. Champagne and stout. What a combination! The Cayenne pepper is of course introduced to force the repulsive draught down the gullet against nature, just as the Plain Cookery of Europe positively

needs the help of a threat of mustard blister on the tongue to coerce the unfortunate victim of it into swallowing the underdone strong meats.

Mr. Sala offers this crumb of comfort :—

"Sir Wilfrid Lawson and his friends may, however, derive some slight consolation from the fact that when Bismarck's visitor refused a glass of whisky offered him by the Prince, the latter exclaimed, 'I think drinking is dying out more and more in Germany. I only hope that we shall not become like the English, who drink only water and tea.'"

Mr. Sala does not think that Millennium yet come in England :—

"But most sagacious of Bismarcks, the English people absolutely swim in beer, and they drink enough gin every year to float the Channel and the Mediterranean fleets combined. Our Irish and Scotch brethren have not lost their thirst for whisky, and the amount of the annual National Drink Bill is regarded by the friends of total abstinence as a national horror and a national shame. With all this, while the Revenue returns tell us that the consumption of strong drink continues to increase, there is a steady decrease in crime and in drunkenness."

WITHOUT making elaborate comparison, any candid man who was present at the last meeting of the new Calcutta Corporation, could not help feeling that, after all deductions, the present Commissioners are not wanting in strength and capacity for usefulness. We have already stated our view of the law in the matter of the Chairman's casting vote in favor of Babu Joygobind Law in the election of the general Committee. At the meeting in question, the various sections of the Municipal Act were more or less strictly construed according to various well-known rules of construction. Mr. Apar moved to obtain the opinion of the Officiating Advocate-General of Bengal on the so-called knotty question of Municipal law. By the way, the said law was on trial at the time and was being dissected in the High Court; even the English of it was found fault with judicially an hour before the meeting. Another limb of the law, Mr. Abdur Rahman, valiantly led the opposition, and, in an able speech, proved from his point of view that the question was neither difficult nor abstruse, and that the time had come when the rate-payers' money could not further be frittered away in that fashion, as it ought to be the duty of the new Corporation to minimize the enormous law charges, instead of increasing the same. Babu Kalinath Mitter and a number of others followed Mr. Rahman. Mr. Apar's resolution was, however, carried by a large majority, after some vigorous speechification on both sides. Thus victorious, Mr. Apar moved for the appointment of a Committee consisting of Babus Durgagati Banerjee, Nalin Behary Sircar, Joy Gobind Law, Kalinath Mitter and himself. This was, of course, seconded. Mr. Abdur Rahman objected to this proposal on the ground that Mr. Apar had carried his resolution minus the committee, and there being no suggestion of a committee in it and he not having given notice of his resolution number two, it should be rejected. That being so, the motion was, to the disappointment and chagrin of Mr. Apar's party, thrown out. It is indeed a pity, for it is well known that counsel's opinion is counsel's opinion. A case drawn up by a strong committee must be in the nature of things quite a different thing from a case drawn up by either the Chairman or the Solicitor to the Corporation.

A RUM Daniel has come to judgment in England. The other day, he presided at the Leeds Assizes. He is none of your hard men of mere law fed upon musty precedents. He exercises his own wits and, we may add, is not ashamed of his natural feelings. He applied the principle of the law of defamation and of treason to the litigation of courtship. If signs against individuals are actionable for slander—if signs against the state are indictable as sedition, why shall not they be good in other wrongs? This Judge laid down that to constitute a breach of promise of marriage, words were not necessary. A silent man may, without recourse to speech, make, as well as mar, love. He may court and promise as well as back out. He may gull a girl with hopes and then abandon her before completing the engagement without recourse to articulate expression. There are coquettes and crimps and pretenders of both sexes, and a man may, so to say, jilt a woman, first decoying her to submission, and finally sending her to the right about. It was a pitiable case in which a teacher had fooled his pupil to the top of her bent, addressing her in terms of affectionate familiarity and continuing for years to exchange tenderness, and at last when the time came to seal the mutual attachment before the altar—or a Registrar—throwing off the disguise and pretending

that they were simply playing with mutual enjoyment a play which was not to be taken so seriously. The base man taking advantage of his ingenuity, turned round to ask his poor outwitted victim if she possessed any letter of his containing the word marriage. If she possessed any, then he might treat with her, or else not. His "dearest Jane" was in a fix.

Is there, in human form, that bears a heart—
A wretch! a villain! lost to love and truth
That can, with studied, sly, ensnaring art,
Betray sweet Jenny's unsuspecting youth?
Curse on his perjur'd arts! dissembling smooth!
Are honour, virtue, conscience, all exil'd?
Is there no pity, no relenting ruth,
Points to the parents fondling o'er their child?
Then paints the ruin'd maid, and their distraction wild?

But Jenny was advised to go to law, and luckily there was for her a judge equal to the occasion and the offender. Mr. Justice Wright held that no such letter or word was necessary. It were enough if the fact was established. According to him, a valid breach of promise may be made by a mere shake of the hand or even a wink of the eye, and there may be a thousand other modes independent of language. We are reminded of the Poet's song:—

Was it something said,
Something done,
Vexed him? Was it touch of hand,
Turn of head?
Strange! that very way
Love began:
I as little understand
Love's decay.

There was a decree for £100 with costs against the perfidious pedagogue.

It is given out in the English papers that Sir John Strachey has acceded to the request of the Countess of Lytton, the widow of our former Viceroy, to write a history of her late husband's viceroyalty. There is not much of sacrifice in the compliance. The request offered Sir John too tempting an opportunity for vindicating his ways to man for refusal. The Lytton régime was in point of fact the second Indian administration of Sir John Strachey. Sir John has been a power in the state from the days of Lord Lawrence. As Chief Commissioner of Oudh, he had zealously seconded that Governor-General's mischievous enquiries into tenant-right in the Province and early, in 1868, he was called to a seat in Council with the special object of taking charge of the Oudh land legislation. With the next griffin Viceroy, his importance waxed unusually high. He now invited his brother the Engineer too to the Government of India, and between them they ruled the roast. It was the talk, not to say the scandal, of the time. In 1871, the Royal Dick was attracted to the snug berth of inspector of railway machinery and stores, at the India office, and Jack was left alone to the joy, if not all the dignity and glory, of ruling this Empire. Thus he remained in undisturbed influence till the sad end of the good Viceroy in the Andaman islands by the assassin's hand. This cruel event gave him a still greater lift and completed his triumph. During the interregnum, he ruled *de jure* as well as *de facto*. By the sudden death of Lord Mayo, Mr. John Strachey, of the Bengal Civil Service, became, by simple operation of law, Viceroy and Governor General, if only for 14 days. Again, nearly all through the viceroyalty of Lord Lytton he was the real ruler. While Owen Meredith poetized and orated and, for the rest, ate, drank and made merry, Sir John guided the vessel of state. His history of the administration will be much of a chapter of autobiography.

CORRECTION.—Paras. 2 and 3 of the second leading article in the last issue are to be read as the two final paras.—ED. R. & R.

Holloway's Pills and Ointment.—The most effectual Cure for Gout and Rheumatism.—A frequent cause of these complaints is the inflammatory state of the blood, attended with bad digestion, lassitude, and great debility, showing the want of a proper circulation of the fluid, and that impurity of the blood greatly aggravates these disorders. Holloway's Pills are of so purifying a nature that a few doses taken in time are an effectual preventive against gout and rheumatism, but anyone that has an attack of either should use Holloway's Ointment also, the powerful properties of which, combined with the effects of the Pills, ensure a certain cure. The Ointment should be thoroughly rubbed into the parts affected at least twice a day, after they have been sufficiently fomented with warm water to open the pores to facilitate the introduction of the Ointment to the glands.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, May 14, 1892.

THE CONQUEST OF NADIYA BY GOVERNMENT FOR ITS PET PANDIT.

WE have lately, on more than one occasion, been considering the proposals of Pandit Mahesh Chandra for the confusion of Sanskrit learning in this Province. Its importance draws us to the theme once more. Those proposals veil a scheme for the conquest of Nadiya for Mahesh Chandra. The ambition of our hero is to be accepted as the head of the Pandit community of Bengal. But to be a really great Sanskritist is no easy task, and the notoriety which he has attained as a grammatical blunderer by his little Sanskrit primer intended for the use of candidates for the University Entrance Examination, must have made him hopeless of distinguishing himself in the higher fields of our ancient language and literature. With such position and opportunities as he enjoys, any real scholar might have rendered lasting service to the literary world by antiquarian and philological researches. But our political Pandit is too wise a man in his generation to make his life miserable by the "toil of sprite" which is the lot of scholars and authors. Yet with the resources at his command, he cannot be expected to give up one of the apparently cherished dreams of his life. He is now C.I.E. and Mahamahopadhyaya, besides Principal of the Sanskrit College. Why then should he not aspire to be the head of the Pandits? His ambition is not, however, to take up the rôle of a *Dig Vijayi* (world-conquering) Pandit, and to crush the giants of Sanskrit learning at Nadiya in a fair fight. He is a strategist who in order to win his object would have recourse to the shortest cut, and would not waste his energy for the sake of a principle. He may not have the necessary amount of literary powder and shot to engage in a war of learning with the heads of the Faculties at Nadiya. But he has a large stock of tact in him, and what honor is there in this country that cannot be attained by the skilful playing of the card of official favor? By tact a man of straw can rise to a Maharaja; by tact the veriest scum of society can attain the position of saints. If an illiterate courtier of a Nadiya Raja could, by dint of tact, vanquish and frighten away one of the profoundest scholars who visited the court of his master, cannot Companion Mahesh, with such learning as he possesses, aspire to be regarded by his countrymen as the highest living Sanskritist of his time? If we have read Nyayaratna rightly, *delenda est Nadiya* has been the motto of his life since the beginning of his official career. When the late Sir Cecil Beadon expressed his readiness to sanction a grant of a lac of rupees for subsidizing the *tols*, and when Messrs. Woodrow and Cowell were deputed to visit the Nadiya *tols* for preparing a scheme, it was, we believe, the Pandit who rendered it abortive. Latterly, he started the Sanskrit title examination, and by that plan tried to subordinate the Nadiya Pandits. But they perceived its real object, and they not only held aloof from it, but were forced to organize an examining body in their own town, the operations of which have, without any help whatever from Government, thrown into the shade the semi-official examinations and titles of Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesh. The Nadiya Pandits are nevertheless not very partial towards the annual examination system. Experience shows that it can never secure that thoroughness which is found to result from the indigenous methods. But, as observed above,

they were forced to adopt the examination system in order to meet the craze for titles which is the order of the day and which has found its way even into the recesses of the *tols*, as well from the fussiness of the Babus of Dharma Rakshini Sabhas as through the *modus operandi* adopted by Pandit Mahesh for gratifying his ambition. The part which he took in connection with the scheme lately sanctioned by Government, disposed not only our publicists, but many of the Pandits who knew him better, to look upon him as a true friend and well-wisher of Nadiya. But as effect is being given to the orders of Government and as the veil of disinterestedness is being gradually withdrawn, his real policy is becoming quite unmistakable.

The scheme sanctioned by the Government of Sir Charles Elliott, contemplates the subsidizing of three of the leading *tols* of Nadiya. This was in accordance with Pandit Mahesh's recommendation. He has ignored the claims of the great Pandits of Madhubani in Mithila for pushing up a mushroom institution lately started under the odd name of Gautama Thompson Patshala, at a place called Revelgunge. But either because there is no such Pickwick club in Bengal, or because the claims of Nadiya were too well known to the authorities to be overlooked, he recommended the grant of three substantial stipends to the latter. But how is the order of Government now being carried out? We are told that a teacher of the late Babu P. C. Tagore's Sanskrit School at Moolajore, has been sent to Nadiya as the Government stipendiary Pandit of a new *tol* to be set up by him. This gentleman is a pupil of one of the chief Pandits of Nadiya, and there is very little chance of his ever being able to attain a high position as a teacher at that seat of learning. It may be easy enough to represent that he has attracted a certain number of pupils. The true question is whether these are of the class who usually resort to Nadiya for giving the finishing touch to their education, or whether they are not mere tyros attracted by the prospect of having a share of the amount sanctioned by Government for the subsistence of the Nadiya *tol* students? Pandit Mahesh's nominee may not be an empty phial with a gilded label. By serving apprenticeship as a pupil teacher in a Nadiya seminary, he may one day become qualified to be a Nadiya Professor. But even on the supposition that he is a deserving man, his appointment at Nadiya is like carrying coal to Newcastle. It may serve to give to Pandit Mahesh and to his patron, the Maharaja of Pathuriaghata, a footing at Nadiya. But this step, unless countermanded at once by Government, would, instead of conciliating the Pandits, alienate their feelings to an extent which it is almost impossible for an outsider to realize. The learned Director of Public Instruction and Sir Charles Elliott who made the grant, might form some idea of the abuse that is about to be made of it, if they would only consider what the feelings of the professors of Greek and Latin in a European University would be, if a teacher of an Indian school were placed above their heads. Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesh may have the satisfaction that the world of Pandits now grows pale at his name. But then the interest of Government and that of the public has also to be taken into consideration in such matters.

Our impression is that to attempt at reducing the Pandits to the position of paid servants, would be a great mistake from every point of view. At present, they throw their whole heart into their work, and

from personal knowledge we can vouch to the fact that some of the principal Professors devote more than ten hours a day to their tutorial duties. According to the existing practice, a Pandit would stay at his *tol* from morning till noon or even later, in order to solve the questions and remove the doubts of his pupils. But if the professors of the *tols* be subjected to rules as to attendance, they would perhaps do their work quite as perfunctorily as the paid teachers of the Government Colleges. Teaching is a labor of love to the Pandits, but such love can never arise under compulsion. The ambition of the Pandits to be regarded as votaries of learning, would be quenched altogether if they be placed in the position of bondsmen and slaves. From their habit, the Pandits can appreciate nothing so much as a *vidaya* or honorific bonus. A salary of Rs. 10 or even Rs. 20 per month, would be regarded by most of them as an insult. But an honorarium of Rs. 100 once in the year would be coveted by many of them as a welcome windfall of fortune. From sheer necessity some of these noble philomaths may accept the position of paid servants. But the situation would be galling to their pride, and the harness of office would deprive them not only of their peace of mind, but also of the respect which they now enjoy in the estimation of their countrymen. The only plan which can suit the exigencies of the case, is that which has been adopted by the Nadiya Pandits themselves. At present, they hold not only an annual examination in the several branches of Sanskrit learning, but convene also a convocation in which the leading Pandits of the country meet with their chosen pupils and receive small presents of money. The resources of the Nadiya College of Pandits being limited, it cannot afford to pay very large bonuses to the professors or their pupils, over and above their travelling charges. But the superiority of Nadiya being admitted on all hands, the Pandits consider it a great honor to be invited to the assembly. If the object of Government is to conciliate the Pandits, and also to encourage the study of Sanskrit in the indigenous institutes for its culture, then that object cannot be better attained than by placing the amount sanctioned for the purpose at the disposal of the Collector of Nadiya, and instructing that officer to administer it—say, in accordance with the rules and recommendations of the Nadiya College of Pandits. If the Collector could successfully administer the grant which used to be made in previous years for the assistance of the pupils of the Nadiya *tols*, there seems to be no reason why there should be any hitch in connection with the disbursement of the enhanced grant.

The annual convocation of the Nadiya College of Pandits has already acquired some popularity in the District, and with a little encouragement from Government it would become much more so. In fact, our belief is that if the annual gathering be presided over, for a few years, by some high official, then the *tols* would receive an amount of contribution from the Hindu princes and zemindars that would render them more than self-supporting. So great is the veneration felt by the people of this country for the Pandits, that there is hardly a well-to-do Hindu family that does not spend some money in honorific gifts to them. Such being the extent of sympathy of our countrymen for the native Sanskritists, it would manifest itself by substantial pecuniary contributions for their benefit, should our Government only recognize and back up the unique position of Nadiya. An Oriental University may be organized under the

headship of Pandit Mahesh Chandra Nayaratra. But it would stand on no higher footing in the sympathies of the people than the institution organized at Lahore by Dr. Leitner. The position of the Nadiya College of Pandits is quite different. It has all the advantages of a high historical name, and, if backed by the prestige of some high official, its importance would be such that not only the eminent Pandits, but even the great princes and reises would consider it a matter of honor to be connected with it, either as Fellows or as office-bearers. The plan which has been adopted on the recommendation of Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesh Chandra, cannot serve in the least degree to encourage the culture of Sanskrit. On the contrary, it will not only create great discontent among the Pandits, but also seriously shake the confidence of the people in the motives of the British Raj. The decision of Government on the matter has been announced. But even now, we hope, Sir Charles Elliott and the learned head of the Education Department will be able to see their way towards inviting and acting upon better advice. If only for the sake of form, the opinion of Babu Mohendra Nath Bhattacharya, who holds a high office under Government, and who, according to Pandit Mahesh Chander's own report, is the life and soul of the Nadiya College of Pandits, ought to have been taken before Sir Charles Elliott recorded his orders. But it is not too late to mend matters even now. At any rate, the only course by which His Honor can avoid being bamboozled by his political Pandit lies in inviting the opinions of such English-knowing Sanskritists as are interested in and conversant with the affairs of the *tois*.

RAJSHAIYE.

Baulia, May 10.

Since the late unusual meteorological phenomenon of a hail-storm, a full account of which appeared in your columns some time back, the showers have been few and far between, followed, as a natural consequence, by a succession of hot days and sweltering nights, so that when last Sunday evening the sky became suddenly overclouded and a sharp wind began to blow from the river-side, we were at first actually led to exult at the prospect of a heavy downpour. But as the wind grew more alarmingly tempestuous and the shadowed horizon began to present an ominous look, as it was occasionally lit up by flashes of lightning, accompanied by terrific and disturbing peals of thunder, we were forced to considerably modify our expectations. What at first appeared to herald the approach of only a cooling and therefore welcome rainfall, threatened to develop into a fearful storm manifesting unmistakable traits and decided tendencies of a cyclonic character. The wind blew with extreme violence and with sudden changes, making a shrill moaning sound, when in 'its wild career,' it tore through the strong ranks of the vegetable world, which dared to offer resistance. The grim deodars and the lovely cypresses were all smarting under the buffets of the mighty element run amok! As the cyclone, for such assuredly it was, swept over our little river-girt station, banging doors, damaging window-panes, upsetting flower-pots, striking down trees, we watched the furious course of the hurricane through half opened shutters, with anxious concern. Our worst fears were not, however, destined to be confirmed! After lasting for nearly half an hour, the wind gradually diminished in virulence. The rain came down in torrents dispelling all our fears by afterwards settling down into a drizzle. A slight hail-fall was also perceptible, but the hail-stones were so small in size that they could hardly be distinguished from the tiny rain-drops that accompanied them. A brief space of calm followed, when, with characteristic suddenness, the clouds dispersed and the radiant slanting rays of the setting sun, shot through a clear blue sky, at once enhancing the piquancy of effect produced by the sudden phenomenal transformation of scene!

The news of the sudden death of Sir Henry Harrison and his daughter was received here with deep regret, and much sympathy is felt for Lady Harrison and family on whom the sorrowful intelligence must have come with a painfully shocking suddenness. As if the untimely death of a distinguished officer, possessed

of such varied accomplishments, exceptional ability and infinite tact, was not sufficiently unfortunate, his lovely daughter has also shared his terrible fate. It is generally felt, that Sir Henry has been a victim of the ill-advised system of inspection introduced under the present régime. Your strongly-worded, withal able, leader, in which you have so fearlessly condemned the flashes of misdirected energy and blind, wrong-headed zeal so characteristic of the present administration, is greatly admired and no less widely appreciated. It is hoped, that this sad incident will not be lost upon the powers that be, whom it should awaken to the lamentable consequences incidental to a ill-considered policy!

A grand entertainment was given, last night, by Baboo Rakhal Chunder Dass. There were nautches, the nautch-girls having been called up from Calcutta. Dancing was kept up till the small hours of the morning. All went off merry as a marriage-bell!

BEHAR.

Motihari, May 12.

Sir,—The rash and unlawful act done by the Sub-Registrar of this place has produced a great stir among the world of mukhtears here. The other day a local mukhtear, a Kayesth by caste, went before the Sub-Registrar, also a Kayesth, to have a document registered. Unluckily, it contained certain mistakes which made the Registrar Saheb throw some taunts upon the poor fellow. The mukhtear remonstrated in gentle words. This enraged the Registrar, and he at once ordered the mukhtear to be dragged into the Hajat. The poor victim begged for pardon and mercy. The Bara Hozoor granted him this boon, but inflicted another punishment still more degrading. Before the full court he was ordered to pull his own ears, and to slap his own cheeks. This he did and thus purchased his release.

Now Sir, before giving the other particulars of this case, I must stop to discuss whether the Sub-Registrar had any power to order the poor mukhtear into the Hajat or to inflict upon him any other punishment calculated to bring dishonour on him, and also whether any contempt of court was committed by the mukhtar's remonstrating with him. It is a clear fact that a Sub-Registrar, while performing the duties of his own Registry office, has no criminal powers. The only thing which he can do is to report the matter to the Magistrate. Besides, the Registration Act distinctly lays it down that a Sub-Registrar's office is no court at all. It is like the ordinary Serishta and the Sub-Registrar is the Serishtedar of it. Hence it is evident that the Motihari Sub-Registrar had no reasonable grounds to proceed in this way, and in doing so he stepped beyond the bounds of law and brought discredit on himself and dishonour on the local bar.

But to the point. The other mukhtears on hearing this news were filled with rage and indignation. Immediately a petition was drawn up, asking the District Registrar to allow them to proceed criminally against the Sub-Registrar. This reached his ears, and he was greatly confused and terrified. He immediately despatched his mohurri to the mukhtarkhana, confessed his fault, and after expressing regret begged for their pardon. This was refused to him at first, but after many attempts, and through the intervention of a few kind hearted gentlemen, he succeeded in obtaining his pardon. Thus ended the case. But I must make some reflections here. The victim mukhtear has brought discredit on the very profession itself. His cowardly act in thus soliciting pardon, is well calculated to encourage these good-for-nothing Hakims. The well known saying that "Pulling the ears of the mukhtears is not an offence," has been practically proved at Motihari. It is indeed to be regretted that the matter was dropped. The Registrar ought to have been made an example of. He ought to have been given a lesson which might have taught others also. If the mukhtears are insensible to self-respect and self honor, and if they are so cowardly, then let them at once bid farewell to free and independent practice, and let me at once tell them that they would find it difficult to practise their profession without being chastised at every step of their proceedings.

DEBATE ON THE INDIAN COUNCILS BILL.

[Continued from page 226]

Mr. Schwann moved, as an amendment, "That, in the opinion of this House, no reform of the Indian Councils which does not embody the elective principle will prove satisfactory to the Indian people or compatible with the good government of India." He assured the House that he proposed this amendment in no party spirit. In the presence of 285 millions of our fellow subjects in the East it would be wrong for any one to touch upon the subject in any but the most judicial and impartial spirit. At the same time he felt it incumbent upon him to submit the amendment, because he believed the Bill would not in any way answer the expectations, the desires, or the aspirations of the Indian people. It could not be accepted by the House, and it would not be accepted by the Indian people as anything like an instalment of what

they desired, what they required, and what was necessary for their happiness. The Bill contained but a very slight trace of the elective principle. He admitted that India consisted of a number of races of different degree and origin. At the same time, England consisted of more than one race, and it would be impossible to find a nation which maintained absolute purity of race and blood. The Indian people might now be called a nationality. How had that taken place? Through the instrumentality of the English language, English education, free Press, and the right of public meeting. (Cheers). The hon. gentleman had spoken as if India were sunk in ignorance. The House should remember that there were five Universities in India, and, besides, there were 20 Indians at Oxford, 20 at Cambridge, and others at other Universities in this country preparing to return to India after receiving a thorough English education. When they went back to India they would meet a large number of men who had also passed through the English Universities. At one time the Panjabees could not understand the Madrasees, and the Bengalees could not understand the Madrasees. Now they could act together for political purposes. Lord Macaulay forecasted a period when the Indian people, being instructed in European knowledge, might demand European institutions, and he said that when that time came, if it ever came, "it would be the proudest day in English history" (hear, hear); that England, finding a great people sunk in the greatest depths of superstition, had raised them to such a level. "That, indeed," said Lord Macaulay, "would be a glory all our own." Was it not strange that in the National Congress they would find representatives of all the races acting together with the greatest harmony, the greatest loyalty to the Crown, and with great advantage, he submitted, to the Indian people? They would find amongst the members of the Congress Hindoos, Mussulmans, Parsees, Christians, Sikhs, and others. The growth of this Congress was phenomenal. In 1885 the Congress met in Bombay, when there were 72 delegates; in 1886 at Calcutta, 400 delegates; in 1887 at Madras, 607 delegates; in 1888 in Allahabad, 1,500 delegates; in 1889, Bombay, 1,590. When it met in 1890, owing to the difficulties as to hospitality, the number of delegates was 677 at Calcutta. The delegates came from the extreme portions of India. He denied, therefore, that there was any lack of competent men, to undertake the duties referred to by the hon. member. He had the pleasure of being present at the meeting of the Indian Congress in 1890, and he had never seen any debate carried on in a more orderly, imposing and amicable manner. The only difference he noticed from one of their own party congresses was that the costumes of the delegates were in some cases very gorgeous and in other cases very simple. There were present besides the delegates some 6,000 or 7,000 spectators. The delegates were all elected in public meeting, open and free, so that already the elective principle was already in operation to a large extent. He should also insist on the loyal spirit of the Congress. The chairman, in his opening remarks, said, "The keynote of the movement was loyalty to the British Crown and the English people to whom India owed its rebirth." The Indian National Congress was at first treated with ridicule; then threats were used; and now it was received with cordiality. The present Viceroy had spoken handsomely about it. He declared that it was constitutional, and that there was no reason why Civil servants should abstain from attending it. The English Press had also changed its tone. The *Times* now treated it with far more courtesy than formerly, and so it was with other papers; but he need not weary the House. The Anglo-Indian Press was different. They might as well expect the Orange Press to be partial to the member for North East Cork as for the Anglo-Indian Press to deal in a friendly spirit with the Indian National Congress. The House would be surprised to hear that there were 755 municipalities in India and some 890 local boards, and these bodies had the control of Rs. 7,000,000. All the evidence testified to the enormous interest taken by the Indian people in the election of their local boards. It was true that sometimes there were occasional lapses, and that the management of some boards might not be in accordance with the very best principles, but he had yet to learn that such things did not exist in the British Isles. (Hear, hear.) In the North-West Provinces the returns of the voters showed a very large percentage of the whole number, amounting to 96 and 89 per cent. at contested elections. With regard to the application of the elective principle to the Viceregal and Presidential Councils, the hon. member had referred to Lord Dufferin. For his own part he had been somewhat surprised at this reference, knowing what Lord Dufferin had stated with regard to this question. Lord Dufferin said that there were wide and new fields in which the Government of India was called upon to labour, but they no longer had to labour alone; education had done its work, and they were surrounded on all sides by native gentlemen from whose co-operation they might derive the greatest benefit; and he had spoken with approval of their natural ambition to be more extensively associated with their English rulers in the management of their domestic affairs. (Hear, hear.) Lord Dufferin had himself proposed that the elective principle should be introduced into the Presidential Councils. The hon. member had spoken of Lord

Dufferin's suggestion to the home Government but had omitted to say that amongst them was the elective principle. In another place noble lords had always taken it for granted that this suggestion had been made by Lord Dufferin. Lord Northbrook in another place had stated that he was in favour of a properly guarded application of some mode of election. With regard to Lord Lansdowne, they had been led to believe that the Bill embodied his views. It was, of course, difficult to know the private documents which had passed between the home and the Indian Governments, but there was a very general feeling that when Lord Lansdowne had sent round the proposal of Lord Dufferin to all the different Governments in India he had received from them a general acquiescence to the elective principle being adopted to a certain extent. It seemed to him that in a case where there was such a strong feeling it would have been right if the full text of the communications with Lord Lansdowne had been given to the House. (Hear, hear.) Lord Canning in 1861, when the matter had been put forward, said that the whole proposal should be laid before the Government and the people of England, so that they might arrive at a clear decision upon it. It was, perhaps, scarcely necessary for him to refer to Lord Ripon, because they all knew that he had broad views upon this matter: he had stated that, while he did not look for an early introduction of household suffrage into India, he thought that there should be infused into the Legislative Council a reasonable proportion of the representative element, which would enable the educated natives of India to make their voice really heard. The hon. baronet the member for Evesham, speaking in August, 1889, had said that he had long thought that elective members might be substituted for the appointed members in the various Legislative Councils. In our representative government we were completely behind some of the native States; in Mysore, for instance, the elective principle had been adopted with complete success. Nomination was the real key to the whole position, and the nomination system was a perfect fraud. How could a Viceroy be expected to appoint to his Council the men who criticized his policy most severely? It was true however, that one or two Viceroys, such as Lord Ripon, had endeavoured to do this. He would direct the attention of hon. members wishing to study this subject to a book entitled "New India," by a Mr. Cotton who had had much experience of Indian administration. This writer, while disclaiming all disloyalty to the Indian Government, declared that it was not too much to say that the present constitution of the legislative Councils was the merest farce; that officials predominated too largely to permit of any independent action; and that the official members were the mere puppets of the Viceroy. The Indian people made demands which were irresistible because they were just and reasonable, and the more educated and advanced representatives of the Indian people would always be found loyal to the British Empire. Whenever the House of Commons had interfered in Indian affairs, it had always been for the real benefit of India. The House would remember the eloquent address of the late Mr. Bradlaugh, advocating the restoration of the Maharajah of Cashmere—a ruler who was at the time painted in the blackest colours by the then Under-Secretary for India. Yet during his recent visit to Cashmere Lord Lansdowne had himself reinstated the Maharajah. Again, the House had beneficially interfered in the opium question; and there could be no doubt that if the Manipur affair had been submitted to the House before action was taken the common sense of the House would have prevented the gratuitous mischief from being wrought in that State which was actually achieved. No one who had read Mrs. Grimwood's account of the state of Manipur under the late ruler could doubt that the Indian Government ought never to have interfered at all. There were some good features in the Bill—for instance, the granting of power to discuss Indian finances in the Councils, but the question was, By whom were these discussions to be conducted? The greater number of the members of the Councils would be officials or nominees, and but a very small proportion would really represent the interests of the Indian people. The proposed additions were wholly inadequate. The principle which the Indian National Congress had always held was that the number of elected members should not be less than one-third of the whole, and not more than one-half. In the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, of the four elected members only two could be said to represent the 70 millions of Indian people who were concerned. He hoped the Government would understand the situation, and see that it would be unwise to offer a stone when bread was asked for; and certainly it would be unreasonable to expect gratitude for such a gift. He thought he had shown that the question of the enlargement of the Councils by the introduction of the elective principle was deserving of the attention of the House. As far as the question of the invasion of India was concerned, the best and the strongest rampart to the Indian Empire was the loyalty and attachment of a happy and contented people. He had adduced a large body of weighty opinion to show that the promises made on more than one occasion to the Indian people ought now to be fulfilled; and he therefore moved the amendment standing in his name. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Gladstone, who on rising was received with cheers, said—As far as controversy is concerned, I hope that this debate may be compressed within narrow limits. My hon. friend the member for Manchester has asked the House by his amendment to declare that, in its opinion, no reform of the Indian Councils can be satisfactory which does not embody the elective principle. Looking at the Bill and at the amendment, I have to ask myself whether there is between them such a difference of opinion and principle as to make me desirous of going to an issue on that difference. Undoubtedly, looking at the Bill standing by itself, I am disposed to agree with my hon. friend that its language is insufficient and unsatisfactory in as far as it is ambiguous. But the Under-Secretary had introduced the Bill in a comprehensive and lucid speech, and if I were to criticize any portion of that speech it would be that portion of it in which the hon. gentleman addressed himself to the amendment before the House, because it appeared to be his object to put upon the amendment the most hostile construction it would bear. I, however, desire to put upon the speeches I have heard, and upon the Bill itself, the least controversial construction of which they are fairly susceptible. (Hear, hear.) While the language of the Bill cannot be said to embody the elective principle, it is very peculiar language, unless it is intended to pave the way for the adoption of that principle. (Hear, hear.) I believe it was suggested by a nobleman in the House of Lords, who is friendly to the elective principle in India, that, unless it had been intended to leave room for some peculiarities not yet introduced into the Indian system in the appointment of the members of the Councils under this Bill, it would have been a very singular form of speech to provide not simply that the Governor-General might nominate, but that he might make regulations as to the conditions under which such nominations should be made either by himself or by the Government in Council. (Hear, hear.) It is plain that those who have adopted that language have in view something beyond mere nomination. (Hear, hear.) Then I come to the speech of the Under-Secretary, which distinctly embodies something which I confess appears to me to be not very different from the assertions of my hon. friend, except in the important point that the Under-Secretary proposes to leave everything to the discretion, judgment, and responsibility of the Governor-General and the authorities in India. With that limitation the speech of the Under-Secretary appears to me to embody the elective principle in the only sense in which we should expect it to be embodied. (Hear, hear.) My construction of the Under-Secretary's speech is that it implies that a serious effort should be made to consider carefully these elements which in the present condition of India, might furnish material for the introduction into the Councils of the elective principle. If that serious effort is to be made, by whom is it to be made? I do not think that it can be made by the House of Commons except through the medium of empowering provisions. The hon. baronet the member for Evesham has spoken of a plan of that kind, and I observed with pleasure the genuinely liberal views of the hon. baronet with respect to Indian affairs and to the government of the Indian people, and were the hon. baronet to propose a plan of the kind he has indicated to the House it would no doubt contain much that would be useful, and wise, and honourable to the spirit of such an assembly as the House of Commons (Hear, hear.) It may, however, be doubted whether, even under such enlightened guidance it would be wise on our part, with our imperfect knowledge, to proceed to the determination of the particulars of such a plan. (Hear, hear.) I think that the best course to take would be to commend the plan to the authorities in India with a clear indication of the principle on which we desire they should proceed. It is our business to give to those representing her Majesty's Government in India ample information as to what we believe to be sound principles of government. It is the function of this House to comment upon any case in which we think the authorities in India have failed to give due effect to those principles; but in the discharge of their high administrative functions, or as to the choice of means, there is no doubt that that should be left in their hands. (Hear, hear.) It is evident that the great question—and it is one of great and profound interest—before the House is that of the introduction of the elective element into the government of India. That question overshadows and absorbs everything else. It is a question of vital importance; but it is at the same time one of great difficulty. (Hear, hear.) No more difficult office has ever been intrusted to a Governor-General than that of administering a Bill such as that which is now before the House in a manner that shall be honourable and wise. I am not disposed to ask of the Governor-General, or of the Secretary of State, that they shall at once produce large and imposing results. (Hear, hear.) What I wish is that their first step shall be of a genuine nature, and that whatever scope they give to the elective principle shall be real. (Hear, hear.) There are, of course, dangers in their way. There is the danger of subserviency. There is the danger of having persons who represent cliques, classes, or interests, and who may claim the honour of representing the people of India. The old story of the three tailors of Tooley street does, after all, embody an important political truth, and it does exhibit a real danger. (Hear,

hear.) What we want is to get at the real heart and mind, the most upright sentiments, and the most enlightened thoughts of the people of India; but it is not an easy matter to do that. (Hear, hear.) I think, however, that upon this point we are justified in being a little more sanguine than the Under-Secretary has been in his speech. (Hear, hear.) The hon. member, however, did not venture to indicate where the materials for the elective element in India are to be found. Undoubtedly, as far as my own prepossessions go, I should look presumptively with the greatest amount of expectation and hope to the municipal bodies of India, and to the local authorities, in which the elective element is already included in that country. (Hear, hear.) My hon. friend, in moving the amendment, has pointed out authorities in favour of the elective principle, these including men who have been responsible for the actual administration of India. It is there that we stand upon solid ground, and her Majesty's Government ought to understand that it will be regarded as a most grave disappointment if, after all the assurances we have received that an attempt will be made to bring into operation this powerful engine of government, there should not be some result such as we anticipate from their action. (Hear, hear.) I do not speak of its amount, I speak more of its quality. In an Asiatic country like India, with its ancient civilization, with its institutions so peculiar, with such a diversity of races, religions, and pursuits, with such an enormous extent of country, and such a multitude of human beings as probably, except in the case of China, were never before under a single Government, I can understand that there should be difficulties in carrying what we desire to see accomplished; but great as the difficulties are, the task is a noble task, and will require the utmost prudence and care in conducting it to a successful termination. But after the assurances we have had from persons of the highest capacity, and the greatest responsibility, I believe we are justified in looking forward, not merely to a nominal, but to a real living representation of the people of India. The great nation to which we belong has undoubtedly had to do most difficult tasks in the government and in the foundation of the institutions of extraneous territories. But all the other parts of the British Empire have presented to us a simple problem in comparison with the great problem presented to us by India. Its magnitude, its technicality, is such that the task of Great Britain in this respect is far greater than that which any other country has attempted, and far greater than that which it has itself attempted beyond the sea in any of the dependencies of the Empire. I rejoice to think that a great and real advance has been made, both before and especially since the direct transfer of the Indian Government to the immediate superintendence of the Executive at home, and to the authority of the Imperial Legislature. The progress thus made has been made by the constant application to the government of India of the minds of able men acting under a strong sense of duty, and also a strong sense of political responsibility. (Hear, hear.) All these things induce us to look forward cheerfully to a great future for India, and to expect that a real success will attend the genuine application, even though it may be a limited one, of the elective principle to the government of that vast and almost immeasurable community. If this attempt be successful, it will be the accomplishment of a task to which it would be difficult to find a parallel in history. (Hear, hear.) I see no such difference between my hon. friend's language and the language of the Bill as ought to induce my hon. friend to divide the House. If the language of my hon. friend is to receive a perfectly legitimate, and not a strained, construction, it is only an amplification and not a contradiction of what the speech of the hon. gentleman the Under-Secretary implies. I think it would be a great misfortune if the House were to divide on the subject. I think that the acceptance of the elective principle by the hon. gentleman, though guarded, was on the whole not otherwise than a frank acceptance. I do not think there is on that side of the House any jealousy of the introduction into India of that principle (hear, hear) which undoubtedly if it did exist would form a strong mark of difference between the party who sits there and the party who sits on this side of the House. In reality, and in substance, we have the same objects in view, and are prepared to recommend the employment of the same means. If that be so, it would be unfortunate that any division should take place even though the numbers might be very unequal. I certainly could not take part in any division hostile, or apparently hostile, to the Bill. (Hear, hear.) After the speech of the hon. gentleman such a division would convey a wrong impression. It would be well that the people of India should understand that united views on this question substantially prevail in this House. (Hear, hear.) My persuasion is that those views are united, and that they are such as tend to the development of an enlightened and not only a liberal but a free system of government. I venture to submit that the hon. gentleman has no substantial quarrel with the intentions of the Government, and that we should do well to allow this Bill to receive the unanimous assent of the House in the present Session, in the hope that without serious difficulty it may shortly become law and fulfil the beneficent purposes with which it has been framed. (Cheers.)

Bengal Bonded Warehouse Association. 105TH DIVIDEND.

THE Dividend for the half-year ended 30th April 1892 of Rs. 16 per share will be payable on and from the 16th instant.

S. E. J. CLARKE,
Calcutta, 11th May, 1892. Secretary.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE Bengal Bonded Warehouse Association For the half-year ended 30th April, 1892.

1. Your Directors submit for examination and approval the Accounts of the Association for the half-year ended 30th April, 1892.
2. On the 31st October last, the uncollected Rent Bills amounted to Rs. 18,965-15-8, during the subsequent six months bills were issued for Rs. 54,158-6-9, of these two amounts Rs. 56,364-7-3 have been realized, leaving Rs. 19,759-15-2 outstanding.
3. The divisible surplus amounts to Rs. 35,007-15-10. Your Directors propose to set apart as usual the sum of Rs. 2,000 to the credit of the Repair and Building Fund.
4. After deducting the sum to be set apart under paragraph 3 of this Report, the divisible balance will be Rs. 33,007-13-10, of this amount your Directors recommend that Rs. 32,000 be applied in payment of a dividend of Rs. 16 per share, and the balance Rs. 1,007-13-10 carried to next half-year's account.

DAVID COWIE.
KRISTO DASS LAW.
M. M. SAIN.
W. J. M. MCCAUL.
G. IRVING.
Calcutta,
10th May, 1892.

Bengal Bonded Warehouse Association. Half-yearly Meeting. Calcutta, 11th May 1892.

THE Half-Yearly General Meeting of Proprietors was held this day at the Rooms of the Association, No. 102, Clive Street.

PRESENT: David Cowie, Esq., J. A. Crawford, Esq., by his attorney David Cowie, Esq., Sooruj Mull Behaney, Esq., Hadji Ariff Esmailji Bham, Esq., M. M. Sain, Esq., Maharaj Kumar Kristo Dass Law, A. E. Harris, Esq., S. C. Dey, Esq., Executor to the Estate of the late Issur Chunder Dey.

It was proposed by Maharaj Kumar Kristo Dass Law, seconded by Mr. M. M. Sain, that Mr. David Cowie do take the chair.

The Secretary then read the advertisement calling the Meeting.

It was proposed by the Chairman, Mr. David Cowie, and seconded by Maharaj Kumar Kristo Dass Law:—

That the Report of the Directors be received and the accounts passed as correct. *Carried unanimously.*

It was then proposed by Mr. A. E. Harris, Seconded by Hadji Ariff Esmailji Bham:—

That the divisible surplus of Rs. 35,007-13-10 be appropriated in terms of the 3rd and 4th paragraphs of the Directors' Report, and that a Dividend be declared of Rs. 16 per share payable on and from Monday next, the 16th May current. *Carried unanimously.*

It was then proposed by Mr. David Cowie, Seconded by Mr. A. E. Harris:—

That the retiring Directors Mr. Geo. Irving and Mr. Money Madhab Sain, who go out by rotation, but who offer themselves for re-election, be re-elected Directors of the Association. *Carried unanimously.*

It was then proposed by Maharaj Kumar Kristo Dass Law, Seconded by Shama Churn Dey as executor to the Estate of Issur Chunder Dey deceased:—

That Mr. A. E. Harris be elected a Director in the room of Mr. H. Pratt, who has vacated his seat on the Board on proceeding to England.

An amendment was proposed by Hadji Ariff Esmailji Bham, Seconded by Sooruj Mull Behaney:—

That Nath Mull Sonce be elected a Director in the room of Mr. Pratt.

The amendment was put to the meeting and lost.

The Resolution was then put to the meeting, and *carried unanimously.*

Mr. Harris proposed and Mr. M. M. Sain seconded

A vote of thanks to the Chair which was carried and the meeting then separated.

S. E. J. CLARKE, DAVID COWIE,
Secretary. Chairman.

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1. On the Legislation of the Rishis and the Age of Consent Bill. One anna.

2. The Memorial to the Viceroy. Half anna.

3. The Bengali translation of the Memorial. Half anna.

4. The Oordoo translation of the Memorial. Half anna.

5. The *Garbhadhan Vyavasta* by Pandit Ramnath Tarkaratna (of Santipore), author of *Vasudeo Bijya* (a Sanskrit epic) and Pandit attached to the Asiatic Society, Bengal. One anna.

6. Abstract of the *Vyavasta* in English with notes by Nyalankar Nilmani Mookerjee, M.A., B.L., Professor of Sanskrit, Presidency College, and a preface by the President of the Committee. Half anna.

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AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, MAY 28, 1892.

No. 526

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

A CHURCHYARD SCENE.

It was a gloomy Sabbath eve—
I felt in dreamy mood,
And wander'd to a lone churchyard
To join its solitude ;
The village groups had all withdrawn,
But, through the twilight grey,
I saw a lonely woman stand
As loth to go away.

She was array'd in widow's weeds,
I could not see her face,
Which might have told why at that hour
She sought the silent place ;
I ~~stood~~ ^{sat} aside with soften'd step
No rude annoy to bring
To one who seem'd bow'd down with grief,
For grief's a sacred thing.

The shadow of the old grey church
Fell round me like a pall,
But the mourner's figure I could see
Upon the churchyard wall ;
She knew not any eye was near
Except the eye of Him,
Whose presence we the more behold
The more our eyes are dim.

Long long she gazed upon the ground,
On one small spot, alas !
Which seem'd to swell to meet the hand
She laid upon the grass ;
Her hand she laid upon the grass—
Retired, yet lingering stayed,
And aye upon the silent grass
Her long thin hand she laid.

That hand had often smoothed the couch
Of him who slept beneath,
And the love by which 't was guided seem'd
A love that knew not death ;
And so she knelt as if to feel
If earth were warm and soft
As the pillow—vacant now—on which
His head had lain so oft.

Ah me! what depth of love was here
Who thus her home forsook,
And all the living world beside,
Upon his grave to look ;—

I could not see the tears she shed,
They flow'd not to be seen,—
But well I knew the grass was wet,
O'er which her eyes had been.

And still the grass she gently touch'd,—
And bended meekly o'er,
As if to give her hand to him
Who took it once before ;
That so she might bring back the time,
The morning time of life,
When by his side—a girl in years—
She felt in heart a wife.

Or haply 'twas in memory
Of some old early vow,
To love him even after death,
That she sought his grave place now,—
Or, for some word unkindly said,
Though not unkindly meant,
Perchance upon his grave to shed
Atoning tears she went.

And oft upon that grave she look'd,
And oft she look'd above,
As if between that spot and heaven
She shared her whole heart's love !—
'Twas long before she left the place,
And as she moved away,
Methought her inmost bosom yearn'd
Forever there to stay.

A few stars glimmer'd over-head,
Deep darkness crept around—
Beneath, old generations slept—
The place was holy ground !
All silent through the dull grave-mounds
I homeward sadly turn'd,
Yet almost deem'd 'twere sweet to die
To be so loved and mourn'd.

J. H.

Edinburgh, 1841.

Holloway's Ointment and Pills.—A Cure for Abscesses, Piles, Fistula, and Sores of every description.—The very satisfactory results arising from the use of this invaluable Ointment, when the patients have been suffering from any of the above disorders, have induced the Medical profession to introduce it into the hospitals and their private practice, and in many instances where the sufferer was considered incurable, Holloway's Ointment, in conjunction with his Pills, healed the most desperate cases. They are also unequalled for the cure of scrofula, scurvy, and all diseases of the skin, and the cures they effect are not temporary or imperfect, for by their purifying powers they bring about a marvellous and most beneficial change in the whole system, and enable it, with renovated powers, to resist the approach of all future attacks of the same disease.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

WEEKLYANA.

HER Majesty's seventy-third birthday passed off wretchedly in this metropolis. There was no ceremony to speak of unless the *feu de joie* fired may be accounted one. There was not even the Lord Mayoral entertainment of a Garden Party, introduced by the late Sir Henry Harrison as Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation. The death of his friend and the half-allowance of house rent sanctioned, probably decided Mr. Lee in honouring in the breach rather than the observance what had grown to a metropolitan civic custom.

THE day was, however, observed as a public holiday. The daily press too, excepting the *Indian Daily News* and the *Hindoo Patriot*, gave their *employés* rest. The neglected capital was not even aware of the honors of the day. The ignorance threatened to last the following day. Indeed, but for the *Indian Daily News* of the 25th, nobody, not specially telegraphed to, would have had even an inkling of them. The *Patriot*, with its new enterprise, could only copy at noon the telegraphic summary of the *News*, with all its imperfections and mistakes, telegraphic and typographic, on its head. The next day the *Englishman* gave a more precise list.

Why are not arrangements made to issue the day's Gazette simultaneously at all the capital cities of the Empire? The telegraph cannot often be put to better use. The Birthday honors are a part of the celebration. And they are, by far, the best part. They serve to bring the Queen Empress to the business and bosom of the people. All the military stations fire the *feu de joie*. The cost of simultaneous publication of the Honors at the capitals would not very much exceed the cost of the gunpowder expended, while its effect would be immense. It would go a goodly way towards establishing the British Throne in the East.

AT Simla, besides the Levée, there was the customary State Dinner, at which sixty-two officials, including the Viceroy's staff, attended.

A *contretemps* occurred at Naini-Tal. The hour fixed for Parade was eight. As the Lieutenant-Governor and staff, who were riding, were within a short distance of the ground, the big clock near the parade ground showing that they had still over five minutes in hand, the *feu de joie* was fired in the presence of Major Croker, Commanding the dépôt. Hearing the sound, Sir Auckland Colvin turned and rode back, leaving behind his Aid-de-Camp to enquire into the cause of the premature outburst of joy.

THE BIRTHDAY HONOURS.

LONDON, MAY 25.

The Queen's Birthday *Gazette* contains the following honours:—
H. R. H. Prince George of Wales has been created Duke of York, Earl of Inverness, and Baron of Killarney.

Sir Henry John Selwin Ibbetson and Sir Evelyn Baring have been raised to the Peerage.

Sir Julian Pauncefote has been created a Knight Grand Cross of the Bath.

Sir Horace Rumboldt, British Minister at the Hague, and Sir Francis Grenfell have been created Knights Grand Cross of Saints Michael and George.

The Honourable John Joseph Caldwell Abbott, Canadian Premier, Mr. Elwin Palmer, and Mr. Charles Alabaster, British Consul General at Canton, have been appointed Knight Commanders of Saints Michael and George.

Mr. J. A. Swettenham, Auditor-General, Ceylon, Mr. Shelford, Straits Service, and Morice Pasha have been appointed Companions of Saints Michael and George.

The following additional honours appear in the Birthday Gazette:—

Admiral Sir George Welles to be a Knight Grand Cross of the Bath, Vice-Admirals Hopkins and Heneage, and General Collman Williams to be Knight Commanders of the Bath.

Captains Singleton, Rodney, Lloyd, Hamill, Sir W. Donville, Reginald Henderson, Henry May, and Montgomerie, all of the Royal Navy, and Colonels French and Tucker, both of the Marine Artillery, and Fleet Surgeon Mahon, have all been appointed Companions of the Bath.

Mr. Mitchell, Agent for Natal in Calcutta, has been appointed a Companion of Saints Michael and George.

Simla, the 25th May, 1892.

THE STAR OF INDIA.

To be a Knight Grand Commander.

Colonel H. H. Maharaja Partab Singh, Indar Mahindar Bahadur, Sipar-i-Saltanat of Jammu and Kashmir.

To be Knights Commanders.

The Hon'ble Sir Auckland Colvin, K.C.M.G., C.I.E., C.S., Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces and Chief Commissioner of Oudh.

The Hon'ble Mr. Henry Edward Stokes, C.S.I., C.S., Member of the Council of the Governor of Madras.

H. E. Maharaja Bir Shamsheer Jang, Rana Bahadur, Prime Minister of Nepal.

Maharaja Mana Vikrama, Bahadur, Zamorin of Calicut.

To be Companions.

Sir Edward Charles Buck, Kt., C.S., Secretary to Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. Henry John Stedman Cotton, C.S., Member, Bengal Legislative Council, and Officiating Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Surgeon-Major-General William Roche Rice, M.D., Indian Medical Service, Surgeon-General and Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India.

Colonel Frederick Jervis Home, R. E., Inspector-General of Irrigation and Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department.

Major Henry St. Patrick Maxwell, Indian Staff Corps, Deputy Commissioner, Assam, and Political Agent and Superintendent of the Manipul State.

Surgeon-Major George Scott Robertson, Indian Medical Service, Agency Surgeon, Gilgit.

INDIAN EMPIRE.

To be Knights Grand Commanders.

Sir James Broadwood Lyall, K.C.S.I., C.S., late Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab.

Maharaja Mirza Sir Pasupati Ananda Gajapati Raz, Mani Sultan Bahadur Garu, K.C.I.E., Zemindar of Vizianagram.

To be Knights Commanders.

Mr. Charles Pontifex, late Legal Adviser to the Secretary of State for India.

Mr. Henry Hoyle Howorth, Member of Parliament.

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Muthuswami Aiyar, C.I.E., Puisne Judge, Madras High Court.

The Hon'ble Mr. Griffith Humphrey Pugh Evans, Barrister-at-Law, Additional Member of the Council of the Governor-General for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations.

Mr. Edward Charles Kayll Ollivant, C. I. E., C. S., Political Agent, Kathiawar.

To be Companions.

Mr. William Turner Thiselton-Dyer, C.M.G., F.R.S., Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Walter Ottley, R.E., Chief Engineer and Joint Secretary to the Government of the Punjab.

Mr. Frederick Ewart Robertson, M. Inst. C.E., Chief Engineer, of the East Indian Railway.

Mr. Romesh Chunder Dutt, C.S., Magistrate and Collector, Bengal.

Mr. Arthur John Hughes, M. Inst. C.E., Superintending Engineer, North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

Mr. William John Bird Clerke, B.A., M. Inst. C.E.

Mr. Loudoun Francis Maclean, Executive Engineer, Khanki-Chenab Canal, Punjab.

Lieutenant Hugh Daly, Indian Staff Corps, Superintendent, Northern Shan States.

Mr. James George Scott, Officiating Superintendent of the Northern Shan States.

Mr. George Pringle Rose, M. Inst. C.E., Officiating Deputy Manager, North-Western Railway.

Rai Bahadur Jai Prakash Lall, Dewan of the Maharaja of Dumraon.

Khan Bahadur Kadirad Khan, Gul Khan, Deputy Collector, Sind.

Diwan Gunpat Rai, Extra Assistant Commissioner, Beluchistan.

INDIAN TITLES.

Dewan Bahadur.

His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General is pleased to confer the title of Dewan Bahadur as a personal distinction upon Rao Bahadur Lalji Purshotamrai, Native Assistant to the Resident at Baroda.

Shams-ul-Ulama.

Professor Mirza Hairat, Justice of the Peace, Professor of Persian in the Elphinstone College, Bombay.

Mahamahopadhyaya.

Pundit Krishna Nath Nyayapanchanana, of Purbasthali, in the District of Nuddea in the Bengal Presidency.

Pundit Durga Prasad, of Jeypore, in Rajputana.

Khan Bahadur.

Maulvi Abdul Jubbar, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the 24-Perganas, in the Bengal Presidency.

Abdul Rahman, Deputy Commissioner of Shimoga, in Mysore.

Maulvi Zain-ul-Abdin, a retired Subordinate Judge of the North-Western Provinces.

Mir Wazir Ali, Honorary Magistrate of Lucknow.
 Dadabhai Hormusjee Dubash, Abkari Contractor, of Bombay.
 Saiyid Muhammad Latif, Extra Judicial Assistant Commissioner in the Punjab.
 Assistant Surgeon Saiyid Amir Shah, Clinical Clerk and Lecturer on Chemistry in the Lahore Veterinary College in the Punjab.
 Ahmed Yar Khan, Inspector of the Quetta-Pishin District Police.
 Ahmad Ali Khan, Sub-Surveyor, Survey of India Department.

Rao Bahadur.

Lanka Krishna Aiyangar, late Chairman of the Municipal Council of Srirangam in the Madras Presidency.
 Rama Rao Rananavarey, Regimentdar, Imperial Service Troops in Mysore.
 Arcot Muniswami Mudaliyar, retired Inspector of Police in the Madras Presidency.
 Pundit Bishen Lal, Vakil of the Bhutpore State in Rajputana.

Rai Bahadur.

Babu Radhika Prosad Mukerji, late District Engineer of the 24-Perganas, in the Bengal Presidency.
 Bukhtawar Singh, Vakil of the Meywar State, in Rajputana.
 Rai Sheo Sahai Mal, Honorary Magistrate and Member of the Municipal Committee of Delhi in the Punjab.
 Babu Gopal Chandra Mukerji, Chairman of the Kassipur-Chitpur Municipality, in the Bengal Presidency.
 Vishnu Pant Keshao Kunte, Superintendent of the Dewas State, Senior Branch, in Central India.
 Babu Lalit Mohan Sinha, Honorary Magistrate and Vice-Chairman of the District Board of Hooghly in the Bengal Presidency.
 Pertab Chand, Banker and Landowner of Allahabad, in the North-Western Provinces.
 Babu Ram Krishna Tarkalankar, late Sheristadar of the Hooghly Collectorate in the Bengal Presidency.
 Mian Narain Singh, late Inspector of Police in the Punjab.
 Babu Protul Chunder Chatterjee, Fellow of the Punjab University in Lahore.
 Cheppadira Thimmiah, Subadar of the Yedenalknad Taluk in Coorg.
 Babu Khetter Chunder Auditto, First Class Clerk in the Military Accounts Department.
 Nihal Chand, Senior Hospital Assistant in the Subordinate Medical Department, Bengal.
 Babu Bishun Chandra Datta, Deputy Postmaster-General, Eastern Bengal.
 Babu Poran Chunder Bose, Honorary Magistrate of the Maniktala Municipal Bench in the 24-Perganas.

Sardar Bahadur.

Sardar Jowalla Singh, Honorary Magistrate of Jharauli, in the District of Umballa in the Punjab.
 Sardar Narindar Singh, Honorary Extra Assistant Commissioner of Lahore in the Punjab.

Khan Sahib

Hassan Khan, Bhatti, of Pindi Bhattian, in the District of Gujranwalla in the Punjab.
 Taharat Hossain, Senior Hospital Assistant, Bhopal Battalion.

Rao Sahib

Vijayapurapu Ananta Rao Pantulu, Chairman of the Municipal Council of Bimlipatnam in the Madras Presidency.
 Balaji Hari Kher, lately employed in the Office of Survey and Settlement Commissioner in Bombay.
 Tiruvaloor Narayanasawmy Pillay, First Class Clerk in the Office of the Commissary-General of Madras.

Rai Sahib.

Chaudri Nanak of Badli, Honorary Magistrate of Jhajjar, in the District of Rohtak, in the Punjab.
 Lalla Muthra Dass, Sub-Engineer in the Military Works Department.

Sardar.

Hira Singh, Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests in Ajmere-Merwara.

Kyet Thaye Zaung Shwe Salwe Ya Min.

Maung Po Kin, Myoök, 2nd grade, Thayetmyo.

Ahmudan Gaung Taseik Ya Min.

Maung Lin, Myoök, 4th grade, Lamaing township, Mandalay District.

Maung On Gaing, Officiating Assistant Superintendent of Police, 2nd Class, in the Prome District.

Maung Po Ni, Inspector of Police, 2nd grade, Rangoon.

Honorary A.-D.-Cs. to the Viceroy.

The Hon'ble Lieutenant-Colonel L. H. Bayley, Commandant, Bombay Volunteer Rifle Corps.
 The Hon'ble Major J. H. Spring Branson, Commandant, Madras Artillery Volunteers.

THERE are some capital anecdotes in Mr. George P. A. Healey's article in the *Century* magazine on the famous French painter Couture. Here is one. The Emperor Napoleon III. commissioned him to paint him. In sitting for his portrait the ruler gave him no end of suggestions and proposed no end of alterations more or less trenching upon the painter's province, so that Couture at last broke out saying, "Sire, who is to paint this picture, Your Majesty or I?" The "Sire" made

no reply, unless perhaps muttering, *Well, well*. But the portrait remained unfinished, the Emperor giving no more sittings.

..

"JYOTISHI Kulendra Prosad Saraswati," Calcutta, writes to the papers—"I find by calculation that there will be loss of life and property by the inclemency of the weather on the 27th June next." He is discreet enough not to particularize the locality or to ascertain the extent of the loss. The *Englishman* enquires who he is and recommends his friends to look after him carefully. There is no need of taking any trouble in that behalf. The man is wise in his generation, seeing that he can get all the European journals of the metropolis to advertise his business *gratis*. It is the journalists who want taking care by friends. As for the calculation of which this sage brags, if it has any value it has no novelty. Every Hindu knew all about it before the jyotishi rushed into print.

..

ON April 29, a cyclone swept over Mauritius, completely annihilating the island. A local journal writes:—

"The colony has just been struck by one of those disasters of which there are but few examples in history. In less than six hours it has been completely annihilated—annihilated to such a degree that it is really doubtful whether it will ever recover from the blow. Half the town of Port Louis is a heap of ruins. Thousands of wounded, dying, and dead have already been dragged out from under the ruins of the houses, and as we write the living and dead are still being dragged out. The funeral knell is continually tolling, and carts conveying the dead and wounded are to be met in all the streets. There is not a Mauritian family but is in mourning. There is not a family which is not ruined.

Three quarters of the sugar houses are overthrown; plantations are destroyed. The splendid crop we expected is reduced to zero for some estates and to less than half for those whose mills are still standing. Whole villages have disappeared. Thousands are without bread, homeless and homeless, camping in the open air.

Beau Bassin, Rose Hill, Phoenix, Vacous, Rose Belle, Mahebourg, and Souillac, like Port Louis, are heaps of ruins. Whole families have disappeared, crushed under the ruins of their dwellings. The hurricane was not the only cause of the destruction. While the wind was blowing its hardest, fires burst out in several places. All Pouce Street and the lower part of the Mountain were in flames. The disaster at Martinique is spoken of as being one of the most dreadful within the memory of man. It is a question whether that which has just fallen upon us is not a still greater one."

Another account says:—

"There was no doubt that we were in the presence of a hurricane without example. Solid buildings were blown down; planks, shingles, and tin roofs flew about in all directions. The hurricane lasted about an hour and a-half, and in that short space half the town was destroyed. Plantations were uprooted, and most of the sugar mills blown down. Most of the ships in harbour were on shore. While the island was being thus devastated, a great number of inhabitants were detained in the greatest anxiety at the central station, their families being alone without assistance in the country. It was only at about 7 P. M. that people began to be aware of the extent of the disaster. A few went out in quest of news. They came back to the station announcing that the Convent and Orphanage de Notre Dame de Bon Secours had been blown down, making many victims. The sky now became red—fire had broken out among the ruins in several places at the same time. Some attempt was made to organize assistance, but a great part of the suburbs was on fire. Daylight at length came to enlighten an unexampled scene of ruin and desolation. It was only then that the extent of the disaster became apparent. From one end of the island to the other all is death, ruin and desolation. The hurricane which raged for a few hours yesterday, the 29th of April, has in many respects been unprecedented in Mauritius. Never till now has the island been visited by a cyclone or hurricane at any time between the 12th of April and 1st of December. Hitherto the hurricane season of Mauritius has been supposed to begin on the latter and to end on the former day, and till yesterday, there has been no exception to the rule. Nor was there any sign of danger till yesterday, when the barometer began to fall rapidly and the wind to increase to a heavy gale. The suddenness, rapidity, and extent of the changes which took place in course of a few hours are without a parallel in the annals of the Colony."

..

MR. Henniker Heaton, M. P., the champion of ocean penny postage calculates that the cost to the Post Office of sending a letter to any quarter of the globe is one farthing, and, therefore, if his scheme of penny postage were adopted, there would be a profit of three-farthings on each letter. He has, besides, visited every Postmaster-General in the colonies who all have received his idea eagerly.

..

IN England, with a population slightly exceeding 29,000,000, there were registered, during the year 1891, 226,025 marriages, 913,863 births, and 587,666 deaths. The total of births was made up of 465,927 males and of 448,209 females, and as regards the deaths of 302,518 males and 285,148 females. In the face of these figures, the difficulty for women to get married is significant. Polygamy in such a community is out of the question.

THERE is a plague of mice or voles in the south-eastern counties of Scotland. While the farmers are concerting plans to exterminate them, a new species of owl not before seen in Scotland and which lives on voles, has put in an appearance. The Lord gave and the Lord is taking away. Blessed be the name of the Lord!

THE *Mahratta*, of May 22, concludes an article entitled "Price of the Bridegroom" thus:—

"But there appears to be total apathy about the matter among those who ought to be the first to set an example of disinterestedness to their countrymen. The last social Conference refused to entertain a proposition condemning the *Hunda* custom for reasons we can hardly conjecture. All are agreed in strongly protesting against it when they have to pay, but none ever shows sufficient moral courage to forego the advantage when his turn comes to receive.

The custom has become intolerable among the Bengalees as it is amongst the Parsees, the Parbhys and other limited communities on our own side. Girls frequently grow up to mature ages without marriage, as husbands are practically unobtainable owing to the large prices set on them and the growing inclination amongst the youths for the freedom of bachelorhood and dissipated life. The result of this is of course an enormous amount of heart-burning and immorality; and it is to be feared that the contagion will soon spread to Brahmins and other large castes if the evil is not rooted out in time. Pandit Mahesh Chandra Chakravarti is trying to put a stop to the custom of taking doweries in East Bengal by making persons sign a declaration that they will never extort money at their sons' marriages. But we have hardly any faith left in such pledges. We had our own tabular declarations, but experience has proved that no one is bound by them when the devil tempts them. Persons are not even ashamed to confess that their signatures have no more value than the ink and paper. The problem however difficult demands immediate solution, and ought to be sternly and seriously faced by those who call themselves champions of social reform. We shall content ourselves with suggesting a few remedies which may be effective:—

1. To form a strong public opinion against it.
2. To extend the field of selection by permitting intermarriages amongst those communities which can dine together such as the Konkarnasthas and Karhadas of the Deccan.
3. To prohibit all useless expenses at marriages.
4. And to introduce the practice of settling such doweries, if any are given at all, in the name of the girl or at least the husband."

There is no want of denouncers of the growing evils. But the denouncers themselves are usually the worst offenders.

FROM an advertisement in another column, it will be seen that the next Hare Anniversary falls on next Wednesday. The discourse selected for the occasion is the History of the Press in India. The subject ought to interest other than schoolboys. The development of the press in India is the history of modern progress in this country.

NOTES & LEADERETTES

with

OUR OWN NEWS.

FLOODS of American proportions have overtaken the Missouri and Mississippi valleys, ruining crops and drowning many people. Fifteen hundred square miles of country are under water. The damages at Saint Louis and in the adjacent countries bordering on the Mississippi are estimated at eleven million dollars.

THE Czar and family have gone to Copenhagen to assist at the celebration of the golden wedding of the King and Queen of Denmark.

LORD Salisbury had a narrow escape from an alarming accident on the evening of the 26th. His horses took fright and bolted down St. James's Street, overturning and badly smashing his brougham. His Lordship was severely shaken, but as the leading Englishman of the day he got out and quietly walked to the Foreign Office. It was the best treatment for his case too.

IN the interests of peace and with a view to increase the strength of the active armaments, both France and Germany have passed Bills for re-forming their armies. The German Bill provides for the gradual reduction of the term of service in the Infantry to two years.

THE Khedive has been honored with the Grand Cross of the Bath.

SIR Charles Parker Butt who only last year succeeded Lord Hannen as President of the English Court of Probate, Divorce and Admiralty, is dead. He was sixty-two years of age.

THE Indian Councils Bill was, on the night of the 26th, read in the House of Commons a third time without the introduction of any amendments. We may take the Bill as passed. It is a gift indeed and may be associated with the seventy-third Birthday of the Queen just celebrated.

IN the House of Commons, in reply to a question from Sir Roper Lethbridge, the Under-Secretary of State for India traced the origin of the Imperial Service Corps, started by Lord Dufferin while Viceroy of India, to the loyal and generous offer of the Nizam to place at the disposal of the Government of India a strong force and in time of war his own sword. That tracing is nothing new, but is the truth? Did the man Nizam or the system of intrigue and falsehood called the Government of Hyderabad make the offer? Did the Nizam even know of it when he was irrevocably committed to it?

MR. Curzon assured the House of Commons that the cost of the Behar Cadastral Survey was not expected to exceed eight annas to the acre, that the employment of village officials under careful inspection would prevent extortion and oppression, that no staff beyond that now under Colonel Sandeman would be appointed until October, and that the reports against the Survey would be included in the papers that were being printed—doubtless after careful editing—for presentation to Parliament.

These assurances have little practical value. Mr. Curzon, it is wellknown, does not speak for himself, he is the mouthpiece of a department. In this matter he spoke as advised. For some time the telegraphic communication between the India Office and the Governments in India has been brisk. Information and explanations have been called for and given. The Local Government could only put a good face upon a doubtful matter. As the struggle becomes keener, the air will be thick with assurances of diverse import. Our countrymen had better keep their heads clear from the influences of such feelers, if not worse.

After all, it was scarcely necessary for Reuter to telegraph to us Mr. Curzon's assurances. To us they have nothing new. The same information and much more to the point have been, officially or otherwise, published in this country. In fact, the assurances made in the House of Commons have already been contradicted by admissions made in India in the last Bengal Resolution on the Orissa Survey.

BEFORE the enquiry into the tragedy at Rampore has concluded, another diabolical crime has overtaken the Ulwar State. The Maharaja died suddenly at Naini-Tal on Sunday night and a high official of his was simultaneously murdered at city Ulwar. The cause of the Maharaja's death is yet unknown. Baboo Kunj Behari Lal, senior Member of the Ulwar Council, was found lying dead near a tank with five or six cuts on his body. The Political Agent, Colonel Fraser, who was with the Maharaja, hastened to Ulwar.

ON Monday, at Bombay, while a number of native and European gentlemen were standing on it, the gangway over the side of the mail steamer *Pekin* suddenly gave way, bringing them all down to the water below. There would have been loss of life but that the sea was calm and the boats alongside rendered prompt help in rescuing the plunged men struggling for their lives. All were saved, only some little property which fell into the water could not be recovered.

The accident is most discreditable to the administration. It is simply shocking that a mail steamer should be liable to such an accident. We trust the Government will institute the most searching inquiry and find out the responsible officer and deal with him without compunction.

IT is so rare to see the right man in the right place, that the people of Behar are really to be congratulated on the appointment of Mr. C. F. Worsley as Commissioner of the Patna Division. The news will be received with joy throughout that province where, for the last 8 or 10 years, it was in the mouth of every person that no one was more fitted for that responsible and difficult position than Mr. Worsley, who had worked in it with remarkable efficiency in varied capacities for nearly a quarter of a century, and whose sympathy with the Behar people is as unmistakable as his knowledge of their wants and requirements is known to be extensive. Of late, Patna has been

ruled by a succession of strangers, who, whatever their abilities, could not bring to bear upon their administration the special experience required for successfully and quickly dealing with each important question, and the ready information necessary to guard against the aims of pretenders and imposters and upstarts of sorts and different schools under different cloaks of public life. We hope things will now take a different turn and go on smoothly.

We hear that our old friend Pootee Ghazi, who figured so prominently, about twenty years ago, in the Alipore Courts, in connection with the daring dacoities perpetrated by a fearless gang in the Sunderbuns under his leadership, and who was convicted and sentenced to a long term of imprisonment, has, after undergoing his full term, appeared before us again in an entirely new but not uncongenial garb. We have no doubt that the inmates of the Presidency Jail will be able to identify him as their old associate.

IN execution of Messrs. Gladstone, Wylle & Co.'s decree for Rs. 18,000, M. C. Borooah, Honorary Magistrate and member of the Local Board at Gauhati, was arrested and placed before the Deputy Commissioner of Gauhati on Monday last. He was released on his undertaking to file a schedule of insolvency. Mr. Borooah's liabilities are said to exceed a lac of rupees, while his assets are almost nothing. At the same time, criminal proceedings against the insolvent by the Alliance Bank of Simla, who complain of his dealings, are talked of.

SAHIBZADAH Hafiz Mahomed Abdul Lateef Khan, son-in-law of the reigning Nawab of Tonk and son of Sahibzadah Mahomed Obaidullah Khan, Prime Minister of that State, is on a visit to Calcutta for nearly a fortnight. The young nobleman is the guest of his namesake, Nawab Abdool Lutef Bahadur.

The Sahibzada paid with his tutor Mr. Reed, Principal of the Ajmere College, a flying visit to Darjeeling whence he has just returned. He is likely to proceed to Colombo by the P. and O. steamer which leaves in the beginning of next month.

MRS. Sala is said to have published in America a book called "Famous People I have Met." Her most famous man is, naturally, her George Augustus. "The most interesting chapter" of the book, according to the *Morning Post*, "is that which tells how 'G. A. S.' produces his D. T. 'leaders.'" Are the latter initials intended to suggest the wild, hysterical character of the editorial columns of the great Fleet Street daily with which Mr. Sala, no less than Sir Edwin Arnold, is identified?

This is the process of production of the brilliant articles which, notwithstanding the sneers of *Saturday Reviewers* and similar pigs, young and old, have been the delight of several decades of readers:—

"After the subject has been selected and thought over for a little time the article is dictated, the time so occupied being about an hour and a half:—He never stammers, never harks back, and rarely recasts a sentence. He just talks slowly and deliberately, 'like a book,' only interrupting the flow of his phraseology from time to time by quietly saying to his amanuensis, 'colon,' 'semi-colon,' 'full stop,' 'invert,' 'dash,' 'hyphen,' 'caps,' 'underscore,' and so on, as the case may be."

Such is the *perfection of practice*! At the same time, it has reduced what ought to be the outpouring of the soul to an almost mechanical operation and a matter of business.

At one time Lady Ermytrude Malet—who is now in London with her husband on leave from the Embassy at Berlin—plumed herself on her jewels, which she used to carry on her person at some balls to the value of seven or eight lacs of Rupees. Her vanity has now declined on a lower range and she is now proud of her leather and prunello—boots and shoes. It must be a pity that she cannot carry them all on her beautiful limbs. She is obliged to hold a permanent exhibition of her nether extremity wear, for the benefit of her friends. Valnest of vanities! The wife of a tradesman in Regent Street may beat my Ladyship any day.

MR. Sala has dished the Professor with a hideous name—Butcher—who responded to the toast of "Literature" at the Academy dinner of 30th April. The Prince of Journalists had never heard of this literary Butcher, to say nothing of reading any of his contributions to literature. He generously takes for granted the Professor's eminence

from the circumstance of the Academy inviting him as a representative of literature and admires his reply as "really a very neat and readable speech." By way of proof of the praise he quotes from it the remark that "Greek literature was at once artistic and popular."

Whereupon remarks Mr. Sala,

"This sage utterance should at once cover with shame, as with a garment, the reprehensible persons who are contending that schoolboys only lose their time in learning Greek."

This is hardly fair to the poor Professor. That is a true observation of his, and it is not quite so trite as to call down punishment on its author's head. Another remark quoted is more open to exception on the ground of triviality. It appears that Professor Butcher—"the sapient Butcher," as Mr. Sala calls him—said,

"It was an important preliminary question to determine what literature is. A railway guide or a Blue book was not literature."

On this, Sala—

"True, O Professor; yet, on the other hand, railway guides and Blue books often render very valuable service to men of letters. A complete set of 'Bradshaw,' from the beginning, would be an inestimable boon to an author who undertook to write a history of English railways. As for the blue books, those azure folios have been guides, philosophers, and friends to a host of novelists. Blue books furnished Charles Reade with a host of material which he artistically worked up in 'It is Never Too Late to Mend,' and in 'Put yourself in his Place.'"

Again—

"Mrs. Trollope was largely indebted to Blue books for the technique and local colour in her novels, 'Michael Armstrong, the Factory Boy,' and 'Jessie Phillips: a Tale of the New Poor Law,' and it was while Marcus Clarke was subcurator of the Melbourne Public Library, and was surrounded with Blue books on Transportation and Convict Discipline, that he welded into shape the idea of his terribly realistic romance, 'For the Term of his Natural Life.'"

And so on.

With all deference to the great master of our craft, that is scarcely pertinent to the Professor's observation. To say that a railway guide or a Blue book is not literature is not a stunning proposition. It is triteness itself.

READERS of the Indian Press will remember a writer in its columns who during the last few years has been striving to pass as Dr. Sheppard, Physician on the staff of the Emperor of Russia. During the visit of the Czarewitch and his cousin, we never heard of him, maybe because he was too deeply engaged. Certainly, he did not chaperone them, nor any others of the many Russian magnates who have come here. Latterly, the said Dr. Sheppard has been devoting himself, like an old English doctor famous in English literature, to cemeteries, burials, tombstones and urns. Perhaps he has been disillusioned in respect of the Northern Bear. He does not appear to have regularly received his regulation pay and staff allowances. His change of residence from Mott's Lane to Park Street, has not availed him. His house is haunted by Small Cause Court bailiffs' devils—far more serious enemies of human happiness than those of the printer. One of the bailiffs, Mr. Franks, armed with the order of Court, went to arrest the doctor. The lord of the castle in Park Street repulsed the bailiff and bailiff's peons and all with bloodshed. Whatever else the mansion might want, it was rich in arms and accoutrements. The Doctor wrenched one of the swords pinned to the wall and delivered a formidable blow on Mr. Franks. Luckily it missed aim and eventually broke in the Doctor's hand.

The Bailiff saved himself by flight, pursued even to the street. He came to the nearest Police station where his wound was bandaged. The Police now organized a storming party, consisting of two European officers with a large native following. They found the enemy ready to receive them, dressed in the full dress of a Russian officer, with top boots and spurs, drawn sword in hand and dagger in his belt. He told them that he was Russian and that his house was Russian territory, and he commanded them to disperse, unless they wished to be cut down. Our hero was no general, however, for all the heavy outfit he had donned in this weather. While he was kept parleying, Inspector Elliott suddenly seized him and threw him on the ground, and another, Inspector Carroll, disarmed him, not however before he had inflicted several wounds on Inspector Elliott. The magistrate allowed him bail on his own recognizances and on two sureties. These sureties could not be found. The Foreign Office did not come forward to save the Doctor of Her Britannic Majesty's Imperial Ally, and none of Her Majesty's lieges ventured to oblige Dr. Sheppard. So the Czar's Physician and the necrological antiquarian is lying in jail for nothing,

pending trial of the question of his heroic defence of Russian territory in Park Street, Calcutta.

The public are so ready, on the slightest pretence, to run down the Police and pile on its head all sorts of sins of commission as well as of omission, and atrocities perpetrated and unperpetrated, that when our civil defenders do acquit themselves thoroughly well they should get the full measure of credit that is their due. The Calcutta Police behaved splendidly in their encounter with the Russian bear of Park Street. He was an ugly customer, and the whole business a most difficult one. The problem was how to capture a desperate man armed *cap-a-pie* as quietly as possible, without extraordinary measures as without unnecessary bloodshed. The sphere was humble, yet success in it required no little strategy and the utmost coolness and daring. These were shown by Commissioner Lambert's Force. Inspector Elliott has made himself famous in his line. In braving his formidable desperado brandishing a naked sword still reeking with the blood of another European and grappling with him, he not only exhibited pluck but also tact and skill. It is in emergencies like these that the Briton proves his distinct superiority to the Indian.

AN esteemed friend writes to us privately on a subject which, after long thought, we consider worthy of public notice. He questions the strict accuracy of "a paragraph which appeared in *Reis and Rayyet* to the effect that Mr. C. C. Stevens, Member of the Board of Revenue, after visiting Chittagong, came away from that place for fear of cholera which was then raging there." We did not name Mr. Stevens, but it is true that we meant him. And although our language was different, our purport is correctly reported by our correspondent. He adds:—"Mr. Stevens, after finishing his business at Chittagong, proceeded to Mutihari in Champaran, where also that disease was prevailing on inspection duty." For our part, we see not much practical difference between the two statements. The element of fear that we introduced is a mere literary colouring. It was taken for granted. Nor is it a discredit to the greatest hero to fly before the plague unless he has special duty in connection therewith. It is mere foolhardiness to expose oneself for nothing in the midst of cholera or other equally serious epidemic. Wise men do not usually fail in courage and brave men are not habitually rash. We can scarcely believe that Mr. Stevens was not made anxious by the epidemic he encountered at Chittagong. If he really was devoid of such thoughts in presence of that danger, we really pity him and cannot surely respect him. In such a case he would be simply callous, not brave.

Visitations like the cholera and the small-pox, though our natural enemies, are no foemen worthy of our steel. As physician, as friend, as servant, public or private, it may be our duty to brave them, but our ordinary course is to keep them at arm's length, or rather at leagues' distance. For surely it is no part of our duty to court a miserable death for ourselves and our own.

In saying, in our impudent way, that Mr. Stevens ran away from Chittagong to inspect another time if need be, we did not impugn his courage in the least or his sense of duty. We certainly would have skeddaddled in the same honourable fashion.

In point of fact, Mr. Stevens did not run away but, after finishing his inspection in due course, he returned. So there is an end of the matter.

WE have not dwelt upon the ethics of the matter without a purpose. From the way in which our remark appears to have been taken in official circles and, above all, from the imprudent readiness with which officials below only the Lieutenant-Governor in rank without administrative urgency, actually risked themselves and one of them lost his valuable life, we conclude that a wrong sentiment prevails. The innovations of a doctrinaire head of the administration and the pressure of a new broom of a Lieutenant-Governor have created a new standard of official etiquette—a morbid sense of duty—which is demoralising the service and is in a subtle way hurtful to the public interests.

ORTHODOX Lahore is jubilating over the restoration of speech of a Hindu *fakir*. The story is that he cut off his tongue at Mirpura near Jhelum, and has got it back. A subscription is on foot to celebrate the miracle. It would be more to the purpose to inquire into the antecedents of the man. An authoritative denial or confirmation of the statement about his tongue would be a public service which would be

everywhere appreciated. Since the early planting of Christianity, no such miracle has been known in the West.

ONE touch of Nature makes the whole world kin. It is not our Baboos that are jealous of one another. The handful of whitemen who are here to make their fortunes in different lines, are no less divided by antipathies and enmities. A remarkable illustration has just come to our notice. A British cur eaten up with envy and malice, who how wows to the very moon, thinking every body a dog, has gone to the trouble and expense of inserting the following advertisement in the *Calcutta Exchange Gazette* :—

"LOST

A small smooth-faced liver colored thick set Terrier of uncertain breed and pedigree. Last seen in a bad temper rattling on the hills near Simla. Answers to the name of *Sir Jeems*, any one returning same to Elysium Row with above name entire will be rewarded.

Messrs. Mackenzie, Lyall & Co. ought to be called upon to explain how they came to lend themselves to so disreputable a business.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, May 28, 1892.

THE NEW HONOURS.

WE usually accept the dispensations of the Fountain of Honour in loyal silence and submission. As a rule, we are content to record the new creations without note or comment, except perhaps in rare cases. In this, however, we find that we disappoint the public. Our constituents do not appreciate our philosophic calmness and reticence. They almost accuse us of shirking a duty. Not that they wish to see the favorites of the hour hurled down and dragged through the mire. For they wish us to approve as well as to condemn. They expect guidance in forming their judgments. And no doubt in many cases they want the necessary information. The grant of titles of distinction is a useful, and may be an important, instrument of administration as well as of national education. It is only its systematic abuse that has estranged respectable men from the subject. However, we bow to the general wish and decide to say something about the last Birthday Honour List. It would perhaps not be desirable, specially as matters now stand, to complain why this or that man, whom we think deserving of honor, has not been decorated. There may be particular reasons which might have induced Government to hesitate or delay in honoring him, and of which we may not be aware. It is sometimes hazardous to mention the names of any really deserving individual thus omitted, for that may do him an immense deal of harm, without any compensating good. All that concerns us, today at all events, is the List itself that gives the names of those honored on this occasion, and the public are at full liberty to express their opinions regarding the merits of each and every one of them.

First of all, we would take up the case of the Maharaja Pertab Singh of Kashmir. We think that after the scanty courtesy with which His Highness has, during the last few years, been treated by the Government of India, Lord Lansdowne has done a graceful act in getting the highest possible decoration conferred upon him; and we have no doubt the Maharaja will duly appreciate the honor coming as it does direct from Her Imperial Majesty the Queen Empress. The next decoration which calls for our approbation is that of the Maharaja of Vizianagram who has been raised to the dignity of a Grand Commander of the Indian Empire. A worthy son of a worthy father, he has, by his own continued good deeds, rightly earned the distinction,

and we do not think that there will be any two opinions regarding him whether in or out of India. The name of the Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces of Upper India reminds us of an inexplicable wrong. Sir Auckland Colvin was already a knight, having long ago earned his knighthood for important services rendered out of India, so the present creation is mere surplusage. The gift of the Crown is of course to be received with loyal respect, but a successful and brilliant administrator can scarcely feel thankful to the keepers of the Sovereign's honouring conscience for this tardy recognition of his distinguished career. Sir A. Colvin receives on the eve of his retirement an honour which is conferred upon Lieutenant-Governors on their entrance into office, almost as an appanage of it, like the simple knighthood of our old Supreme Court Judges and of the Chief Justices of the High Courts. It is incomprehensible how his eminent services in India during the last nine years, services which have enjoyed the approbation of Viceroys and Secretaries of States, could be passed over at successive Birthdays and New Year's Day after New Year's Day. No doubt Sir Auckland himself never bothered himself about these honours. Still there was clear failure of duty somewhere. In vivid contrast behold the treatment accorded to the late Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab! Without rhyme or reason, the most humdrum member of the Civil Service is overwhelmed with an honour to which he has no possible claim, which in his wildest dreams he could not aspire to!

We are indeed quite at a loss to account for the reason which has influenced the Viceroy and the Secretary of State for India, to raise Sir James Lyall to the highest grade of an Indian Order. It is scarcely likely, that the late Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab may have rendered services to the Government of India which are not known to us. So far as we know, not a single Lieutenant-Governor of an Indian Province as such has yet been raised to this high dignity, although there are many who attained fame of a very high order by their administrative abilities and distinguished and varied services. Even Sir James's brother, Sir Alfred Lyall, who has earned a high and world-wide reputation, not only for important services of a varied character, but also for his interesting literary productions, has not been equally fortunate. The public will not be satisfied until they are enlightened as to the cause of this exceptionable preferment.

Among the Knight-Commanders of the Indian Empire, we find three lawyers, one of whom is a native of India. Justice Mathuswami Aiyer has established his reputation as a sound lawyer and efficient Judge, by eminent service on the Bench of the Madras High Court, and the Government have done honor to themselves by honoring him. Mr. Charles Pontifex was Judge of the Calcutta High Court, for ten or twelve years, and Legal Adviser to the Secretary of State for India for another similar period. As he was known to be a sound lawyer and was of very great use to the India Office, his decoration comes to him rather tardily. Mr. Evans is indeed very fortunate, but not beyond his merits. He has been a sort of standing member of the Imperial Legislative Council for more than twelve years. For an Indian barrister in leading practice who has no glorious vision of the woollen sack to tempt him to public spirit, this itself involves no small sacrifice. During all that time Mr.

Evans has been of signal service. Administration after administration has profited by his talents and ready resources, while his independent position, as a lawyer unconnected with the Crown, has enhanced the value of his support. Accordingly, his is the first case of a Barrister practising in the High Court, and not being an Advocate-General, who has been so honored. Of the newly made Companions of the Star of India, Sir Edward Buck has rendered exemplary service to Government in his useful and important sphere. Mr. Cotton is well-known to be an officer of ability and thorough acquaintance with Bengal, whose reputation, we are sorry to see, suffers from a general suspicion of his partiality to extreme views and fads of sorts. Towards the end of the last administration he had by an act of extraordinary indiscretion compromised himself. But his luck is equal to his ability and energy. An old friend has since come to the throne of Bengal and, as had been anticipated from the first, Mr. Cotton has become Chief of the scribes under the present régime, elbowing out the *fidus Achates* of the late Lieutenant-Governor. Still as a junior officer is understood to air himself as His Honour's right-hand man, the new title is a welcome proof that the confidence of the head of the Local Government in Mr. Cotton is unabated, and will go far to re-establish him in the proper influence of his office.

Mr. Romesh Chunder Dutt has been selected for a decoration under the Indian Empire, doubtless for his literary accomplishments and labors, but we cannot make out what services have been rendered by the Dewan of the Maharaja of Dumraon, which have entitled him to be bracketed with Mr. R. C. Dutt. They cannot be of the same species. Nothing succeeds like success, and that his Dewanship is a successful man is beyond question. Only we are yet in the dark what extraordinary services have been rendered by him to the Government and the public, that would justify his being placed in the rank of some of the most distinguished men of the day.

Among the purely Indian titles, we are glad to find that Moulvi Abdul Jubbar has been made a Khan Bahadoor, as we know him to be an officer of great distinction and independence of character. But we do not think he or his friends would look upon it as a great honor, when men inferior to him have received higher titles, and when men of a very inferior position, in all respects, have been bracketed with him.

The manner in which the title of Shams-ul-Ulama has been given away in late years, has been a source of great dissatisfaction and disgust to the learned of the Mahomedan community; and we pointedly drew attention to it last year. But as high European officials have entirely given up the study of Persian and Arabic, they are not in a position to appreciate real eminence in Arabic scholarship. The result is, that officials in power recommend certain individuals for the title of Shams-ul-Ulama, who manage to influence them in some way or another, the officials themselves being incapable of judging of the extent of their learning, and thus simply on the recommendation of those officials, the Government of India confer that title upon those parties. We believe that this title was created by Lord Dufferin solely with the object of honoring and bringing within the touch of Government, the most eminent Arabic scholars of India who, from their profound learning and exemplary retired and sancti-

fied mode of life, are revered or rather worshipped by the Mahomedan community. A number of such venerable gentlemen were found and titles were conferred upon them on the first occasion. But since then, many others who have no claim whatever to the distinction, but who are the authors of some works in Persian or Urdu, or who are simply known to the authorities as Persian scholars, or who are the favorites of certain high officials, have been honored with the title, solely on the recommendation of those officials. Such a result has not only served to decrease the value of the honor so thoughtfully conceived in the first instance, but has been looked upon by the really venerable individuals who have got the title as an insult and a degradation to their eminence by being grouped together with men who by no means possess the same erudition and learning, or enjoy the respect and confidence of the Mahomedans. Another tendency has lately arisen—that of honoring with this unique title men who have adopted English habits and dress, and who are more familiar with English language and literature than with Persian and Arabic. We never thought that this title was created to reward such men, whatever their general scholarship. There are various other ways for appreciating the merits of such individuals, such as the titles of C.I.E., L.L.D., Khan Bahadur and so forth. But instead of that, these men are shoved into the ranks of retired men of eminence and sanctity famous for their learned lore, who do not court Government favor.

In the above view, we are not satisfied that the title just conferred on Mirza Hairat, Persian Professor in the Elphinstone College, is a happy one. He is undoubtedly a Persian scholar and is also the author of some Persian books, but that alone does not entitle him to be placed in the same fraternity with the select learned of India, for whose benefit alone the title came into existence. In proof of our contention we may say, that Mirza Hairat has been holding his post at Bombay for many years, but he was never considered all these years by the authorities at Bombay to be a fitting recipient of this honor. Finding, however, that men inferior to the Mirza have got this title, he might have pressed his claims to the honor, and his official superiors may have agreed with him that his claim was a proper one, and thus recommended him for it and obtained it for him. From what we know of the Mirza's accomplishments, we think that he would have been sufficiently honored by being made a Khan Bahadur, if it was considered necessary or advisable to honor him. As for the two Pundits who have been made Mahamahopadhyas, we think that they are both deserving of the honor. But this arises from the fact of there still being a number of high European officials who take an interest in Sanskrit learning as well as a number of Sanskrit scholars among the *savants* in Europe who have means at their disposal for distinguishing the merits of Indian Pundits. We can speak positively of Pundit Krishna Natha Nyayapanchanana of Purbasthali, in the District of Burdwan, not Nuddea as the official List erroneously puts it, than whom a profounder Hindu jurist does not live in these Provinces. The country beheld with surprise that he was not one of the first batch of Mahamahopadhyas when the title was created. The jealousy of the official Pundits must have kept him out.

We find that of late years there has sprung up a desire in the Local Governments to recommend Hin-

doo and Mahomedan gentlemen for the titles of Rai Bahadur and Khan Bahadur, who have distinguished themselves as Honorary Magistrates and Municipal Commissioners. Such a desire is no doubt a praiseworthy one. But the difficulty is, how are the comparative merits of the different Honorary Magistrates and Municipal Commissioners in different Provinces and Districts to be ascertained, and who is to do it? The result is, that if any Magistrate is favorably inclined towards a certain individual, or is pressed in his favor by a friendly sub-divisional officer, he sends up that individual's name with a recommendation and he is at once honored with a title, while many others filling similar posts in the same district or in other districts, much more worthily, continue unhonored because their names have not been sent up by their official superiors. Such invidious distinctions, therefore, create heart-burnings and unpleasantness, and otherwise cause a great deal of harm. The truth of this position was illustrated only a short time ago, by only one Municipal Commissioner of Calcutta being honored with a title, over the heads of scores of others, several of whom worked much harder and with much greater ability in the interests of the Corporation than this individual, who had somehow or other ingratiated himself into the good graces of the late Chairman. That lamented officer, however, found out when it was too late, the unworthy object of his caresses.

We find among the present recipients of the honors, that one Baboo Poran Chunder Bose, Honorary Magistrate of Manicktollah, 24-Pergannahs, has been made a Rai Bahadur. Although we have never heard his name or of his extraordinary and praiseworthy honorary work—living only about a couple of miles distant from Manicktollah—we congratulate him upon his good fortune. We take it for granted that he must have given satisfaction to the officer in charge of the Sealdah Court or the Magistrate of the 24-Pergannahs to entitle him to such honor. But the question is, out of more than a hundred Honorary Magistrates in the Town and Suburbs of Calcutta, many of whom have worked very hard in the discharge of their honorary duties, as will be evident from the latest Resolution of the Government of Bengal on the Police Administration of the metropolis, was there not another individual who had done equally well with this Baboo Poran Chunder Bose? We doubt not many had shown better zeal and turned out superior results than this unknown worthy. Such is the way to make titles cheap, and they have been brought low in the market indeed.

We have already adverted above that these titles become somewhat like a dishonor, when one of a very high position is bracketed with another of a very comparatively low status. This is illustrated by Babu Protol Chunder Chatterjea, the foremost pleader at the Lahore Chief Court, and who was once selected to fill the post of a Judge in that court—being bracketed with hospital assistants, police inspectors and the like.

We think that it is the duty of the Chief Secretaries of the various local administrations, to personally examine most carefully the claims of each individual recommended for a title, by the local authorities, and then to submit the names of the most eligible for the consideration of their chiefs, after scrutinizing most minutely the comparative merits of all.

MONGHYR.

Jamalpore, May 14.

Mr. B. Keightly, M. A., Barrister-at-law, General Secretary, Theosophical Society, Indian Section, was here the last two days and gave a couple of lectures on the following subjects :--

1st., On Postmortem existence of man.

2nd., Theosophy in practical life.

There is a cry for water here. The wells have almost been dried up. The Railway Company's tank is receding fast daily. The Bayley reservoir close to the hill, which was erected by the Railway Company a few years back at a large outlay is, quite dry. Not a drop of water is to be had there. Wild animals, such as leopards, tigers, &c., are said to be out of their lairs at dead of night to quench their thirst and to come to the adjacent tanks in the heart of the town. For the scarcity of water on the main line a great inconvenience is felt for the train arrangements and it is in contemplation to run the Chord Line trains *via* Loop shortly, till the crisis is over. The Railway Company is also devising a scheme to carry water from Monghyr (river Ganges) to this by rail to meet their demands for workshops and trains. The Municipal Commissioner who was criminally prosecuted for tampering witnesses, has, on conviction, been sentenced to a fine of Rs. 250 by the District Magistrate of Monghyr.

DEBATE ON THE INDIAN COUNCILS BILL.

[Continued from page 250]

Sir Richard Temple acknowledged the pointed yet kind manner in which the right hon. gentleman had alluded to him in adverting to a plan of his own which he had more than once mentioned in the House. The plan always had reference to the Bill before the House, which had been in print for several Sessions. The plan would be found a modest one. He must admit that to form any scheme which would in any proper sense represent the population of India was an absolute impossibility. You might theoretically construct a system whereby constituencies could be formed in every district, but that would involve local Parliaments consisting of hundreds of members, and it was impossible to say, if such a system were introduced, what sort of men would be elected and how such Parliaments would work. But because such a representation of the people was impossible in this sense, it did not follow that some moderate scheme within sensible limits might not be propounded. His plan would be simply this. It was now proposed that 16 additional members should be given to the legislative Council of India. He supposed they might be elected by 16 selected cities in various parts of the great Indian dominion. He would like to select the cities, and they would be so chosen as to represent as nearly as possible various sections of the population. For the purpose of providing for a minority representation certain cities should be chosen which would select Mahomedans. All these cities would be places which had the elective principle in force within them for municipal and local purposes, and therefore the idea of election would be familiar to the citizens. To such a scheme there was this obvious objection--that these cities would not represent the country--that was to say the country in our sense of the term, as contradistinguished from the town. Nevertheless, their inhabitants would form fair specimens and types of the various forms of thought and sentiment which reigned in that vast population, and they would be great centres of native thought, activity, and industry. So far there would be, not a perfect, but yet a limited representation upon a scheme which was practicable; and because a perfect representation of town and country was impossible, that was no reason why we should not have some representation for the towns. According to that plan, it would be necessary that the Government should always provide itself with a majority. It would not do to leave to elected members in such a country as India anything like a control of legislation. Elected members would be there to help, not to supersede, but the advantage would be that, instead of having nominated members we should have men chosen by the suffrages of their country. At present every Governor who had a nomination endeavoured to choose a man who was a type and a representative, and every man he had himself nominated was exactly the man who would have been elected had there been an elective system in force. Within that moderate compass such a principle could be safely and effectually carried out. The plan was perfectly workable, and it was also absolutely consistent with this Bill. Although he quite acknowledged that our tenure in India depended upon

good administration, good management, and conciliation of the people, its ultimate basis was upon the sword, and upon nothing else. Therefore we must have a majority on the Legislative Council, but as long as we had a majority he would like to make the minority a mirror and looking-glass of the sentiments of the people. These remarks which he made with regard to the Governor-General's Council might be applied to the Councils of provincial arcas--he would not call them local governments. He wished to take care that the various minorities should be represented, especially the great Mahomedan community. The hon. member for Manchester and the member for Donegal had referred to this point, but not one of these men would elect a Congress man; they would take no interest in an election. This being his humble plan--and the House would see that it was moderate and reasonable--it started with small beginnings, and it was quite compatible with this Bill. He would point out, however, how important it was that these things should not be arranged by that House, but should be left to the executive in India. It was impossible for them sitting in a committee in that House to make out an elaborate scheme. They must leave it to the Government of India. The hon. member for Manchester said that no plan would be satisfactory to the people of India which did not specifically include the principle of election. He might repeat the question--who were the people of India, and how were they represented? The hon. member said that the Congress represented the people of India. He traversed that statement in the strongest possible manner. The men who proposed the scheme would be swept into the sea tomorrow if British rule disappeared to-day. (Hear, hear.) He did not wish to disparage those who composed the National Congress. They were what the English had made them, and no man living had a greater share than he had in making them what they were, so he was not the one to disparage them. All he said was that they did not represent the population of India. The hon. member said they formed a nationality. He could not imagine any phrase less applicable to them than "a nationality." That was just what they were not. The hon. member said the Congress spoke with the voice of the people of India. Nothing could be more contrary to the fact. The hon. member said they had great influence over the great masses of the people. They had no influence at all. They were looked upon as foreigners, with all the faults of foreigners, and perhaps none of their merits. No doubt they deserved to be popular, only the people of India did not seem to see it. He agreed with the member for Oldham. There was nothing that could be done to raise the natives intellectually and morally that he would not do, but to give them political power--they were the very last persons he would select. Until they showed greater moderation, greater sobriety, greater intelligence, greater self-control, he for one should not think of entrusting them with political power. Therefore he was not in favour of making any concession to the Congress particularly. They should take their place in the ranks of their fellow-citizens, and take their chance there. Much had been said about the masses. The masses in India were outside all conception of the matter in question. Besides the masses, the artisans and labourers in the field, there were distinct sets of classes who were very nearly outside any electoral system, and the Congress could not claim to represent many influential sections of the vast population. Perhaps the most important class in India are the village headmen. They had withstood the shock of revolution and the disasters of war, and they had come out like gold refined. These men, quite representative in their way, were totally outside any idea of the electoral system. Then there was the great class of peasant proprietors. They were everywhere, from Cape Comorin to the Himalayas. They were outside. Besides these were the frontier chiefs, the men who dominated the border, who kept back marauders and robbers, who were the wardens of the marches all around the frontiers of India. These hill tribes were nearly everywhere. They were like the bones in the body and the arteries. They were of the martial races, and they supplied the native officers for the infantry and cavalry. These men never heard of election. (Hear, hear.) The shopkeepers were numerous in every town and village; they had no notion of the principle of election. Then there was the important class the shipowners, the proprietors of boats--men who circumnavigated the great Indian peninsula, who formed the inland navigation, not equalled in any other country in the world. They never heard of it. Take the priesthood; they had great influence over the whole lives of the people from the cradle to the grave. These men were wholly innocent of the principle of election. Take the Brahmin who studied the ancient Sanscrit, the men who looked back to the dawn of ancient civilization, and who were the repositories of the religious traditions of the country. These men were innocent of the idea of the elective principle. So it was with the Mahatta Brahmins; and lastly there were the men of what he might call the old school--those who looked back to the ancient régime, who regard all Western civilization as an evil. These men would abhor the idea of election. He asked the House to reflect on the great variety and importance of all these classes, and they would see what a powerful phalanx they composed. The

Mahomedans were opposed to the principle. He had received repeated communications from them, entreating him to explain to the House that they were entirely opposed to the National Congress; and for this reason, that these Mahomedans knew that, forming as they did a very important and influential section indeed, they dreaded that an undue share of power might accrue to this National Congress, which consisted almost entirely of Hindoos and Parsees. He desired to speak of these races with all respect, but they did not represent the true feelings of the people of India. They were, in fact, merely like the swallows which portend the coming spring. The Mahomedans apprehended that they would be outvoted by the Hindoos, and they naturally wished to maintain some influence in the country. That was only reasonable. They asked, in effect, that there should be some arrangement for the proper representation to their important minority, which might now be numbered at between 50 and 60 millions. This last fact alone showed how hard and onerous this elective scheme must be in such a country as India. He asked himself this question—was the elective system at all in the hearts and minds of the people? His answer was that it was not. The dignity of headman was hereditary; so were the village offices; and almost all the ancient appointments held by Mahomedans were more or less hereditary. Here and there, however, germs of the elective system were to be found. The priests, for instance, were elected; though in what way no outsider could say. If the elective system were going to be introduced, the natives would have to be educated up to it and taught what it meant; and, to do this, they must lend themselves to the task. He had himself experimented with the elective system in Calcutta, but he had not found it altogether a success. It was almost as hard to get the Calcutta citizens to understand what it meant as it was to bring ratepayers to the poll at the London School Board or County Council elections. In Bombay, on the other hand, the elective plan had always been found to answer; and, with regard to the district boards which were originated under the *régime* of Lord Ripon, the principle of election would grow year by year, and no doubt in most towns of India a germ of the elective system was to be found. But if this plan were to be generally adopted and carried into effect, it would have to be by means of rules and regulations which should be framed here, and the working out of which should be left to those on the spot. The number of persons whom the Governor-General would have to consult and of others who would have to be propitiated and otherwise taken into account by him must be very large indeed. He praised this Bill because it left the details of the schemes which it intended to propose to be worked out on the spot. The Government of India would, no doubt, profit by a perusal of that night's debate. If an additional number of members were to be nominated by the Indian Government, he failed to see the danger of allowing those members to be elected. For all the reasons he had stated, he ventured to express two opinions—first, that this Bill was entirely worthy of the support of the House; and, secondly, that the amendment of the hon. member for Manchester ought not to have effect given to it.

Mr. Keay said the hon. baronet was like Balaam, for while in theory he blessed the elective principle, he in effect cursed it all through his speech. The question was whether the Bill as proposed by the Government did contain anything so near to a mandate as was supposed by the right hon. gentleman the member for Mid Lothian, and by other hon. members. He did not hesitate to prophesy that the Governor-General would never dream of exercising such power as was supposed to be conferred upon him in a mandatory way by the Bill as it now stood. The Governor-General would simply treat it as a dead letter. They had as yet no knowledge how the mandate to exercise the elective principle was to be better embodied in a Bill. The Bill as it stood contained nothing in the nature of a mandate, and without a mandate of some kind it was impossible to hope that the Indian authorities would put in force anything in the character of an elective principle in the government of that country. He ventured to say that existing facts ought to incline that House to the conviction that the government of India could not safely be carried on without the introduction of some modified elective arrangement. It was too much the fashion for the House to accept the views held by Anglo-Indian officials who had enjoyed high positions, and who invariably gave most bland assurances that everything was going on so well in India that there was little need for the House to attend to Indian affairs, much less to inaugurate any great or radical changes. Speaking from 30 years' experience of the real condition and wants of the people of India, he ventured strongly to protest against those views, which were mainly the offspring of an easy-going hope that that state of things was sound which they themselves personally had administered, and in the administration of which they had secured comfort, honour, and advantage. The bureaucracy which governed India were frightened at the bare idea of the elective principle being extended to the government of that country, because they knew perfectly well that real representatives of the people would feel it their first duty to insist upon the reduction of the vast salaries and the numerous appointments held by Europeans, whereby

natives were to an undue extent excluded from the public service of their own country, and its revenues were eaten away to a quite unnecessary extent. A return presented to Parliament nine years ago showed that out of the 68,000 Europeans in the whole of India 25,000 held Government positions with a salary of more than £100 a year, the total of their salaries amounting to £13,000,000 a year, £4,000,000 of which was entirely spent out of the country by absentees. Out of 285,000,000 natives only 11,000 held Government posts with a salary of over £100 a year, the total of their salaries amounting only to £2,250,000; and he believed that the new return would show that matters were even worse. (Hear, hear.) In connexion with India policy simply meant pounds, shillings, and pence in the shape of salaries to Europeans, and there would be the strongest possible opposition to any Governor-General making any use of mere powers like those delegated to him in the Bill now before the House. An even more serious reason why the elective principle ought to be introduced without delay was equally, he feared, a reason why its introduction would be opposed by the European bureaucracy—that was, the enormous and ever-increasing impoverishment which was now taking place under our rule as it at present existed. It was only by absolutely excluding elected members that our officials were able to go about crying peace and prosperity everywhere while the fact was well known that enormous poverty and decadence were going from day to day and year to year throughout the Indian Empire. In the Budget debate last year the hon. baronet the member for the Evesham Division had talked of the wonderful prosperity of the Indian people. Why, if the people were so prosperous, did the hon. baronet think it necessary when in Bombay to introduce his Draconian revenue law? He proposed to give some particulars showing the hideous severity of that law.

The Speaker said that he could not see the relevancy of this to the Bill before the House. The hon. member was not entitled to review the whole state of India on a Bill for introducing elective Councils.

Mr. Keay explained that his object was to show the way in which the people were at present ground down under enactments passed by Legislative Councils in the constitution of which the elective principle was ignored. His contention was that the elective principle should be introduced without delay in order that oppressive laws might no longer be passed without the sanction of the representatives of the people. They were often told that the taxes paid by the natives of India were light and the fact that there were only insignificant arrears was pointed to as a proof of the truth of the statement. But the reason why there were no arrears would be found in the stringency of the laws passed by non-elective Councils to enforce the collection of taxes. He could tell of the imprisonment of the inhabitants of a whole village because one cultivator was in arrear with his payments. No assertion was more often made than that the cultivators were only taxed to the extent of half of their net produce. That was a fallacy. Last year he had prepared for him an industrial census of a village in the Bombay Presidency.

The Speaker observed that the hon. member's remarks were hardly relevant to the Bill.

Mr. Keay, coming to another point, said that he proposed to quote some authorities to prove that the idea of elective representatives was by no means as new in India as some hon. members appeared to think. Sir T. Munro, speaking of the days prior to British rule, said: "In all Indian villages there was a regularly constituted municipality by which revenue and police affairs were administered, and which exercised to a very great extent magisterial and judicial authority." Sir John Malcolm, dealing with the same topic, declared that the municipal and village institutions of India maintained order and peace within their respective limits by the common consent of all ranks. It had been stated that it was only as late as the 14th century that a large tract on the western coast of India had been governed by four senators and a president, who were elected by the people every three years. If we really intended to govern 280,000,000 of people to their content we ought to allow them representative government to, at all events, a certain extent. He had no desire to be an alarmist, but being the only member of that House who had had official experience in the agricultural districts of India he had no hesitation in saying that our extremely expensive and impoverishing system of government in that country was conducing to a terrible feeling of hopelessness and despair on the part of the people of that country, who found themselves reduced under it from the position of well-to-do farmers to that of landless labourers. (Hear, hear.) It was for that House to determine whether India was to be maintained as a human cattle farm whether, by accepting the principle of the amendment, they would give a pledge to the people of that country that they intended honestly to establish in it representative institutions. (Hear, hear.)

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Vol. XI. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 1892.

} No. 527

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

TO THE ORCHIS PYRAMIDALIS.

From the Ruins of Thurnham Castle, Kent.

BY DOUGLAS ALLPORT.

A flow'r is not a flow'r alone,
A thousand sanctities invest it ;
And as they form a radiant zone,
Around its simple beauty thrown,
Their magic tints become its own,
As if their spirit had possessed it.

The sprightly morning's 'breezy call,'
And cool grey light around it streaming ;
The holy calm of even-fall,
The majesty of night, and all
The glories of its starry pall
Above it eloquently beaming.

'The precious things of heav'n—the dew'
That on the turf beneath it trembled ;
The distant landscape's tender blue,
The twilight of the woods that threw
Their solemn shadows where it grew,
Are at its potent call assembled.

And while that simple plant, for me
Brings all these varied charms together,
I hear the murmurs of the bee,
The splendour of the skies I see,
And breathe those airs that wander free
O'er banks of thyme and blooming heather.

Thus, when within my sunless room,
Heart-sick and mocked by mammon's leaven,
The pyramids of purple bloom,
Blush through its loneliness and gloom,
The spirit bursts its living tomb,
And basks beneath the open heaven.

There, as on some green knoll recumbent,
The summer landscape round me glowing,
While gentle ardours fill the mind,
I leave the unquiet world behind
And hear a voice in every wind
Around my fervid temples blowing.

The self-same voice how calm and still !
That rends the rock, and wakes in thunder,
Proclaiming from the tinkling rill,
The vocal copse, and breezy hill,
As meekly as the dews distil
Its ceaseless ministries of wonder.

'Th' Eternal Power and Godhead' then,
Is seen and loved in all around us ;
Seen in the deep and dewy glen,
And loved to agonizing, when
We know ourselves to be but men,
And feel this tabernacle bound us.

Thus through this wood-side plant, the mind
Sweeps the vast range of things created,
And longs, and pants, and fails to find,
In earth, air, ocean, sky combined,
Those joys unfading and refined,
By which its famine may be sated.

Its very carvings wean it hence,
It anchors where its rest remaineth ;
And who has pow'r to drive it thence?
Its helper is Omnipotence,
The rock of ages its defence,
And, in its grasp, the prize it gaineth.

WEEKLYANA.

THE Nepal Durbar has made over the truant Raja of Sikkim to the British at Darjeeling. No orders have yet been issued by the Government of India about his disposal.

SOUTHERN Hindudom has been "exercised" by the sudden shutting up for two whole days and nights of the famous temple on the Upper Tirupati Hill. This was an unprecedented irregularity—the result of the factious war which had been going on for some time between rival parties contending for mastery. The orthodox of Madras naturally regard it as a serious calamity, while the more pessimistic think the Iron Age near its completion. The end cannot be far off—the end of the world. These rival parties have been very indiscreet in pushing their quarrel to this extreme. We believe they went beyond their right. Certainly, in shutting the temple up at their sweet will they showed scant respect for the holy shrine and its god. They should have been the last to present to the entire Hindu world such an example of trifling with one of the principal objects of veneration and worship.

THE Mysore Government has, we find, decided to sell, for the benefit of their respective funds, the useless jewellery, valued at Rs. 95,555 in the various temples of the state. In this decision, the Mysore Durbar is more European than Hindu. What, again, are useless jewellery of a God or a temple? We are afraid the Government of Mysore is sailing perilously near the rock of sacrilege.

SHRI Harkisan Das Narottamdas has offered to contribute liberally towards the erection of a grand Lunatic Asylum, to be called after the name of a dear relation of his. The building will be soon begun.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

at a site already selected by Government at Tanna. The existing building will be sold and the proceeds go towards the cost of the new edifice. The entire cost, according to the Western papers, will be about nine lacs. Dams or Rupees, we wonder. Lunacy seems at once popular and fashionable on that side. Duckland in general must be gone far in the head to require a habitation of nine lacs for the interesting imbeciles.

MR. P. Sreenivasu Charlu, B.A. of the Madras University, has published a prose translation or adaptation in Telugu of the Midsummer Nights' Dream under the name of *Khecharollasam*. It is considered a very creditable piece of maiden work. He is the son of our great patriot, Anand Charlu. We congratulate Charlu the Elder on the possession of such a son, and pray for God's blessings on the boy for the sake of the sire, and of his own promise.

Epigraphia Indica—the journal of Indian Epigraphy started by the Supreme Government in direct competition with the *Indian Antiquary*—is to be amalgamated with the latter, and the two journals will shortly appear under one cover. Dr. Hultzsch, the well-known Indian Epigraphist, will edit the new special epigraphical portion of the *Indian Antiquary*.

Epigraphy, we may explain to unscientific readers, is the science of inscription.

THE Examiners for the next B. L. Examination are Messrs. A. F. M. Abdur Rahman and W. A. Bonnaud, barristers-at-law, and Baboos Karuna Sindhu Mookerjee and Jugesh Chunder Dey, pleaders of the High Court.

FROM a paragraph which is going the round of the British press, we learn that Almanacks were first published in England in the fourteenth century, and one of the earliest known is "John Somer's calendar," written in Oxford, and published in 1380. A duty was imposed on them in 1710, and repealed only in 1834.

IN the *Stationery Trades Journal* for April 30, a curious extract of a specimen of advertisement appears, which we transcribe below:—

"A Japanese Bookseller's advertisement.—The Japanese have unique ways of doing things. Here, for example, is the advertisement of a Tokio bookseller: 'The advantages of our establishment: 1. Price cheap as a lottery; 2. Books elegant as a singing girl; 3. Print clear as crystal; 4. Paper tough as elephant's hide; 5. Customers treated as politely as by the rival steamship companies; 6. Articles as plentiful as in a library; 7. Goods despatched as expeditiously as a cannon-ball; 8. Parcels done up with as much care as that bestowed on her husband by a loving wife; 9. All defects such as dissipation and idleness, will be cured in young people paying us frequent visits, and they will become solid men; 10. The other advantages we offer are too many for language to express.'

There is a distinct American flavour in the foregoing which is most curious. Extremes meet. Geographically the extreme West and the extreme East meet in the Pacific Ocean, and it is interesting to find the same kind of humour flourish on both shores of it. We have now little doubt that Japan has her Sam Slicks and Artemus Wards.

IN the *Printers' Register* for May 6, 1892, appears the following statistics regarding newspapers all over the world:—

"By the latest computation the aggregate of newspapers published in all countries is estimated at 41,000, of which number about 24,000 appear in Europe. Germany heads the European list with 5,000, then comes France with 4,100, England with 4,000, Austria-Hungary with 3,500, Italy with 1,400, Spain with 850, Russia with 800, Switzerland with 450, Belgium and Holland with 300 each, and the rest are published in Portugal, the Scandinavian and the Balkan countries. The United States has 13,900 newspapers. Canada has 700, and Australia also has 700. The people of the United States, therefore, read and support about as many newspapers as England, France, Germany, and Russia combined."

HERE is a cure for beri-beri. The *Indische Mercur* writes:—

"Up till now we have had no sure remedy for the beri-beri miasma; but it seems now to have been found in the *Vitis nili*. The cure of sick persons in the same locality where they had been infected and who did not suffer a relapse, seems to be certain proof. Dr. Antonio Jacinto of Parahybado-Sul, who had a case of beri-beri under treatment, being at this week's ends, tried bathing the patient in an infusion of *Vitis nili*, following the custom of the natives in the interior, who use this remedy for similar complaints. To the physician's surprise, after applying two baths every day, the swelling quite disappeared after four days.

Different forms of the beri-beri were treated in like fashion and with the same success, the sickness being cured within a few days, without any relapse occurring. For convenience sake, Dr. Jacinto has made a tincture and an extract of *Vitis nili*. He uses the first internally, and the latter in the form of an ointment which he rubs into the affected parts. The result is the same. For over a year past now Dr. Jacinto and Dr. Thingo Costa have used the remedy in their practice, without losing a single patient."

MIR Shujat Ali is a Southern Mussulman whose name has been frequently before the public. He entered the unconvicted service on a small pay in the Godavari District in 1876, and soon brought himself to the fore, and in December 1881 got himself nominated a probationer in the Statutory Civil Service. He has since served in several districts, through all the grades of Assistant, Head Assistant, Sub-Collector, &c., and now suddenly confronts the world as Deputy Commissioner of Bangalore. This means that he has transferred his services to the Mysore Government. Perhaps the chief feather in his cap is his wife. He searched long and went far for a partner in life and married a Northern Mahomedan lady of education who has abandoned the seclusion of the sex in Mahomedan society.

IN a suit before the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Hill, the officiating Advocate-General, Mr. Woodroffe, contended that a settlement by a Mahomedan in the way of *wakf* on his children, &c., and, after their extinction, to the poor, was not valid. Khan Bahadur Serajul Islam, on the other hand, maintained that, whatever the arguments of the Advocate-General, the Mahomedan law favored such disposal of property. Owing to conflicting authorities quoted on either side, the matter has been referred to a Full Bench.

NATIONS have their skeletons in the cupboard, no less than families or individuals. One such has just been unearthed at Nogent-sur-Marne by a Paris shop-keeper who lives there, in the course of clearing out a well which, having been abandoned for twenty years, had become full of sand. Removing the sand he came upon a flight of steps hewn roughly in the chalk. Pursuing the clue he found the steps to lead into a gallery three feet wide and six feet high. Digging on to the other end he was met by the apparition of a man in the uniform of a National Guard of 1870, with his back against the wall. The gallery led into an underground room, while a lieutenant of the old National Guard was sitting at a table with a bottle and two wine-glasses before him. No other furniture is mentioned, but several rifles were stacked in a corner. The officer was apparently dozing, his arms folded, and head nodding. Several more or less plausible conjectures have been made to account for the phenomenon, but the theory generally accepted is that these buried men had taken refuge from the Germans in the gallery, the sides of which fell in probably by accident. The good people of Nogent insist that the unspeakable Germans knew of the hiding-place and filled up the pit out of spite towards the French in order to bury the two fugitives alive.

THE other day, at the St. Vincent's Home, in Ekbalpore Road, Calcutta, a little before 9 O'clock in the evening, one of the nuns going into the Dormitory found under a bed a native with a heap of bed linen, blankets, &c., which he was bundling up to carry away. She quietly went to inform the Lady Superintendent and soon both came to the Dormitory and shot the man within it by closing the doors from outside. One of the nuns had to stand with her back against a door to prevent the man's escape. After two or three unsuccessful attempts, he pushed the door open. The nun in charge was equal to the situation. She boldly seized him. A desperate struggle ensued. By that time, however, the whole convent was up, and the womankind gave a good account of the intruder. Every pretty little right hand and some left hands too possibly, had a shy at Abdul otherwise Mahomed, who did not find them soft. The ruling passion of the European races, war, is strong even in the convent. The good girls dedicated to the service of God are as plucky as the sturdiest of their secular brethren.

WE read in the English papers:—

"A woman named Jane Rowe, residing at Marazion, in Cornwall, has for several years suffered from violent pains in the stomach, for which she has been continually under medical treatment. Some weeks ago, after taking some medicine, she had a severe attack of vomiting, in the course of which she threw up a living lizard from four to five

inches in length. Dr. J. Mudge, who had been the woman's medical attendant, has preserved the lizard, which he believes must have been in her stomach for many years. Since the reptile was ejected Mrs. Rowe has been almost entirely free from pain."

NOTES & LEADERETTES

with OUR OWN NEWS.

PARLIAMENT will probably be dissolved in the last week of this month.

THE Princess Marie, daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, is betrothed to the Crown Prince Ferdinand of Roumania, and heir to the throne of Bulgaria.

GERMANY has taken up the Slavery question in East Africa in right earnest. A German judge there has sentenced seventeen Arabs to death for holding a slave market at Lindi.

SIR Francis Jeune succeeds the late Sir Charles Parker Butt as President of the English Court of Probate and Divorce.

FROM next January, the rate for steamers passing through the Suez Canal will be reduced by half a franc per ton, with the prospect of an increase if the dividend fell to ninety.

THREE warehouses in Dundee have been burnt down, destroying eight hundred tons of flax and two hundred tons of jute. The loss is calculated at £40,000.

THE rumour about Lord Baring probably succeeding Lord Lansdowne is contradicted. There is no knowing yet who will be the next Viceroy of India. Lord Baring, if he be, will not be new to India. He had been twice to India, first as Private Secretary to Lord Northbrook and then as Finance Minister and confidant of Lord Ripon, whom he left at a critical moment.

MR. Gladstone has accepted in its entirety the Newcastle Radical programme. The Irish question, he thinks, is every man's question, because it blocks the way to all reforms.

THE Exchange is the most absorbing question of the hour. It presses harder and harder every day. The *Times* suggests the payment of half the salaries of civilians and officers at a fixed rate of twenty pence per rupee.

THEY have started at Simla a society—named the New Indian Currency Association—of Europeans and natives, officials and non-officials, to represent "to Her Majesty's Government, and the House of Commons the intolerable condition of the Indian Currency, and the peremptory necessity of such reforms in it as will secure either stability in the present standard of value, by international agreement, or failing such agreement the substitution therefor of a more stable standard, so as to prevent, for the future, the depreciations and fluctuations from which all classes in India have been suffering with increasing intensity for many years." With the rupee down below 1s. 3½d., and the depreciation continuing, a common danger has for once brought together all races and interests to combine to meet it. The meeting was presided over by Major-General Walker, Director-General of Ordnance, Sir Alexander Miller being one of the speakers. The presence of the Law Member may be taken as a guarantee that the officials are free to join the association, and to make the joint representation, though we shall not be surprised if some musty old circular is discovered forbidding such a league and, indeed, any sort of combination.

MUNICIPAL meetings are becoming interesting. Last Thursday there was some refreshing free-lancing between the old veteran of municipal fame, Babu Kalinath Mitter, and the young aspirant to municipal honors, Mr. Abdur Rahman. By arrangement, Mr. Abdur Rahman led the fight for the Suburbanists. He moved

"That inasmuch as the statement of the account between the Town and the Suburbs for the years 1889-90 and 1890-91, does not show that a

sum of not less than three lacs of rupees required of Section 37 of Act II. B. C. of 1888, Clause 7, to be devoted to the improvement of the area newly added to Calcutta, has been so devoted, it is absolutely necessary that the Commissioners should in future exclusively devote a sum not less than three lacs of rupees towards works of improvement of the Suburban area, as provided by the law."

Another well-known veteran of Suburban municipal fame, Babu Preonath Mullick, in a neat little speech, seconded the Resolution. Mr. Abdur Rahman, in a stirring speech, ascribed the unsatisfactory condition of the Suburbs to "the illegitimate diversion of the Suburban funds towards purposes not at all sanctioned by the law." Although the law, according to him, fixed a sum not less than 3 lacs, to be devoted to the improvement of the Suburban area every year, yet in 1890-91, only the sum of Rs. 49,000 was spent towards it and the rest appropriated to other purposes. "Improvement" meant sanitary and structural improvements. "Don't rob Peter to pay Paul," said he. The effect may be serious when called upon to account by the higher authority. "We don't want to fight," added Mr. Rahman, "but remember if we do, we have got the right, got the law and got the men too." The Suburbanists might invoke the help of the great oracle at the Shrubbery, if necessary. All this was too much for the old veteran Kalinath of municipal fame. He burst into a rage and fell foul upon the young aspirant to municipal honors. He entirely forgot himself. Babu Kalinath remarked that the Resolution of Mr. Abdur Rahman was meaningless; that he (Mr. Rahman) wanted to obtain "notoriety by the speech of his," that Mr. Rahman had merely read in some book "Rob Peter to pay Paul." Were the Corporation thieves or robbers? If not why then the word "rob," of all the words in the world, used by Mr. Abdur Rahman? Mr. Rahman's "legal opinion may be valuable elsewhere" and for the matter of that "he may on a future day be an ornament of the Bench of the High Court," but Mr. Abdur Rahman's reasonings were no reasoning at all.

If for Mr. Abdur Rahman to be a young man was an atrocious crime, he should have, in the words of Pitt, neither attempted to palliate nor denied it. He, indeed, took it easy being cool as a cucumber, and in reply administered a fairly mild dose of castigation to his assailant, which must have gone to the very core of his old heart. The ascription of ignorance and superciliousness only elicited from Mr. Abdur Rahman the gentlemanly retort that it was not necessary for him to reply to the observations of Babu Kalinath as he had, on the advice of friends who fell in with his views, withdrawn his Resolution. But one observation of that gentleman he could not fail to notice and that was as to the charge of "notoriety." He had always great respect for Babu Kalinath and always gave him credit for good taste, but he must now alter his opinion. "They say," said Mr. Rahman, "we live to learn, but I trust for the sake of Babu Kalinath Mitter, that he would live long to learn better." The amendment of Pandit Prannath to take the opinion of the officiating Advocate-General as to the meaning of the word "improvement" was carried.

THE attempt to revive the Market Committee of the Calcutta Corporation having failed, an effort was made to reconstitute the Squares Committee. That too, we are glad to find, had no better fate. Khan Bahadar Ahmed, on notice, having moved for its re-formation, Babu Norendranath Sen shouted out that the Squares Committee was worse than the Market Committee. Mr. Abdur Rahman opposed the motion. He said that for nearly six years when he was, on a previous occasion, on the corporation, he was a member of the Wellesley Square Committee. In that period there were only two or three meetings. But there was certainly one advantage of such committees if any member cared to avail himself of the same. Shortly after he was a member of the Wellesley Square Committee, he discovered on his table some extra flowers every morning. On inquiry he was told that a certain *mallee* left them. Next time when the *mallee* brought his customary present, he was brought up and, on being questioned, said that he was in charge of the Wellesley Square and that he brought the flowers to seek Mr. Rahman's favor for an increase of pay. The *mallee* was told that he should discontinue his practice in the future. The man replied that he did not think there was any harm in Mr. Rahman's having some extra flowers on his table, the "Boro Commission" having only recently given him an extra hand, he begged the "Choto Commission" to give him a little additional pay for his extra work in the Square. Mr. Abdur

Rahman thought that there was no necessity for such committee. The meeting agreeing with Mr. Rahman, the Khan Bahadur's motion was lost.

A PAINFUL case in which the accused named Kashi Paharia has been sentenced to death by the officiating Sessions Judge of Rajshai, is very much exercising the public mind there. There is a growing feeling of dissatisfaction in regard to the severity of the sentence. The accused was charged with the murder of one Rahmutallah, who was alleged to have had illicit connection with the wife of the prisoner. The only important evidence that seems to have been adduced by the prosecution to fix the guilt on the accused, is that of his wife and it is of a discrepant nature, she having retracted before the Sessions Court her previous statement to the committing magistrate, in which she is said to have charged her father and brother along with the accused with the murder of the deceased Rahmutallah. The prisoner who was undefended is reported to have said that he has been the victim of a foul conspiracy. The real murderers were his father-in-law and his son, who, in order to escape punishment themselves, conspired with the wife to fasten the crime on the husband. The circumstances which culminated in the murder of the deceased by his father-in-law and his son may be briefly stated, as alleged by the accused.

The accused, a poor cultivator, having occasion for a long absence from home, left his wife under the protection of her father and her brother. On his return he had reason to suspect her fidelity and on inquiry found that, during his absence, the father-in-law and his son had sold the honour of his wife to the deceased—they having allowed him to have illicit intercourse with her, on the payment of a certain sum of money to them by the deceased. When the accused came to know this, he insisted on the removal of his wife to a separate house. They at first refused to submit to his proposal but subsequently gave in. The deceased who was thus prevented from continuing his adulterous connection with the wife of the accused, now that she was no longer under her father's roof, demanded back the money with which her father had been bribed into terms. They refused compliance and, on the deceased still persisting in his demand, the only way to evade payment and suppress scandalous revelations was to despatch him straight, and so the deceased was done to death. This probably happened at night and in the father-in-law's house, and as the accused was living separately with his wife he knew nothing of the occurrence till the next morning, when the dead body of the deceased was seen lying on the roadside and the village people and the police came down upon him, the latter, it is said, trying to extort a confession from him by subjecting him to torture. His wife who was all along in league with her father and brother, perhaps under some pressure, declared at first that the murder was committed by her husband, father and brother. She subsequently retracted her statement in the Sessions Court, charging the accused alone with the murder. The accused has appealed to the High Court against the sentence of the Sessions Judge.

WE are glad to learn from Rajshai that since the destruction of the dreadful man-eater which of late caused such a panic among the Baulia people, the attacks of wild beasts resulting in loss of human life have almost ceased.

"HAPPY Diva!" exclaims the M. P., Allahabad, in a transport of joy, and proceeds:—

"When Madame Diaz, the wife of the Mexican President, heard the other day of the death of Patti's pet dog Ricci, she sent the diva another, with instructions that it should be presented to Patti concealed in a basket of roses. The instructions were carried out to the letter during the performance of Donizetti's opera at the New Metropolitan Opera House. The basket in which the dog was hidden was a triumph of floral art. Patti, attracted by the beauty of its design and the gorgeous bloom of its roses, chose this particular tribute from many to carry off the stage in her own fair hands.

As Patti lifted the basket to kiss the flowers the little beast gave a feeble cry. The diva started, peered curiously into the mass of bloom, gave a purely feminine scream of delight, and running down to the footlights, whispered gleefully to the audience, 'I declare if it isn't a lovely little dog.' The house went mad. Men jumped upon the chairs and yelled 'Bravo, Patti.' Women waved their fans and handkerchiefs and cried hysterically. Patti tried to get the dog out, but he was fastened in with ribbons. Finally she handed the dog and basket to an attendant, and, tripping back to the footlights, sang 'Home, Sweet Home,' as only she can sing it."

On incomprehensible Mesdames and Mademoiselles! and your

unhappy male kind who are compelled to encourage you in these weak frivolities! * * *

So long as there are orators like Mr. Maclean and writers like Colonel Malleson and, we may add, newspapers like the *Bengal Times*, the people of India need not be in doubt as to what opinion of them is harboured by their British fellow-subjects. There is one consolation, however. Their sanity will scarcely be questioned by the most prejudiced.

OUR HYDERABAD COLUMN.

(From Hyderabad.)

SOMETIME ago a telegram appeared in the *Indian Daily News* to the effect that Nawab Vicar-ul-Omra, during his incumbency as Officiating Minister, had ordered the confiscation of Nawab Sir Khurshed Jah's jagirs, but that Nawab Fakar-ul-Mulk, the Minister of Justice, interceded in the matter and prevented the order being carried out. The telegram elicited a column of remarks from the Editor of the *I. D. N.* These remarks, though made in sober seriousness, caused much amusement here. The Editor commenced with contradicting certain other items of Hyderabad news which he had previously published with his own comments. Coming upon the subject of the telegram mentioned above he, first of all, confounded the relationship which the three chief Nobles, Nawabs Sir Khurshed Jah, Sir Asman Jah, and Vicar-ul-Omra bear to one another. Under the impression that Sir Asman Jah and Sir Khurshed Jah were brothers, he argued, with every show of reason, that the Officiating Minister could not have ventured to take upon himself to confiscate the jagirs of the Minister's brother "without the knowledge and consent of the Minister himself." He strongly condemned the conduct of Nawab Vicar-ul-Omra and chimed with his correspondent in praising the "good sense" of Nawab Fakar-ul-Mulk, the Minister of Justice, and added—"There seems to be some hope for the state so long as such a man has any authority." He then commented upon another instance of Nawab Vicar-ul-Omra's alleged high-handed proceedings, and, referring to the rumoured change of Ministry, he viewed with nervous fear the prospect of that nobleman's succeeding Sir Asman Jah and wound up with these words:—"If Mr. Plowden can see his way to spy out a fairly honest and capable man, such a man should have the support of the Residency. The Minister of Justice seems to be as hopeful a man for the higher post as any of the prospective candidates."

The last sentence is seemingly very flattering to the Minister of Justice, but don't you think, Sir, your veteran contemporary has, wittingly or unwittingly, placed that nobleman in the same category with the so-called "despot" Vicar-ul-Omra? For, upon the Editor's own showing, is not Nawab Vicar-ul-Omra one of the prospective candidates for the higher post? *Khair*. In a subsequent issue (perhaps in the very next), the Editor rectified the mistake he had committed as to the relationship between Sir Asman Jah and Sir Khurshed Jah—that they are cousins, and not brothers as previously stated by him. (Perhaps the word *Jah*—the highest title here which both the cousins bear—was the stumbling-block!) I do not remember—and I cannot lay my hands on that issue of the paper—if the fact of Nawab Vicar-ul-Omra being the younger brother of Sir Khurshed Jah was mentioned. But the statement as regards the alleged order for the confiscation of Sir Khurshed Jah's jagirs by Nawab Vicar-ul-Omra remained unaltered, and though some weeks have passed since, the subject has not been touched again. Now, I have the best authority for saying that the statement was entirely without any foundation. It was an absurd statement, and though its absurdity apparently struck the Editor of the *I. D. N.* at the outset, still he allowed himself to be gulled. The Minister does not possess the power to meddle with the jagirs of Sir Khurshed Jah and neither the Minister nor his "officiator," singly or jointly, would ever think of attempting such a mad course as they have been charged with. Nawab Thaig Jung Shums-ul-Omra Sir Khurshed Jah is the Amir-i-Kabir of Hyderabad, and is beyond the reach of the authority of the Prime Minister and all the other Ministers put together.

The funniest part of the story is the alleged interference of the Minister of Justice which is said to have prevented the "monstrous order" being carried out, and the veteran Editor of the *Indian Daily News*, acknowledging the "good sense" of the Minister of Justice in

this alleged interference, has recommended him to the higher post. I do not question, and I do not suppose anybody in Hyderabad would ever question, the natural good sense and intelligence of Nawab Fakar-ul-Mulk, but considering that the alleged interference is pure moonshine, don't you think the basis of your contemporary's recommendation is altogether shadowy? But enough.

THE Nizam is still at Hanam Kunda, *shikaring*. According to original arrangement he was to have gone to Pakhal by this time, but he has changed his mind and intends returning soon. He is expected back by the end of the week. He has bagged four tigers in his present excursion. The following story illustrating the Nizam's power of enduring the fatigues of *Shikar* in this roasting weather I have heard related with pride and joy by one high in office:—

During his recent visit to Mankota, the Nizam had had frequent *shikar* excursions. One day the sun was exceptionally hot, the thermometer rising to 110° at noon, in the open air. Without paying the least heed to the scorching heat, the Nizam pursued his game with the greatest vigour and zeal. The attendants were afraid least the fatigue of the chase under the blazing mid-day sun should prove too much for His Highness to bear, but none had the courage to advise rest or retreat. At this time one of the followers ran up to his royal master with an umbrella in hand and begged leave to hold it over his head. The Nizam acknowledged the offered service with a gracious smile, but declined the comfort, saying—"I am not made of wax—there is no fear of my melting in the sun."

In that hottest of the hot days of April, the Nizam was out in the hunting field for full five hours at a stretch, and enjoyed the sport immensely.

NAWAB Sir Khurshed Jah returned from Poona, accompanied by his son Nawab Zafar Jung Bahadur. The Premier Noble was absent from Hyderabad for nearly a month and a half.

MR. FARIDDOONJI JAMSHEDJI, Private Secretary to the Minister, has been appointed Press Commissioner of Hyderabad. There was no Press Commissioner in Hyderabad when Hyderabad was flooded with newspapers, but now that there is no newspaper published in these Dominions the Nizam's Government has thought proper to give us a Press Commissioner! This is a fine illustration of Moghlai wisdom. Mr. Faridoonji is said to be the correspondent of some of the leading papers which enjoy the special patronage of the Nizam's Government.

THERE was a scare of a revolt in Manipur. It proved no more than a cry of—the wail!

IN Calcutta, the cry for some weeks has been the snake! the snake! And no idle cry either. A quite new kind of water snakes has been found in the river which the Superintendent of the Indian Museum—the highest authority in this country—pronounces to be as surely, if not as quickly, destructive as the Cobra. Accordingly, the number of bathers in the Ganges has fallen off for fear of being bitten to death. To make the anxiety universal, even the municipal hydrants have begun to throw out smaller and thinner reptilian specimens. Luckily, these have been declared by Professor Wood-Mason, the Superintendent of the Indian Museum, to be non-poisonous and indeed nothing but earth-worms. That is poor consolation, and no wonder that it does not satisfy the residents. Whatever the cause of the new phenomenon in our filtered pipe water, the reservoirs need cleansing, and other than now. Mr. Lee, the Chairman, lost no time in inquiring into the matter, and is able today to issue the following report received from the Health Officer of the Corporation:—

"As far as I have been able to ascertain, the earth-worms in the filtered water are found only in those pipes in direct or indirect connection with the Wellington Square Pumping Station. The worms are not poisonous and are perfectly harmless, but as they are likely to die in the pipes, the tendency will be for them to contaminate the water to a slight extent.

At present I am inclined to think that their presence may be accounted for by the condition of the Wellington Square reservoir which I examined this morning. The surface openings into the reservoir are so situated as to render it quite possible for earth and worms to fall in, and especially so after a shower of rain.

These openings should be immediately raised and efficiently guarded against any possibility of this kind, and the reservoir should be immediately cleansed. The cleansing will put the inhabitants to some inconvenience for a few days in their supply of water, but this is unavoidable. It may, however, be avoided in future by closing the open-

ings, which at present exist between the two chambers of the reservoir, and supplying each chamber with an inlet and outlet pipe. The chambers could then be cleansed one after the other without disturbing the general distribution of the water.

I have been unable as yet to ascertain definitely where the snake-worms found in the unfiltered water come from. They are, however, quite harmless, are confined to the unfiltered water, and are totally unlike the large sea-water snakes, a few of which have been recently found in the river, and which are poisonous.

A good deal of pipe-laying is I understand going on at present. Great care should be taken, especially during showers of rain, to prevent earth and muddy water getting into these pipes, and from thence into the mains, which, of course, is another source by which earth and snake-worms, the latter of which are a species of earth-worm, can effect an entrance into the water-pipes."

The presence of earth-worms in house pipes may be accounted for differently from Dr. Simpson. They need not always come from the reservoirs. They are given free access from the streets direct. If old house connections were examined, we are sure many connecting pipes would be found rotten to the last degree and perforated. Besides overhauling the zoology of the reservoirs, there ought to be a general inspection of the piping and a minute examination of the connections with houses throughout the town.

Our surmise receives confirmation from the cursory examination, after the issue of the Health Officer's report, of the Wellington Square reservoir by Mr. Dickson, in charge of the water works, and his staff, who found nothing but silt in it.

Dr. Simpson advises boiling of the filtered water before drinking it. Evidently, age is telling on our water-works. Our vaunted pipe water is reduced to water that needs the precaution of boiling after filtration. In this grilling weather, boiled water will be a luxury indeed!

DR. SHEPPARD has been disabused of his notion of Russian territory in Calcutta. He admitted to the Magistrate that he was a British subject but in Russian service and also admitted his offence. Mr. Pearson sentenced him to six months' rigorous imprisonment and, to enable him to appeal if so advised, added an extra 24 hours to the half year.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, June 4, 1892.

THE ORIGIN OF THE CADASTRAL SURVEY IN BENGAL.

THE Native press in one voice has found fault with Sir Charles Elliott for introducing the survey and record of rights in Mozufferpore and North Behar. In this His Honour has been more sinned against than sinning. Having enquired into the history of the measure and ascertained the true facts from authentic sources, we feel it our duty to exonerate Sir Charles and clear him from an unmerited obloquy. The proposition for minute survey with a view to the creation of a record of rights of agricultural land in the Bengal Provinces, is not the caprice of a new Governor ambitious of reputation. Nor it springs suddenly in all its fulness from any individual brain. It had a more prosaic genesis. Like many another measure of civilized administration, it arose in the ordinary way, so obscurely as to be unnoticed, maturing with years, and aggrandising under discussion by different official hands, until it came ready to the hand of the statesman destined to give it effect. That statesman is Sir Charles Elliott. The matter indeed was ready cut and dry long before he came to office or was even thought of as a possible Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. The question of survey and record of rights has been under consideration since the administration of the late Sir George Campbell. For the edification of the public in general, and in bare justice to Sir Charles Elliott, we give below extracts from the minutes of the successive Lieutenant-Governors on the subject.

To begin with Sir George Campbell. That Lieutenant-Governor wrote: "We shall probably have the whole question in our hands if we make an attempt to settle any considerable part of it and we

shall hardly be able to stop till we have made a settlement of Bengal, adjusted and recorded all rights and all incidents of tenure, and created a machinery for perpetuating and maintaining the records of rights." That remarkable administrator had no opportunity to carry out all his plans. He was not allowed breathing time, any more than he allowed the world any. On a difference of opinion with the Supreme Government on Famine policy—in which he was in the right, though—he was elbowed out by the reigning Jove, Lord Northbrook. His successor is nothing if not jaunty. Sir Richard Temple described the condition of the agricultural industry in Behar as "in a lower condition than that of any other peasantry with equal advantages which he had seen in India." In his opinion, "the great desideratum of that district is an easy mode of proving occupancy rights."

Before his time was up, Sir Richard leaped from the *masnad* of Bengal to the *gadi* of Bombay. His successor, Sir Ashley Eden, too held that the rayyets in Behar are "poor, helpless, and discontented men, bound down to a state of extreme depression, tenants of the richest province in Bengal yet the poorest and most wretched class that we find in the country."

Later on, in 1883, Sir Rivers Thompson fully explained his views on the subject of survey and record of rights on the proposition to introduce the Bengal Tenancy Bill quoting the opinion of Sir John Shore, in which he recommended such a scheme in 1789, as also the Report of Sir Henry Ricketts on the Settlement of Cuttack, in which, so far back as 1861, that great revenue authority proved that, after settlement of that district, the deteriorated and embarrassed condition of the people had changed for the better and the province had flourished, that the inhabitants had become peaceful and well disposed and there had been no agitation. Sir Rivers Thompson concluded by saying that the preparation of a record of rights would be a long process and probably expensive, "but the duration and the cost will be nothing compared with the manifold blessings such a measure would confer on this province. It will be a permanent possession restoring peace and preserving peace."

After professedly minute and exhaustive enquiries among all classes of people, the Government of Bengal, in 1883, reported that the provisions regarding the settlement of rents and records of rights had met with but few and unimportant objections at the hands of representative associations in Bengal, while most officials had approved them. Finally, in 1885, when the Tenancy Bill was under discussion in the Imperial Legislative Council, Sir Stuart Bayley gave it as his opinion that the preparation of a record of rights would, if wisely and discreetly carried out, prove the saving of the rayyet, while the President of the Council said that there was almost complete unanimity of opinion in the Council as to the utility of such a procedure.

After that, it is vain, and unjust to denounce in especial Sir Charles Elliott. In treating him as the author of the scheme and responsible for the mischief which threatens the landed classes—zemindars and rayyets alike—of the Province, our writers and orators are engaged in rather an absurd war against a wind mill. The fact is, they are not well "posted" on their subject. Indeed, from the above statement, it is clear that those who are most interested in the question of survey and record of rights, are not at all acquainted with its history. While they have been dreaming in a false security, the Government of

Bengal has gradually obtained the sanction of the Secretary of State for India to prepare a record of rights, district by district, throughout Bengal, Behar and Orissa. The Bengal Zemindars, with all their associations, have had no idea of the Laocoon coils silently winding round them. Even now they are scarcely aware how seriously they have been compromised. They ought to lose no time in ascertaining how they have been represented to Government by district officers. We know as a matter of fact that some of the big Behar Zemindars have been reported to bear the most odious character, as pests of society.

It is true that the question of survey has been brought into particular prominence in the administration of the present Lieutenant-Governor. He has made it a special subject of study and has pressed it upon the attention of his subordinates. But that is no reason for making him responsible for the introduction of it. He is only giving reality and shape to the speculations of almost a whole generation of Bengal officials. After all, it was an evil day for the landed classes of the Lower Provinces when he came to rule here. A splendid business man, imbued with all the prejudices of a North-Western Provinces Civilian, he could scarcely resist the opportunity of extending, so far as possible, to a Province in which the Government demand on the land is fixed for ever, some at least of the blessings of a microscopic settlement which has created the Dead Level of society in Upper India, causing estrangement between the cultivator and the middleman—the masses and their natural leaders—with results which were so painfully illustrated in 1857.

THE BANIAN'S ACCOUNTABILITY CASE.

AFTER a hearing of eleven days, the suit of Jardine, Skinner & Co. against their banians, Shamlal Pal and Khetter Mohun Dutt, has temporarily closed. About two lacs of rupees were found short in the cash balance of the firm. Criminal prosecutions for large defalcations having of late been virtually prohibited, the firm called upon their banians to make good the deficit. After long and fruitless negotiations, the present suit was filed. Shamlal made no defence but claimed, a claim allowed by the Court, to stand or fall by the result of the suit against Khetter Mohun. The latter contended that, under the terms of his banianship agreement, he was not liable for the account sued upon, and that if the accounts were falsified, it was due to the European assistants of the firm who "have for many years been in the habit of overdrawning and that they made or caused false entries to be made for the purpose of concealing such overdrafts." Mr. Justice Trevelyan was naturally annoyed at such an allegation, amounting in effect to a charge of forgery against respectable men. With the courtesy and devotion to duty of an English barrister, unswayed by national prejudice or bias of personal friendship, Mr. Justice Trevelyan, after a long and careful defence, answered that he would prove the allegations made against him in part. Mr. Justice Trevelyan finds the statement of overdrawing true, but does not think the defendant is liable in the case. He had a shrewd suspicion that the defendant's case was to utilise the private money transactions of the European assistants as a pressure to dissuade the firm from pursuing their suit and finally to compel lawyers and judges as to the true findings of the case. The Court has made a decree for an account. An account is to be taken of all sums received by the defendants or their servants on behalf of the plaintiffs from May 1 to November 15, 1890. In taking the accounts plaintiffs will have three weeks from filing of decree to object and defendants will be allowed six weeks. The costs, on scale No. 2, will be borne by the defendants up to and including the decree.

Mr. Justice Trevelyan's judgment is a lucid and vigorous one. This is the view he takes of the over-drafts and the liability of the banians. — "At my suggestion all the then European assistants of the firm have been called, and have been called with the view of contradicting this charge as far as possible. I think that where reputations are at stake in this manner a judge should express his opinion on the matter, and I intend to do so. This is the way in which it has been reduced into the

David Hare's idea of education was most liberal. Although partial to English education for native Indian youth, he considered the knowledge of the vernacular indispensable and established many primary schools for teaching in Bengali and supported many others. Even his English schools were Anglo-vernacular, teaching both English and Bengali. And if his pupils gave greater attention to the former than the latter, that was not his fault, so much as their misfortune. There was very little education worth having in the vernacular. The liberal training of those days was in Sanskrit and Persian and Arabic. The education in the common tongue, consisting of little beyond arithmetic and ordinary letter-writing and a hundred or so of maxims of prudence rather than morality, was soon learnt. The Bengali was not without a respectable body of literature in poetry—to this day those earlier efforts of the Muse in Bengal have not been excelled and they will probably never be superseded—but indigenous education did not recognize Bengali literature as an instrument of culture. It did not recognize the need of culture at all. Hence English was naturally suggested to this friend of the people as the ready means of national awakening. For he regarded education but a means—not an end by itself. He had long been convinced of the potentiality of the Indian mind, and he was fired with the philanthropic desire of making it potent. He desired to raise the people among whom he had worked so long for a living. He desired to see them an educated, respectable, well-governed and happy people. And, according to his lights, he neglected no means towards the end. At a time when in England itself men were struggling for the emancipation of the negro for popular education, and for similar other things which have long ceased to be matters of controversy, he strenuously pleaded for justice to the natives of this distant Dependency of Great Britain. Thus he supported their

aspiration to sit as jurors. As an educationist, he carefully respected the feelings and prejudices of the people for fear of causing a revulsion against English education, but he was nonetheless an uncompromising enemy to Suttee and Slavery and such other barbarous practices then in vogue and protected by law. His last endeavour in life was to free some victims of the then new Coolie Emigration Slavery. Treating the natives with perfect equality and with a genuine kindness that was romantic, he advocated their political rights as subjects of an enlightened Power. A man of the most liberal views, he was a staunch friend of the Press in India then struggling for freedom and of all liberal institutions.

He watched with fatherly interest the lisplings of the Indian Muse in English and the first efforts of the Hindus in public speaking and public writing, recognising them as the fruits of his untiring educational activity—his Hindu College and his feeder schools.

He appreciated the value of public discussion, and while he supported the newspapers published by his countrymen in Bengal, he encouraged his native friends in utilising the same agency, in adopting printing and having newspapers of their own.

It will not, therefore, be amiss if we devote this Hare memorial meeting to the History of the Press in India and specially among the Indians.

The Press is a great institution of which all civilized nations are proud. And well may they be so proud, considering that it is, in our times, at once the condition *sine qua non* and the measure of civilization. So partial are we to it that we hardly esteem that people strictly civilized—as anything more than half civilized at best—which does not enjoy its benefits. If it is possible for us to conceive a civilized community without a mile of railroad, it is impossible to think of a civilized community without their newspapers. It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of this agency for the conservation and promotion of civilization. Accordingly, the character and position of the Press is a tolerably safe criterion of the social and political advancement of a people.

It is probably the greatest institution of modern civilization. Superior to Representative Government whose guarantee it is—its guide, philosopher, and friend.

Whatever its relative status in normal states or thoroughly self-governed communities, certainly in India, without a national Government, the Press is not only the prime but also the sole institution.

The importance of the history of such an institution goes without saying.

Before inquiring into its history, let us make sure of its nature.

What, then, is the Press?

Speaking roundly, the Press is an organization for acquiring and disseminating information.

Analysing the matter, we find that the Press consists of two different and dissimilar parts—first, a mechanism, and, secondly, a method of circulation.

The epoch of the sword has not expired. It will probably endure. Its exclusive empire has long since been over. No longer sole king, it has been forced to divide dominion with Reason. A change, decidedly for the better, has come over the spirit of man's dream. Nor dream only. Over all his actions is visible a gentler influence than heretofore—justice and mercy have come home to his business and bosom. Truth and right have made themselves heard where the strong arm alone had prevailed. The Devil is retreating—not fast, we fear, but for certain, let us hope—before God or, if you will, Humanity. The conscience which, if at all, had been confined to personal concerns has insinuated itself into public. Politics is turning into practical Ethics. Once—not so very long since—the world bowed its neck, almost uncomplainingly, to Force—brute valor and strength. Now another king has come in Israel—not yet to supersede but at least to hold concurrent sway with the old hoary-headed sinner of a Despot. The Pen now divides empire with Force.

This great revolution has, no doubt, been slowly effected by means of numerous agencies at work, through a long course of ages. Chief among those agencies by far must be confessed to be a mechanical invention, and the uses to which by the genius of man it has been put. For the Pen has existed, in one form or another, from a long time—

from the dawn of Civilization. It was not until it found an efficient ally and liberal patron in the Printing Press that the Pen became conscious of its full capacity. It was not till the inscribings of the Pen could be multiplied with ease at command and brought to the door of thousands—of the entire reading class—that the Pen became a power.

So far as thought rules the world, in these times, it does so with humbler assistance. Wise and righteous men and brave spirits have been in all ages among communities with any pretensions to culture and refinement. But their influence was small because local and private. Their example was confined to their neighbourhood. Their counsel reached only their immediate listeners. In consequence of the Press and other auxiliaries, it is different now. These have created a new entity—the Public. There was scarcely any such thing before. Accustomed to our benefits we are rather prone to complain than to be thankful for our superiority to our predecessors. Here is a possession which the most glorious of them—whether of Italy or Greece, Egypt or Assyria, Persia or India, China or Peru—could scarcely boast.

These auxiliaries have virtually multiplied sages and heroes, Pandits and patriots, philosophers and philanthropists *ad infinitum*, while their words and examples are not only carried to the ends of the earth, but are preserved for the edification and inspiration of mankind to the latest generation.

In tracing the origin of the Press it is often forgotten that printing is merely accidental to it—an auxiliary, of great importance no doubt, but still an auxiliary—not a principal. Journalism may exist without printing, as without steam agency. No doubt printing is an immense convenience, and steam aggrandises it farther, but neither the one nor the other is a necessary element. The beginnings of journalism were in manuscript. Originally the want of printing was not felt. Printing is not required until after other improvements in society take place. Its effect is to multiply copies, and not until the diffusion of education and the establishment of the public post is multiplication called for. Steam printing or any particular rapidity of printing is wanted only after education becomes a common thing and in countries supplied with railways and having commerce with other and distant nations.

The present extraordinary development of the Press is apt to confound us as to its origin and early history. We are unable to free ourselves from the notion that what is so great must have been great from the outset. We hover round the considerable—beat about the bush in the neighbourhood of the grand—in the hope of coming upon the birth of the monster. All this is very silly, though very natural. The great Ganges issues from the insignificant Cow's Mouth. And if you persist in your intrepid search beyond, you probably come upon some insignificant rills. What was journalism in its origin but a regular system of communication of news by means of written signs? For we must dismiss from our minds the journals as we see them. Journalism as an agency for supplying opinions is a very modern innovation—a recent improvement. Newspapers originally were very humble things, and small, and they supplied news pure and simple and not too much of even that. Nor was this news by any means so artistically presented as now-a-days. The conductors were content to be simply understood in essentials. Such journalism, you will see, may be independent of not printing only but writing itself. Accordingly, I am disposed to trace its origin to the ancient system in Europe and Western Asia and to the ancient system of India. It would take me far to notice the system in other parts of the world. Suffice it for my purpose to say that the ancient Hindu rulers maintained a regular Intelligence Department with agents at home and abroad.

Here is an instance of the forward modern spirit which, certainly, bespeaks want of reverence for our sacred institutions, usages and customs. It moreover shows that the modern democratic spirit which levels all distinctions, which wishes to tread under its foot everything, is rampant even in the most backward district—the land of untouchables and notorious

for the stupidity of its cultivating class. The other day, a local pleader gave a feast on the occasion of the marriage of his son. He invited the members of his own community. He is a Hindu of the Kayastha caste. Here the question of precedence arose. An enlightened Kayastha wanted to kick out the Brahmans—in a metaphorical sense. He and his fellow brethren would not partake of the feast if the members of the sacerdotal order were allowed the precedence. The host was in a fix. The Brahmans felt insulted and were indignant at this unheard of pretension of the issue of Brahma's feet. But if they insisted on their rights they were made the laughing stock for being orthodox by the modern Kayastha. Their case was hopeless: they were in a minority. But all's well that ends well: the tribes came to terms, the Kayastha agreed to dine without thus violating the social order. It was no dinner but a sort of repast; fruits, sweets, flour, fish, &c. Fancy, where the Kayastha had been if he mooted such an idea some 50 years ago, not to say if this had taken place in a Hindu kingdom! Rice is becoming dearer every week and the outlook is a gloomy one.

DEBATE ON THE INDIAN COUNCILS BILL.

[Concluded from page 262.]

Mr. S. Smith said that from the speech to which they had listened that night from the hon. baronet the member for Evesham and from the hon. member who had just sat down, it was difficult to realize that they were both speaking of the India of the present day, so widely did they differ in their accounts of that country. He, however, was inclined to agree in the main rather with the hon. member who had just sat down than with an official optimist like the hon. baronet. (Hear, hear.) It was painful for an assembly like the House of Commons to listen to the statements of the hon. member who had just sat down and he could only hope that they were somewhat exaggerated as he was inclined to believe them to be (Hear, hear.) He thought, however, that that hon. member's statements approached the real state of things more nearly than did those of the hon. baronet. His belief was that the people of India were suffering from extreme poverty and great privation, and that some system of representative government was urgently required for that country. (Hear, hear.) There was little doubt that it was the intention of this nation to act fairly to the Indian native, but government by a bureaucracy could never succeed. The Governor-General of India could never come into contact with the suffering classes. No doubt there had been a period in the history of India when it would have been impossible to govern it on any other system than that which was now in force, but he believed that the time had come when it was essential that the country should have representative institutions, and that the people should be allowed to participate in their own government. (Hear, hear.) All friends of India might heartily agree with the theories of government put forward by the hon. member for Evesham, but the difficulty was to get them put into practice. Lord Ripon honestly attempted to give India a valuable instalment of self-government, but he had to pay the penalty of being detested by the official class, and it might be doubted whether any successor would dare to expose himself to the same class feeling. Travelling through the country soon after Lord Ripon had left, he was struck with the fact that the affections of the people went out to him as they had never done to any one before (hear, hear); but there was scarcely a European who did not speak of Lord Ripon with the utmost bitterness. It was true, as the right hon. member for Mid Lothian had said, the language of the Bill was ambiguous, and perhaps the principle of election might be found in it, but still if the administration of it were left to the hon. member for Oldham, he would probably discover that it was not so. He thought the Bill did mark a certain advance, and that it contained valuable concessions. The Bill was a step in the right direction and to put questions would, however, be a waste of time so far as it was exercised by elected members, because those who were nominated by the Government could do anything that might be inconvenient to the Government. Therefore, unless there were engrafted upon the Bill genuine representation, whereby independent criticism and judgment might be obtained, the Bill would fail to satisfy Indian expectations. (Hear, hear.) He agreed with what had been said by the hon. member for Manchester of the value of the Indian National Congress as the mouth-piece of Indian feeling, and if the hon. member for Evesham could go back to the country after his 12 years' absence, he would form a different judgment from that he had just expressed. A friend of his own was elected to that council by a large village, and the election was formally made at a large meeting held in the market-place. It was as near an approach as possible to election by manhood suffrage. The delegates to the Congress were freely chosen by large masses of the population, and there was not at present any more reliable way for getting at the opinions of the people. It was almost impossible to get any representative body which should be a mirror of the shades of caste, religion, and race in

India; but the Congress approached more nearly to such a body than any institution which had existed in India for a hundred years. He had read the proceedings with much care and he had been astonished at the moderation, wisdom, and statesmanlike ability with which the views of the members were expressed. There was no Parliament in Europe in which the debates were conducted more ably than were those of the Indian National Congress. It was an outgrowth of our own teaching, and we ought to be proud of it. The population of India, Hindoo and Mahomedan, was essentially Conservative and further removed from anarchy than that of any other country in the world; and we could treat them with kindness and confidence and extend to them power and responsibility with more security than almost any other Power in the same state of civilization. India was full of deep grievances and we ought to let them have an outlet instead of sitting on the safety valve and risking an explosion. The land was exhausted by a wretched system of agriculture, resulting largely from our own laws, and the peasantry as a body were loaded with debt. All these things ought to be faced and honestly dealt with in place of being hidden and veiled in optimistic statements. It was said it was difficult to devise an electoral system for India, and he admitted we could not have a symmetrical or complete system; but the hon. member for Evesham sketched the rudiments of a representative system whereby a certain number of members could be elected through the municipalities of large cities. The country was not ripe for universal suffrage and any system of election must be based upon existing agencies. Therefore we could not do better than adopt Lord Dufferin's scheme. In speaking of it the Under-Secretary omitted to cite the portion referring to elective councils. When a Viceroy so essentially Conservative recommended the elective system, surely Parliament might be willing to adopt it. An enormous responsibility rested upon the people of this country, it was too great a responsibility for us, involving as it did the direction of the affairs of one-fifth of the human race. The Government of India was a despotism, but it was a better despotism than that of Russia. It was high time that our own institutions should be engrafted on India. The present form of government could not last; it would have to be changed sooner or later. If the change were made now, when there was no war or threatened invasion by Russia, it would be accepted as a boon; otherwise some greater change might be wrung from us in a time of great peril.

Mr. O. V. Morgan approved of the Bill, as he considered it was a step in advance. In dealing with a country like India it was necessary to be extremely cautious. The power of asking questions would be of immense benefit to the Government of India, because it would enable the Government to answer false charges which were being constantly made in some of the newspapers, and so the people of India would get to know the truth. He would have been glad if some change had been proposed in the India Council in London if it was extremely antiquated, and the members were also extremely antiquated most of them, although men of very considerable eminence, having long since returned from India. There was no representative of Indian opinion and no representative of commerce connected with India on that Council, and that was perhaps one reason why the Government of India was so long in constructing railways in India. He found considerable difference of opinion in India on the subject now before the House. The Hindoos were in favour of an educational franchise. The Mahomedans, who were one-third of the whole population, were not in favour of the representative form of government at all. The Parsees were pretty equally divided, and it would be difficult to say whether there was a majority of representative government or not. He had had an interesting conversation with a man in Bombay who might perhaps be considered as the only representative of the working classes in the whole of India. This man said that he hated the Indian Congress, that it was a Brahminical movement, or, at all events, that it was supported by the Bengalee Baboos, who were as bad as the Brahmans and the greatest enemies of the working classes. The hon. member for Flint had spoken of the suffering and distress in India, but last year the agricultural population in India had done extremely well. Great good would accrue to India if the English people in India would admit into their society the highly educated and English-speaking Indians, who at present were treated by them with the most absolute contempt.

Mr. Curzon thought that the House would agree that the time had now arrived when the debate might come to an end. There had been a number of interesting and valuable speeches by hon. members who were qualified by experience or by residence in India to deal with the question before the House. He was glad to observe that in all the speeches the importance of the Bill had been recognized, and that there had been no attempt on either side of the House to underrate it. The hon. member for Oldham went so far as to say that it was the most important Bill which had been introduced since the constitution of India had been changed. In the various speeches delivered in the House no criticism, certainly no hostile criticism, had been directed against the specific

changes introduced by the Bill. The concession of the power of financial criticism and of the right of interpellation, and, perhaps, the addition to the members of the Supreme and Provincial Councils, had all met with the approbation of the House. (Hear, hear.) He did not think he had heard a single remark to the contrary. He was, therefore, relieved from the necessity of making another speech on the general provisions of the Bill, and it would only be his duty to make a few observations in reply to particular remarks or inquiries that had fallen in the course of the debate. It was not necessary to follow with any minuteness the member for North Manchester, who moved the amendment, but he was bound to notice one statement of his—that the nomination to the various Councils was at the present moment a fraud. There were two members of that House who had filled the position of Governors in India, and he was certain they would bear him out in saying that it was the object of every Governor to persuade and induce representatives of these advanced political opinions to join the Councils. ("Hear, hear" from Sir R. Temple.) That was the case under the hon. baronet and under the Postmaster-General. He would ask the hon. member whether he had ever heard the names of Peeri Mukuji or Kustadas Pal? (Hear, hear.) These were the names of the very strongest representatives of opinion in India. The addition contemplated to the Council was very modest, perhaps unduly modest, but it was true that Lord Dufferin, when first he made a proposal in connexion with the Legislative Councils, did not propose any addition. He did not think that an addition was required. It was extremely difficult to get men in India with the necessary qualifications as to time and ability. He doubted very much whether the hon. member had at all a clear idea of what the business of the Supreme Legislative Council in India was. It was very different from the system in that House. It only legislated when legislation was necessary. (Hear, hear.) What was the process of legislation in the Council of the Viceroy? Why, before a measure was introduced, if it referred to any particular province, it was circulated through that Presidency or province and inquiries of the most minute and searching character were made from eminent persons. The Bill was then introduced and read a second time and passed to a select committee of experts who were responsible for the legislation in its final form. Then only did it come before the Council. If the hon. member did not accept his statement he should read him the opinion of Lord Northbrook, who said:—

"The National Congress and others have recommended a much larger extension of the numbers of the Legislative Councils. I believe myself that the Bill goes far enough in that direction. I believe there would be great difficulty in making any much larger increase in the number of the Legislative Council of the Viceroy; and a substantial increase has been made in the Local Councils. Therefore I think the Bill provides fully for all present needs in respect of the increase of numbers."

He did not think that he need pursue the subject further. He came to the wise and able—if he might say so—speech with which the hon. member for Mid Lothian had favoured the House (Cheers.) The great object of that speech was to eliminate the element of controversy from the debate and diffuse a spirit of harmony over these proceedings. The right hon. gentleman complained at the outset that the language of the Bill was ambiguous, but the ambiguity did not lead the right hon. gentleman to take a hostile view of the Bill. He entirely endorsed that view of the right hon. gentleman when he said that the initiative must be left in the hands of the Government of India. On this point he preferred the sentiments of the member for Mid Lothian to those of the member for Elgin. (Hear, hear.) The hon. member asked whether the words of the clause were to be taken as mere complimentary words, and he said he was prepared to stake his political reputation that the clause would be a dead-letter. Then the political reputation of the hon. member stood in great peril. (Laughter.) He thought it was a very important contribution to the debate that the right hon. member for Mid Lothian, speaking with a full knowledge of the enormous responsibility of the Indian Government, had laid it down that the question of the degree and of the manner in which this principle was carried out were matters, not for the consideration of that House, but primarily for the consideration of the Government of India. ("No, no.") He hoped he did not misrepresent the views of the right hon. gentleman. (Mr. Gladstone nodded.) He could only say in conclusion that he accepted the statement of the right hon. gentleman as to the objects with which the Bill was introduced. They were undoubtedly to enlist in the service of the Government of India what the right hon. gentleman described as the upright sentiment and intelligent opinion of the various sections of native population, and if that Bill passed that evening without going to a division he was certain that it would be attended with very beneficial results. (Cheers.)

Mr. Picton said they were in a somewhat peculiar position. The hon. member when he arose to move the second reading of the Bill said in the course of his speech that he did not exclude the possibility of the introduction of the principle of election. The

hon. member for Manchester afterwards rose and moved his amendment, to the effect, that unless this Bill recognised the principle of election it would not be satisfactory. The right hon. gentleman the member for Mid Lothian afterwards spoke, and said, in words of gravity and wisdom, which were recognised as much on that side of the House as on the other, that there was not much difference of opinion between them, but the Under-Secretary of State for India, in the speech which he had just delivered, had not, in terms, said that it was intended that the elective principle must be introduced, or that this Bill did in fact mean that. It was not suggested on the Opposition side of the House that India was ripe for such a scheme of home rule as they desired for Ireland, but they wished for such a mild and tentative electoral scheme as was suited to the present requirements and capabilities of their great Eastern dependency, and which might hereafter be further expanded and developed into a more extended scheme of electoral government. The members of various Governments, Liberal and Conservative alike, had spoken disparagingly of the natives of India. An ex-member of a former Liberal Government had once said to him, in reference to a proposed candidate for election to an English constituency, "Don't have that nigger." These words only anticipated the remarks of a member of the present Government about a certain "black man." The members of all Governments seemed, therefore, in this respect to be tarred with the same brush. All they now asked was that, little by little, by means of very limited franchise, a few of the most educated of the natives of India should be allowed to elect a few members to the Council and they were content that the scheme should, at the present time, be confined to the most modest introduction of the elective principle.

Mr. Schwann asked the Under-Secretary for India whether or not he would distinctly state that it was intended by sub-section 4 of Clause 1, to apply the electoral principle in India. If this was the case, then he should withdraw his amendment.

Mr. Curzon said that, in answer to the question, he did not know that he really could add anything to what he had already stated to the House. The initiative was left to the Viceroy of India, and it was a difficult question for the Government or for the House to transfer that initiative to itself.

Dr. Tanner expressed his adhesion to the view enunciated by the hon. member for Mid Lothian that this section of the Bill was both ambiguous and misleading. This legislation was really the placing of additional power and opportunities for securing further emoluments in the hands of the bureaucracy of India, with the result that this meagre instalment of so-called representation would be minimised to the utmost. It was therefore scarcely worth having, and he hoped that his hon. friend would go to a division. The hon. member for Evesham said "Do not give the Hindoos political power." But the hon. baronet, like all others who had held such positions of trust in India, always stood by their order and by the bureaucracy. The hon. baronet spoke of the mute masses of the people of India; but had they not got good reason to be mute, subject as they were to periodical starvation?

Mr. S. Hoare denied the assertion that India was growing poorer every day. So far from that being the case all the information he had been able to obtain during a recent visit to that country showed that India was growing richer and its trade expanding daily. The railways had been increasing at the rate of 1,000 miles a year. Only 12 months ago it was his good lot to receive the Viceroy in the middle of the Central Provinces of India probably not visited by hon. gentlemen who had addressed the House, and to open a line of railway of some 850 miles. A great portion of that railway was through uninhabited jungle, through a country in which it might be said there was no wealth whatever, and yet during the present six months that railway had earned a profit sufficient to pay guaranteed interest on seven millions of money. And when they heard Manchester manufacturers complaining of manufactories that had been built and were now being built in India, surely that too was adding to the wealth of the country. The vast discovery of gold in India was another feature in the evidence. He stood but a year ago in a place where a few years since there was not a sign of coal, and saw ten coal pits at work. He granted that the financial position was difficult owing to the depreciation in silver; but that was not due to any fault in English rule. With reference to the question of an electoral system he had had the opportunity of hearing the views of those great and experienced officials to whom the Empire was so deeply indebted for the part they had played in the Government of India, and they stated that there would be great difficulty in carrying out any electoral system perhaps for many years to come. When it did come they should all welcome the time when they could place some further power in the hands of our fellow-subjects in India. But for the moment they should not do so, though the reason was not because they thought India was not progressing, for he could affirm it was progressing in every department so far as material wealth was concerned.

Mr. Schwann asked leave to withdraw his amendment.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn, and the Bill was then read a second time.

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Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 1892.

No. 528

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

THE LOSS OF THE 'PRESIDENT,'

1841.

BY THE REVEREND R. S. HAWKER.

Speak ! for thou hast a voice, perpetual Sea !
Lift up thy surges with some signal word,—
Shew where the pilgrims of the waters be
For whom a nation's thrilling heart is stirr'd.

They went down to thy waves in joyous pride,
They trod with steadfast feet thy billowy way,
The eyes of wondering men beheld them glide
Swift in the arrowy distance—where are they ?

Didst thou arise upon that mighty frame ?
Mad that the strength of man with thee should strive,
And proud thy rival element to tame,
Didst swallow them in conscious depths alive !

Or, shorn and powerless, hast thou bade them lie
Their stately ship, a carcase of the foam ?
Where still they watch the ocean and the sky,
And fondly dream that they have yet a home !

If thou hast drawn them, mighty tide, declare
To some far-off immeasurable plain,
Mid all things wild and wonderful, and where
The magnet woos her iron mate in vain !

Doth hope still soothe their souls, or gladness thrill ?
Is peace amid those wanderers of the foam ?
Say ! is the old affection yearning still
With all the blessed memories of home ?

Or is it over ? life, and breath, and thought,
The living feature and the breathing form ?
Is the strong man become a thing of nought,
And the rich blood of rank no longer warm ?

Thou answerest not ! thou stern and haughty sea !
There is no sound in earth, or wave, or air,
Roll on ye tears ! oh, what shall comfort be,
To hearts that pant for hope but breathe despair !

Nay mourner ! there is sunlight on the deep,
A gentle rainbow in the darkling cloud,
A voice, more mighty than the floods, shall sweep
The shore of tempests when the storm is loud !

What though they woke the whirlwinds of the West,
Or roused the tempest from its Eastern lair,
Or clave the cloud with thunder in its breast,
Lord of the awful waters ! thou wert there.

All merciful ! the day, the doom, were thine ;
Thou didst embrace them on the seething sea ;
Thy love too deep—thy mercy too divine—
To quench them in an hour unmeet for thee !

If winds were mighty, thou wert in the gale.—
If their feet failed them, in thy midst they trod !
Storms could not urge the bark, nor guide the sail,
Nor force the quivering helm, away from God !

SIR RHUBARB PILL HND HIS PATIENT.

The Patient is stretched in a terrible plight,
All wasted to skin and to bone ;
'Go call in the Doctor, Sir Rhubarb call in,
Or the last spark of life will be gone.'
The Doctor is come, and his darling fee
In his breaches pocket is cramm'd ;
For unless *that* was safe, as he candidly said,
The Patient might die and be d—d !
But now, then, to hear what Sir Rhubarb prescribes ;
The Patient sinking apace—
Is it potion, or lotion ? or—Oh, Doctor dear,
Pray what do you think of the case ?
The Doctor looked wise—that's to say, he tried hard
To look like a person of sense,—
Then, breaking the silence, he solemnly said,
'I'll look in—in five months or so hence.'
'But, Doctor, Poor John will be buried by then.'
'Well, let him ; pray, what's that to me ?'
And the Quack chinked the blunt as he candidly said
'I've got what I wanted—the fee.'

A. B. R.

WEEKLYANA.

LADY Eveline Fitzmaurice, the eldest daughter of Lord Lansdowne, is engaged to marry Mr. Victor Cavendish, son of Lord Edward Cavendish and heir-presumptive to the Dukedom of Devonshire.

MR. C. F. Worsley has not survived his appointment as Commissioner of the Patna Division. Since taking charge, he had been ailing—and died on Tuesday last. Mr. J. A. Hopkins, Magistrate and Collector, Patna, takes temporary charge of the Division, while Mr. H. Le Mesurier, Joint-Magistrate, becomes full Magistrate and Collector of the district.

THE Chief Secretary's time being up in the local Legislative Council, Mr. H. J. S. Cotton, has been given another term.

WE find the following paragraph in the *Ceylon Independent* of the 24th May last :—

'A novel expression of loyalty.—Mr. Roche Victoria, who is the contractor for the clearing of the new Post Office site opposite Queen's House, has for the past few days been blasting several large rocks.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

Yesterday, however, the gentleman, to show his loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen, and determined not to be behind hand in expressing it, took the opportunity of blasting in *twenty-one* places, thus giving a royal salute!"

Mr. Roche Victoria is a native Christian convert of the Madras Presidency, and a merchant by profession. He has adopted the above name and is a man of great enterprise, but he robes himself as a Madras—in *dhottee, coat, turban*, and Madras shoes. His name is in the Government House lists of Madras and Ceylon, and he holds a respectable position in society.

SIR Sarbanand has further developed his Gazette. Since Monday, the 6th of June 1892, the *Hindoo Patriot*, recently converted into a daily, is appearing as a broad-sheet. The journal's divorce from its old traditions is complete. The last link that connected it with the late Kristodas Pal and his patron the late Sir Ashley Eden, the second heading of the journal, has been done away with. We wonder if Baboo Nilmony Dey has acquiesced in the suppression of his deceased father-in-law's memory. All glory to Sir Sarbanand who had chalked out a new path for the once famous journal, for giving it a new shape.

WE confess to have had a sneaking fondness for the *Hindoo Patriot*. The grounds, public and private, for our partiality are obvious. It was the first worthy national journal whose greatness has not yet been exceeded. That glory was achieved by a brother Brahman whose lieutenant we were privileged to have been. It may, therefore, be readily understood with what feelings we have marked its gradual decadence. And now at length it is a question of life and death. We have of late watched in painful suspense the desperate shifts of the dear old thing to recover ground. And now it confronts the world in all the glory of a double broadsheet, it will, doubtless, receive congratulations from all sides, except from us. Here too we have both personal and public reasons for not doing like the rest of our contemporaries. The broadsheet is, of course, the proper size for a daily, the Allahabad examples notwithstanding, and we ourselves suggested it. But, in the peculiar circumstances of the paper, this departure is a doubtful improvement. At any rate, now that the proper form is assumed, we feel as if all was over with the *Hindoo Patriot*. Not only that in this bloated development we, for the first time, morally realize that the weekly has turned to a daily. But in the final abandonment of the old familiar face—the well known historic heading—we morally feel that the old concern has been buried in the new size and the unaccustomed opening label. All the past associations of forty years are now formally suppressed. In point of fact, a new journal has begun on June 6, 1892—albeit under an old name in part.

In its new enterprise, the *Hindoo Patriot* has come upon the cause of the transfer of Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick, now Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, from the Chief Commission of Assam to the Hyderabad Residency. It is that he "could not comply with the requisition" "to submit his views" for a detailed report on the working of Act I of 1882.—*Vide Hindoo Patriot*, June 9.

THE $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Loans—namely, the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Loan of 1878 and the transfer Loan of 1879, the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. portion including the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Loan of 1880 mature on the 15th September 1893, and are dischargeable at par on that date, provided three months' notice of repayment shall have been given—by the 15th June 1893. The Government, however, are willing to transfer these holdings into the ordinary 4 per cent Loans on the following terms:—

(1) Rs. 100 of 4 per cent. Promissory Notes or Stock Certificates will be delivered for every Rs. 100 of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Securities received; and any interest (not already paid) on the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Securities up to the 29th June 1892 inclusive will be paid in cash.

(2) The Promissory Notes or Stock Certificates delivered will be of the Loan of 1854-55, and interest will run upon them from the 30th June 1892.

(3) The Securities tendered for transfer should be receipted in the following form—Received in lieu of this note a note of the same value of the 4 per cent. Loan of 1854-55, bearing interest from 30th June 1892.

Securities, other than Loan Certificates with coupons payable to bearer attached, tendered for transfer in India, should be presented

on or before the 15th July 1892 at the Public Debt Office, Calcutta, or at a Presidency Bank or any of their Branches, or at any Government Treasury in India. Loan Certificates, with coupons payable to bearer attached, tendered for conversion in India, must be presented at the Public Debt Office, Calcutta, together with the coupons with which they were issued, if any such remain which have not become due. When the Securities are presented at the Public Debt Office, Calcutta, that office will, as soon as possible after receipt of the Securities, issue the 4 per cent. Promissory Notes, and also pay the interest. In other cases the Bank or Treasury receiving the Securities tendered will forward them to the Public Debt Office, Calcutta, which will, as soon as possible after receipt, furnish the Bank or Treasury concerned with the 4 per cent. Promissory Notes to be issued in exchange, and with a payment order for the interest. The 4 per cent. Promissory Note will then be delivered, and the interest paid by the Bank or Treasury concerned.

No application will be entertained after the 15th July 1892.

SUPERSTITION is as prevalent in the West as in the East or indeed in any other part of the globe. The very forms of it are often alike in all parts. The Berlin Correspondent of the *London Daily News* sends in an official report of a struggle with the Devil in Bavaria, drawn up by a Catholic clergyman, which reads like a story of an Indian exorcism. The object of diabolical possession was a juvenile reprobate:—

"The poor boy would not pray or go to church, had fits of temper, paid no respect to sacred things, and, among other misdeeds, ill-treated his parents. The latter sought the advice of doctors, and, when they could do nothing, Father Aurelian, the priest of the village, pronounced the benediction over the boy, but without any good effect. Then the boy was sent to a convent, but no reformation followed. When the Bishop of Augsburg a year ago visited the place, the father, as a last resource, brought the boy to him, hoping he might cure him. The Bishop approached the boy with great dignity and consciousness of power, and exclaimed, 'Thou can'st not deceive me, Unclean Spirit!' But the boy remained as obstinate as ever; and now the conclusion was come to that he was possessed of a devil, and the operation of driving it out was determined upon. It lasted two days, and was, of course, not without great pain to the boy. The official report says about the result of the operation: 'After applying the same means as in the morning, I exhorted the devil to confess the whole truth, whether he would leave the boy. After long exorcism he at last, with groans, and sighs, said in a humble tone, "Yes." On receiving this answer I became more emboldened, and adjured him by God, by the Holy Virgin, and the Holy Archangel Michael, to declare whether he would go at once. "Yes" was the answer. I adjured him a third time to tell the whole truth, whether he would really go. He again answered with a decisive "Yes." When the devil the first time consented to leave the boy I exhorted him not to enter into any of the persons present, nor into any other being who might wish to have him, but to go to that spot which God had appointed. After a pause, I asked, "Hast thou left the boy?" "Yes" was the reply. "Thy companions also?" "Yes." "The third time I conjure thee to declare the whole truth. Hast thou and thy companions left the boy?" "Yes." "Where art thou now?" "In hell." "Thy companions also?" "Yes." "In the name of the most Holy Trinity I adjure thee for the third time to give some sign thereof." "Yes, we are in hell," came back the answer in fearful tones. This last answer really seemed to come from hell. At first the devil had answered in an impudent and spiteful tone, but the last answer was quite melancholy. Now the boy began to weep. It was the sign that the evil spirit had really left him, for only at the moment when he declared for the third time that he was in hell did the spirit go. Until then he had lied unto me, for he is the Father of Lies. I now made the boy make the sign of the cross, contemplate the crucifix, repeat the holy names of Jesus and Mary, as well as that of the Archangel Michael. He did so, weeping bitterly. I handed him the pieces of the Cross and sacred relics to kiss. He kissed them with many tears. He then said the Lord's Prayer and the Ave Maria, sobbing loudly. This ended the exorcism, and a thanksgiving mass was then held. Father Aurelian also explains why the devil took possession of the boy. The father, a Catholic, had married a Protestant, and was married in a Protestant church, and the children had been brought up in the Protestant faith. The father has now, says the report, 'made good his fault.' The marriage ceremony has been celebrated again according to the Roman Catholic rite, the children have been rebaptised, and it is even hoped that the mother will go over to the Catholic Church."

That may be considered a triumph for the Church, but that kind of thing is common in all backward communities. In Bengal the same miracle is performed by very inferior agency—low illiterate men.

MR. Hume thus explains to the various Secretaries of the Congress Standing Committees the omission of the Introduction to the last Congress Report:—

"I prepared one as usual, which was approved by the Chairman of the Reception Committee, and also by Messrs. W. C. Bonnerjee and Manmohan Ghose who have most carefully considered it. But Pandit Madan Mohan Moulaviya, in a most earnest letter, apparently on behalf of the Allahabad Committee, condemned it as seditious, as

calculated to harm the cause irreparably, as certain to frighten most of our party, and so on.

Now, though we do not agree in all this, we feel that we could not publish this article, here, in the Report, in the face of such a protest from the Committee where the next Congress is to be held, and I personally, compelled as I am to leave the country, do not choose to leave behind a cause of quarrel. It is impossible to modify this review. Every word and every section has been so carefully considered that it constitutes a single piece. It would be useless cutting out this or that; the only thing to be done is to re-write it entirely, which, of course, is impossible, even if we thought this desirable, which we do not. Therefore, we have decided to issue the report in India without any introductory article, but to print this letter in the English edition, and separately as a pamphlet in England. I will of course see that copies of this letter reach all of you.

There is this much to be said in favour of the Allahabad Committee's position. Mr. Mannohun Ghose informs me that in the *Bangabasi* case Sir Comer Petheram (though he toned down in the printed report) did lay down broadly that anything tending to bring the Government into discredit was seditious. This is directly opposed to the best English authorities: it is a monstrous doctrine, which, if I have been correctly informed, I shall endeavour to bring before the bar of English public opinion. But if this be the Chief Justice of Calcutta's law, then the whole review, showing how cruelly the Revenue and the Forest systems work, and insisting on all the shortcomings of the existing administration, is seditious, and it is best not to publish it here, where in cases like that against the *Bangabasi*, the juries are packed, and it is hopeless to expect justice.

I hope you will explain privately to Congressmen in your circle the reason why the Indian Report will appear this year without the customary introductory article."

It seems impossible for Mr. Hume to speak with accuracy, to say nothing of temper or fairness towards views and men that stand in the way of his peculiar objects. His whole criticism of the *Bangabasi* case is that of an irresponsible agitator, and indeed his language has a wild intensity that reminds one more of the great Dan's declamations against Saxon tyranny than the businesslike sobriety of the no less earnest honest "Joe" in his most indignant moods. It is beside the question to say that Sir Comer Petheram's dictum is directly opposed to the best English authorities, considering that Sir Comer had to expound the Indian not the English law. The criticism is unworthy of a retired member of the Indian Civil Service. To characterise the statement that "anything tending to bring the Government" established by law—that is, the British Power, not any particular administration or administrators—"into discredit is seditious," is a "monstrous doctrine," is mere rant. "Monstrous" it certainly is not, though severe and even maybe, wrong. If it be monstrous, then most civilized countries, we fear, labour under a monstrous law of treason. Still, after all, that is a matter of opinion, and men may hold extreme views and give them passionate expression without serious moral reproach. Not so are matters of fact, and every man is responsible for his testimony. How, then, comes Mr. Hume to say that the jury in the *Bangabasi* case was packed? That assertion is simply not true. Nor is it honourable. It is seditious, too, we are afraid. To say that juries are packed in the High Court, and to adduce the *Bangabasi* trial as a case in which the jury was packed, is not only a calumny, but, in the face of the conflicting verdicts of the Jury, also an impudent calumny, having one possible object—that of destroying the faith of the people in the justice of Her Majesty's highest Court and thereby bringing the British Government into discredit. In fire, after the event of the trial, Mr. Hume's charge is, to use his own word, monstrous.

M. DUMAS's collection of pictures, being offered for sale, fetched three lacs (527,000 fr. or about 21,000*l.*)

NOTES & LEADERETTES

with

OUR OWN NEWS.

THE Russian persecution of foreigners is not confined to the Jews. The Germans have now come in for their turn. It is reported at Berlin that German teachers in Russia who have failed to learn the Russian language are being expelled like the Jews. Little or no time is allowed to make the necessary arrangements. The head of a private school has been sent away because, although a Russian citizen, he had hung up portraits of the last three German Emperors in his house.

This news by the mail is followed this week by Reuter's telegrams reporting the cordial reception at Kiel of the Czar by the Emperor William, the exchange of cordial toasts after dinner, and the appointment of the Czar as an Admiral of the German Navy.

AT the dinner, the Czar declared that he would never support France in raising the Alsace-Lorraine question. The French, on the other hand, regard the sudden appearance of Grand Duke Constantine at Nancy as a political event of the highest importance and a counterpoise to the Czar's visit to the German Emperor. They made a great Russophile demonstration at the opening of the gymnastic *fetes* at Nancy, to which students of every University not being Germans were invited. President Carnot was present and had a most cordial interview with the Grand Duke, who was an unexpected visitor.

NEWS comes from New York of a colossal disaster in the oil region of Pennsylvania. Reuter reports that a cloud burst and partly swamped two towns. The lightning set fire to the oil refineries and six of them were ablaze. The flood swept away the oil tanks at Titusville. The ignited oil spread everywhere, the river carrying the blazing debris a distance of eighteen miles to Oil City, which was soon on fire. The number of fatalities at Oil City is two hundred and at Titusville one hundred and fifty.

PARLIAMENT will be asked for a loan of £6,00,000 for the Mauritius Government to meet the distress caused there by the late hurricane. We hope the Government and people of India will not stand aloof on such an occasion.

LUCK is Luck and no mistake—Luck all over:—we mean the Lance Corporal of the 3rd Foot Guards in the Prussian Army. He has simply shot himself into immortality.

But yesterday Luck was a poor unknown private. Now, though a private still, he is no longer obscure. No German so great.

THE Oriental Bank has gone into liquidation for the second time. On Wednesday, the New Corporation suspended payment. It was in the air beforehand that the Bank was shaky. So the failure was not an absolute surprise. Those who came to know of it drew out their moneys. It is stated that the failure is due to depreciation in silver, the withdrawal of the capital in the East and the bad condition of trade in China, Japan and Australasia, and the cyclone at Mauritius causing a loss of a crore of rupees. The total liability, as telegraphed by Reuter, is five and-a-half millions sterling.

SIMULTANEOUSLY with the suspension of payment in the Oriental, we read that Messrs. King, Hamilton & Co. offer to make advances, against balances in that Bank, to Officers and Civilians upon their opening current accounts with them.

THE same day that the Bank failed, danger signals were hoisted pre-saging a cyclone. The offices were early closed and barred and the assistants allowed to go home to prepare to meet the storm. Luckily, it was not felt in Calcutta. The weather, however, continues cloudy.

A CORRESPONDENT in the guise of "Great Danger Signal No. 4," protests, in the *Englishman*, against this cry of wolf of the Meteorological Reporter of the Government of Bengal. He says:—

"I have been a number of years in India and my nerves are probably not what they once were. Anyhow, when I was told yesterday that the great danger signal No. 4 (signifying 'the approach of a cyclonic storm of great intensity and magnitude to the mouth of the Hooghly, and which will probably advance to Calcutta,' laid down in the Port Rules) had been hoisted, I for a moment was seriously alarmed.

It flashed across me, however, that in May last two 'cyclonic storms' were prophesied, in June 'a whirl,' in July 'a depression,' in August a 'cyclonic storm close to the Sunderbunds,' in September 'a cyclone,' in November 'a cyclonic storm close to Saugor,' and subsequently 'severe cyclone with hurricane winds.' And remembering how little came of it all, I recovered my equanimity, which was not afterwards upset when I heard that steamers had been ordered into the docks, and that even the ladies' golf tent was struck.

It is absolutely certain that if the Meteorological Reporter to the Government of Bengal goes on crying 'Wolf' long enough, he will some day prove a true prophet. Meantime it would be well if he made more sure of his ground before giving orders to hoist."

The latest report is that

"the expected cyclone has travelled westwards and has broken on the Orissa coast somewhere near Balasore. It is believed to be a very severe one, and grave apprehensions are felt as to the safety of vessels which may have been caught in it. The British India steamer *Dunera* and the China Steamer are both over-due and anxiety is felt in some quarters on their account. It is extremely probable that the steamers are waiting outside, being unwilling to attempt coming in, in the face of the storm signals. No news has reached

town as to the safety of the Lightships, though telegrams have been sent to Chandbally and other places making enquiries. The Government Steamer Guide left port yesterday for the Sandheads and the Resolute will follow this morning."

THE flight of bravery of our go-ahead Hindu friends of Bombay, moderate as in all conscience it was, has after all recoiled upon them. So long ago as October 1890, at a Christian Mission house at Poona, some forty-two native gentlemen met to exchange their views on matters of social reform. After the business of the day, they refreshed themselves with tea and biscuits. This led to an Orthodox agitation and the social ostracism of the so-called reformers. The Forty-two found their situation unbearable, and gradually almost all of them have expiated their sin by *pryaschitta* and regained their caste. The last to submit to the enforced purification were, *mirabile dictu*, the Hon'ble Mr. M. G. Ranade, Rao Bahadur Chintaman Narayan Bhat and Mr. Govind Wasudev Kanitkar, the first-named being the *Doyen* of the Liberal Party in the West, the last two, graduates and subordinate judges. Orthodox Poona may well be proud of this achievement, while those of the progressive party are naturally bitter on the three gentlemen for their unaccountable weakness and inconsistency. We only hope the three sheep who have, by such painful sacrifice and shameful degradation, got back to the Orthodox fold, will not be orthodox with a vengeance. Two of our Europe-returned Baboos in this city, since their re-admission after the pleasant experience of the purifying dung, are out-Hinduing the sober Hindu. They are specially unforgiving towards those of their Hindu brethren who, without partaking of the doubtful delicacy, presume to reason their countrymen, by enlightened, yet thoroughly legitimate, interpretation of their peculiar laws, into the path of practical reform.

THE whole affair on the Bombay side is most disheartening, and a humiliation to Young India and specially to those of us who prate of progress and of our intellectual, moral and social advancement and, on the strength thereof, aspire to political privileges of difficult attainment and still more difficult retention. We have neither wisdom nor backbone, and our foremost leaders are no better than the rest of us.

There is just one glimmering ray of hope, amid the prevailing pitch darkness of despair. It is some consolation that two at least of the Forty-two generally miserable poltroons and recreants have not partaken of the humble pie. They have not yet, we should say. For, after the great Mahadeva Govind Ranade's defection, we dare not make sure of lesser heroes. At any rate, all honour to Professors Gokhale and Kelkar of the Fergusson College for not having yet succumbed to the pressure.

MR. Lee, the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, goes on two months and twenty days' leave from the 6th July next. The same Gazette that grants the leave to Mr. Lee, appoints Mr. J. G. Ritchie, Magistrate and Collector, third grade, officiating as Deputy Commissioner, Darjeeling, "to act as Chairman of the Commissioners of Calcutta, during the absence on leave, of Mr. H. Lee, or until further orders." We are not sure that the appointment of Mr. Ritchie is according to law. The law says, "In any case in which leave of absence shall be granted to the Chairman, the Local Government shall appoint one of the Commissioners to act as Chairman in his place, or shall make such other arrangements for carrying on the duties of the office as to it shall seem proper." So the officiating Chairman must be one of the Commissioners before he could be their head. Sir Charles Elliott had better be careful in a matter of the kind. Instead of relying on the genius of brilliant young Secretaries, the Government should take counsel with their lawyers.

AT the election of the General Committee of the Calcutta Corporation, Baboo Joy Gobind Law was put into it by the casting vote of the Chairman. Objection being taken that Mr. Lee had no vote in the matter, the Advocate-General was asked about it. Mr. Woodroffe is of opinion that the Chairman cannot possibly have the casting vote. He further lays down that "Had this case been sent to me before instead of on the 1st June, a bye-election for the tie might have been held, but section 63 now prevents this being done, and Baboo Joy-gobind Law cannot act as a member of the General Committee for this year." It is suggested that the vacancy in the General Committee

cannot be filled till the next election. The latest day for the election of the General Committee is fixed by law on the 1st June, and there is apparently no provision for filling up *ad interim* vacancies. That points to a defect in the law which is not easy to contemplate. For one thing, the General Committee, in the absence of a duly elected member, remains an unformed body whose acts cannot, necessarily, be binding.

THE case of Kashi Paharia, lying under sentence of death at Rajshahi, came on for hearing yesterday morning, before Messrs. Justices O'Kinealy and Amir Ali. Mr. Abdur Rahman, Barrister, on behalf of the accused argued the case at great length. Their lordships delivered the following judgment:—

"In this case Kasi Paharia has been convicted of murder and sentenced to death for causing the death of one Rahamutullah. The assessors considered that he should be acquitted. We agree in the view taken by the Sessions Judge to a great extent. The statement of the prisoner to the Magistrate which he never repudiated shows that the deceased visited his house that night and was found dead early next morning in the neighbourhood and covered with blood. This with the evidence of his wife and mother leaves no doubt of the truth of the case, but at the same time there can be no doubt that some of the evidence cannot be relied on, and some of it we do not believe to be true. We therefore set aside the sentence of death and direct that the prisoner be transported for life."

Thus the life of Kashi Paharia is saved. It is a relief, as the case is certainly not without difficulty.

THE suit, valued at Rs. 1,00,000, for damages instituted by Kadumbini Gangooly against Mahes Chunder Pal, proprietor of the *Banganibasi*, and the editor, the publisher and the printer, came up for hearing yesterday before Mr. Justice Trevelyan. The defendant Pal admitted liability and submitted himself to the judgment of the court. Mr. Justice Trevelyan took time to assess the damages. We quote the report of the proceedings from the *Englishman* which alone of the morning papers publishes them:—

"Mr. Bonnerjee, Mr. Garth, and Mr. Chuckerbutty, instructed by Babu Bhobun Mohun Dass, appeared for the plaintiff. Mr. Hill and Mr. Palit, instructed by the Hon'ble G. C. Chunder, for Mahes Chunder Paul, the proprietor of the *Banganibasi*. The other defendants were not represented at the hearing, but the editor had put in a written statement, in which he said that he was not the editor at the time when the alleged libel was published, and knew nothing about it.

Mr. Hill, for the proprietor of the *Banganibasi*, as Mr. Bonnerjee was about to open his case.—If my friend will allow me to interrupt him, I think I can save him from having to read the libel or go into the matters with which it deals. My client deeply regrets the publication of the libel which appeared in his paper without his knowledge. My client informed the plaintiff's attorney some time ago that, so far as he was concerned, proof of publication would not be required and no technical difficulties would be raised. My client makes no attempt to justify the libel. It is a very gross one and cannot be defended. It arose out of disputes over the Age of Consent Bill, in which the plaintiff's husband took the newer view of the question, and the defendant's paper took the older one. My client has published an apology in his own paper, and has sent a copy of it to the plaintiff's husband to be published in his paper. He has already been prosecuted in the Police Court, and been sentenced to six months' imprisonment by Mr. Handley. He is quite ready to do anything in his power to repair the wrong he unwittingly committed, and leaves the question of damages in your Lordship's hands.

Trevelyan, J.—Do you press for damages, Mr. Bonnerjee?

Mr. Bonnerjee.—Yes, my Lord. My client does not wish to make money out of this affair, but the libel is a very foul one, and besides she and her husband have been put to heavy expense in connection with the matter, which, they think, should be made good to them by the defendant. The costs of the prosecution in the Police Court were very heavy. I am quite willing to let the case be withdrawn as against the publisher and printer.

Trevelyan, J.—The paper is published in Bengali, I suppose. What sort of a circulation has it got?

Mr. Bonnerjee.—Yes. It is a Bengali weekly paper. I have never heard of the paper before and do not know what its circulation is. The other side authorise me to say that they offered us Rs. 2,500 damages.

Trevelyan, J.—It is a gross libel, but the defendant has got six months for it, and he has given you an apology, expressed his readiness to do all he can to atone for his wrongdoings.

Mr. Bonnerjee.—My idea is that Rs. 5,000 would not be too large a sum. My learned friend and I are both prepared to leave the question of damages in your Lordship's hand. I would ask that the defendant's apology be published in the *Dainik* and the *Banganibasi*.

Mr. Hill.—We are ready to do that or anything else we can to repair the wrong we have committed.

Trevelyan, J.—This suit is withdrawn as against all except the first defendant. I fully appreciate the very proper course adopted by the first defendant's learned counsel, which is what one would expect from that counsel. It is not easy to arrive at the proper damages to be given in this case, but I will consider the matter and come to some

conclusion as to the damages that should be awarded. Of course in assessing the damages I shall take the first defendant's conduct here into account."

THE High Court—Messrs. Justices O'Kinealy and Amir Ali—have laid down that in summary trials the magistrates must give reasons for their findings and not content themselves with simply recording the orders. The Joint Magistrate of Sealdah summarily convicted Preonath Chuckerbutty, a Municipal Commissioner of Baranagar, of criminal trespass into the house of one Ganendranath Gangooly and fined him Rs. 50. A rule was obtained from the High Court against the magistrate to shew cause why the conviction and sentence should not be set aside. At the hearing of the rule and after hearing Mr. Monmohun Ghose for the accused and the pleader for the Crown, the Judges made the following orders:—

"Mr. Justice O'Kinealy:—In this case, a rule was issued, calling upon the Crown to show cause why the finding and sentence passed by the Joint-Magistrate of Sealdah in a summary trial should not be set aside. Today the Crown has shown cause, and we think we are bound to make the rule absolute. No doubt in a summary trial all the safeguards required in other cases are not available. The law, however, compels a Magistrate hearing a case in a summary manner to do certain things, and these things it is incumbent upon us to enforce; because if trials of the nature of the present one, were allowed to prevail in Bengal, this Court, as a court of Revision, would have no power over judicial officers. The law says that the plea of the accused, and his examination, if any, should be recorded, and in addition to that, when there is a finding and conviction, there must be a brief statement of the reason for it. So far as we can see in the present case, the Magistrate has given no reasons, but he had dealt with the case as if he were a jury. He has given us his findings, but no reasons for them. The rule, therefore, must be made absolute, and the conviction must be set aside, and with the consent of the Crown and the accused, the case will be transferred to the Magistrate of Alipore for trial in a regular way.

Mr. Justice Amir Ali.—For myself I wish to add that in these cases tried summarily, it is always advisable for the Magistrate to give short abstracts of the evidence in order to enable this Court to have possession of the facts upon which the judgment is founded."

It seldom falls to our lot to be in agreement with the *Indian Mirror*, but there is much in the following little leadrette of our contemporary which has our hearty approval:—

"The Education Commission, appointed by the Resolution of the Government of India, dated the 3rd February, 1882, seems to have been a 'splendid sham,' a 'splendid do-nothing.' It distinctly laid down that Native gentlemen of approved qualifications be eligible for the post of Inspector of Schools, and that they be employed in that capacity more commonly than has hitherto been the case. And yet in filling the post, vacated by an Indian Inspector of Schools, Sir Charles Elliott has, without rhyme or reason, overlooked the claims of an Indian educationist of long and varied experience, and of undoubted ability. This educationist is no other than Babu Bani Madhub De, Assistant Inspector of Schools, Burdwan Division, whose appointment to Government Service dates from 1866, and who has, since that year, obtained the reputation of a most able and efficient officer. As a scholar, he eminently distinguished himself in the Presidency College with his college-mate, the Hon'ble Babu Rash Behari Ghosh—the talented Vakil of the High Court, and member of the Viceroy's Legislative Council. Uniting in himself considerable intellectual powers and great depth of character, he won golden opinions from some of the best members of the Civil Service with whom he came in contact. Mr. Heeley, for instance, offered him at one time a Deputy Magistracy, but he elected to stick to the educational line. There is another distinguished Civilian, Mr. Buckland, now in the Bengal Secretariat, who can well testify to his 'approved qualifications.' And we feel sure that Mr. Hill has been appointed over his head without Mr. Buckland's knowledge. As Assistant Inspector of Schools, he invariably does all the brain-work in the Inspector's Office, the annual reports, which are all written by him, bearing marks of exceptional powers of work. Did Mr. William Digby then go beyond the mark in his speech in the Union Chapel, Islington, regarding the 'administrative suppression' of the Indians?"

As usual with our contemporary, with the best intentions in the world, the *Mirror* spoils the cause he espouses. We are afraid Baboo Bani Madhub De's claims are scarcely likely to be advanced under this administration by the mention of the name of one at least of the officers who are mentioned as having appreciated his merits. Poor Mr. Buckland himself is virtually as completely "suppressed" as any poor Indians.

THE Secretariat price for the liberty of the press is, alas! but a mess of pottage. Here is an instance of the advantage, in the way of priority of official news, which a native contemporary enjoys from its new connection with Government.

The new broad-sheet gives prominence to the information, unavailable to other newspapers, that "the Lieutenant-Governor has directed that

the accounts of the District Road Committees in Bengal, for the last quarter of 1891-92, are to be published in the Gazette." The publication of the accounts is a matter of course, as of law. It is assuring to know that Sir Charles Elliott does not mean to override the law in the present case. If it were left to him, Sir Charles would order its discontinuance as a measure of economy, if for no other reason.

As an indication of its present policy, we find the *Patriot* recommending in successive issues a certain article advertised in it.

A CORRESPONDENT, signing himself "One interested," asks:—

"Will you or any of your numerous readers kindly quote the date of any circular with regard to the title to which the wives of Rai Bahadurs are entitled? One Rai Bahadur has adopted the title of Rani for his wife and the Local Government has apparently recognised the title, while others not so forward are left in the lurch."

We hope some one will respond to this appeal. We withhold our own say for the present.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, June 11, 1892.

THE INSPECTION SCARE.

THE Bengal Administration in all its branches is undergoing inspection, minute and thorough. The present Lieutenant-Governor lays the greatest stress on this duty, and he has found his own lieutenants all loyal to the core. Whatever their secret feelings, his chief subordinates are carrying his behests out to the letter and the bitter end. Thus, the rage for inspection has been communicated to the whole province, and officers from the members of the Board of Revenue down to Sub-Inspectors of schools are out, in season and out of season, on inspection. There is no hope of staying the favorite old tat of the Belvedere stables whipped into galloping pace. The ruler of the day is inexorably inflexible and determined. Yet, he may possibly be induced to avoid unnecessary harshness. Surely, it is no part of his policy to cause pain by insult to respectable men. It is highly desirable that Sir Charles Elliott, who has initiated these disturbing and objectionable measures, should insist upon his inspecting officers behaving with at least common politeness towards the subordinate officers whose offices are inspected, and showing some reasonable patience in conducting the inspection. These inferior servants of the state deserve every sympathy. After having been all through their career left pretty much to their own devices, they are being put on a difficult trial. What wonder, if on a sudden call they are apt to lose their heads? Now these officers are coming more in contact with high officials and their superiors than was the case in former times, it is but fair that they are treated without gruffness or *brusquerie*, not to say rudeness, and judged with some charity. A man must have the qualities of temper, patience, tact, and consideration, otherwise he cannot be a successful inspecting officer.

For some time we have been hearing complaints regarding one of the inspecting officers in the Registration department. This officer has now made himself a sort of bugbear to the poor Sub-Registrars throughout the country. His name is enough to make them shudder, and his presence has the effect of a stupefying drug on them. His rudeness and harsh treatment of the Sub-Registrars is very improper, and his want of patience is much to be deplored. He has peculiar notions of his high dignity. His assumptions of self importance are

not only novel, but also rather superhuman. The innocent bleating of a goat or the cawing of a crow in the neighbourhood of an office, disturbs the equanimity of his mind and makes him suddenly lose his temper, and for this great offence the poor Sub-Registrar is held responsible and not unoften suffers. For the slightest want of readiness in answering questions or understanding them, the *amla* are abused in the presence of their immediate superior officer, and threats are not also wanting when the *Huzoor* of Inspection wants to vindicate his authority.

The Sub-Registrars, among whom are representatives of the most respectable classes of men—Zemindars, Honorary Magistrates, scions of good families, retired native officers of high rank, even men who held higher appointments than the Inspectors and were of superior standing in the Provincial service—are not unfrequently addressed as *tum* or *tumi* by the officer in question. This is a direct insult for which there can be no excuse, for no one has a right to address a respectable man in that way, not to speak of gazetted officers.

The hours of inspection are sometimes chosen with exemplary care and nice consideration, and are most auspicious and comfortable. A Sub-Registrar is surprised at midnight in his house by the Inspector Sahab and, after a great deal of altercation and confusion when the door is opened and the Inspector Sahab rushes in, the whole village gets alarmed of something unusual in the registry cutchery. With half opened eyes and a dim light the Sub-Registrar receives the Inspector and is obliged to show him his books, while his *amla* are fast asleep in their respective dwellings. The Inspector finishes his inspection as quickly and as disgustingly as is to be expected at the hour and under the circumstances, laying all the blame of his shortcomings on the Registrar. That poor officer is condemned for his want of tact in keeping the office ready for inspection, and thereby causing so much delay in the inspection that there was the fear of the Sahab's missing the up-passenger train. Sometime in the early morning, while the Sub-Registrar is preparing to go and meet burdened nature's pressing command, he is attacked. He is blamed for being indecently dressed, though he is only in *munfi*. He is detained till 9 or 10 A. M. in the office to show the work, although all this time silently maintaining a desperate fight with nature in the hope of saving his bread. If subdued by the power of nature he slips out of the office and betakes himself to his *zenana* for that purpose, he is sometimes pursued up to the boundary of the sacred apartments, from where he is called out by the energetic superior, causing great consternation and commotion among the female members of his house, nay, among the whole village. Cases of this kind have occurred in Bengal and Behar, and some district officers are aware of it. We should like to see some such cases placed before Mr. Justice Trevelyan in the High Court for an expression of his lordship's opinion on the rights of an inspecting officer.

If the Subordinate officers are to be treated in this fashion, how can the inspection be properly gone through and, above all, how can respectable persons hold such appointments? It is very difficult to satisfy an officer of this type. We are really sorry to be assured that many officers are put to trouble for no fault on their part but only for the quick temper of their superior.

We are glad, however, to learn that the matter has already attracted the notice of Mr. Holmwood, the head of the department, who is so justly respected by all his subordinates. We would ask the Inspector-General to look into the matter more closely and at once, and remove the cause of complaints which are the table talk of officers in almost every district. If they be not checked now, we are afraid some day some officer of the department may be involved in some unpleasant proceedings, and then it will be too late to complain.

At any rate, Bengal is not now what it was some years ago, and if the cause of complaint is not removed, it will be our painful duty to give out names and cite all the unfortunate cases with all their unpleasant and damaging details.

THE LEADING JOURNAL IN DISTRESS.

THE *Pioneer* is going the way of all journals that sell their liberty for a mess of pottage. The rôle of writers who depend for news on the favour, and for views on the inspiration, of officials, is scarcely an elevating one. The habit of clinging to the lower end of the hospitable boards of the higher officers in the state to catch the gospel of affairs, and of looking up to the drawers of pay by thousands as if they were great men, must, we are afraid, have a depressing effect on manhood. Accordingly, we see that our Allahabad contemporary has descended to chronicle small beer and report the tittle tattle of the dinner-tables of big wigs. The following *morceau*, which appeared in a late issue, is certainly worthy of being embodied in *Jeames' Diary*, but, has a strange look in the columns of a leading journal:—

"A *mot* not unworthy of the great Onoocul Chunder Mookerjee was recently made. The case was under discussion of a distinguished English official, who received in the last Birthday *Gazette* an honour which had already been conferred upon several of his juniors. 'This,' said a Bengali gentleman, 'is lateral multiplication not visible elevation'—a comment which, when it came to his ears, tickled no one more than the recipient of the honour."

If that is journalism by gentlemen for gentlemen, we pity the pass to which Anglo-Indian society has come. The foregoing paragraph is not only in wretched taste, but also a series of blunders from beginning to end. Poor Onoocul Chunder Mookerjee! And has it come to this? A wellborn Hindu, descended from a great Rishi and belonging to one of the best Calcutta families, himself an able advocate and since a respected Judge of the High Court, every inch a gentleman in his presence, manners and conduct, an ornament of society, who lived according to his position and means, who, rising superior to the prejudices of his tribe, mixed on terms of cordial social intercourse with the best parts of Anglo-Indian and Indian society, entertaining his European friends at his table and entertained by them, what a fate is his! To be the butt of *post mortem* ridicule, for naught of his own but the folly of a wretched connexion! And finally to be a name to conjure with for Anglo-Indian writers in stress for a passable joke—an unfailing source of wit for barren penmen! But even in this, the writer in the Allahabad paper has failed in his aim—which is, or ought to be, not the deceased Judge but his deceased biographer. Surely, the editor or sub-editor of the *Pioneer* ought to have known that the whipping boy of Anglo-Indian hilarity is not the great Onoocul Chunder Mookerjee but the stupid fellow who has given him an unenviable immortality by a nonsensical book purporting to be a Life of the Judge. The *Pioneer*

has simply causelessly abused a respectable man now in his grave.

Nor is that the only blunder and offence of the writer. The whole paragraph is a miss and a mess. To retail anecdotes of contemporary dinner tables, is not a very noble occupation. But the retailer ought at least to be accurate. That, the writer is not. Proceeding as he began, he has done his Bengali gentleman a grave injustice. It is difficult for the *Pioneer* to do a Bengali justice, though it shows a great advance in its recognition of the possibility of Bengali gentleness. Perhaps, it was in the same desperation for a joke in which the writer invoked the memory of the "great Onoocul Chunder Mookerjee" that he puts absurd language into the mouth of his poor Bengali gentleman. That unfortunate man did not say "lateral multiplication," as the unhappily noted biographer of Onoocul Chunder Mookerjee might have said. His words were "literal multiplication," which were certainly not Mrs. Malapropian nor at all absurd in the connection. He is something superior to the notorious biographer, and perhaps to many a contributor to leading Anglo-Indian journals. His *not* is not unworthy of the pages of the *Pioneer* itself. But, of course, any trick is good enough for pointing the finger of scorn at the race of Baboos who do not fall down at the feet of every passing whiteman. The *Pioneer* is wrong in every particular. The case under discussion was *not* of a distinguished English official, who received in the last Birthday *Gazette* an honour which had already been conferred upon several of his juniors. It was the case of a distinguished Anglo-Indian official who had received an additional honour which made no difference in his name or title in common parlance. There was no question at all of the tardy bestowal of an honour which had already been conferred upon many juniors—there was no thought of a comparison, either with juniors or seniors. Thus said the sententious Bengali, with a terseness which many Anglo-Indian scribes might envy, whatever they might say in public,—“It is but a literal multiplication”—that is, a mere addition to the letters after the recipient's name—“without visible elevation.” The paragraph is characteristically concluded: “A comment which, when it came to his ears, tickled no one more than the recipient of the honour.” That is a true de la Plushian touch. It exhibits the writer as contemplating, with rapt reverence, from a sufficient distance, the greatness of the drawer of the big pay and the master of the grand equipage and of the most gorgeously liveried flunkies, the most tinkling fools, the meekest scribes and the smartest puffers. He cannot conceive of his hero taking notice of anything, everything brought to his notice. So he hears nothing of his own instance, sounds come to his ears, brought by paid or officious instruments.

Of course, the idea of a Baboo confronting the great man—presumably of Upper India—is simply inconceivable on the *Pioneer* establishment. The British Power in India could not stand under such an omen. At any rate, it is admitted that the Baboo comment came to the great Briton's ears, and it tickled the ears' owner. But for the honour of the Baboo tribe, we protest against our contemporary's gratuitous suggestion—as if

The tickl'd ears no heart-felt raptures raise ;

Nae unison hae they with our Great Briton's praise :

—as if, in fact, the compliment fell flat on its object or

was laughed at as an absurdity, as a piece of Baboo ingenuity—as, in a word, Onoocul Chunder's Life. So far from it, we are assured that the recipient of the honour regarded the comment on his title as a fine compliment and admired its literary excellence. Is it possible to compress more inaccuracy and blundering in a short paragraph than the *Pioneer* does in its few lines ?

A SKETCH OF

THE HISTORY OF THE PRESS IN INDIA.

By Babu Sambhu C. Mookerjee.

[Continued from page 272.]

The Hindus have never received justice to their capacity for government. Their present political degradation is in the way of their ancestors' fame. The Present is naturally taken to be the reflection of the Past. Nor have they any history of their own to rebuke such contempt. It requires a violent effort to recognize the possibility of the remote forefathers of those who have, all through the entire historic period, been under one subjection or another, having been so very different, not to say illustrious.

Accordingly, it has been the fashion to regard the ancient Hindu Codes as Codes of Law only. In point of fact, like all Hindu writings, they are mixed in character and subject. Thus, like all or most such writings, the most famous Codes commence with Cosmogony, the evolution of the universe, the creation of man and the peopling of the world, and the four-fold division of the human race. Not the least interesting or important part of their works, is that which relates to Politics. European scholars have not generally cared to notice this part, while, even in India practising lawyers ignore it as not required for their profession.

Yet, there is no full understanding of the Hindu race and its place in human evolution without inquiring into the political precepts of these old Rishis. Nor are those precepts without their bearing on the government of the Hindu population at this day.

These legists and the political chapters of the Mahabharat together with the works of Kamandaki and others on Polity and suggestions scattered in different books, between them unfold a system of government and teach maxims of policy which will compare favourably with the speculations of any other ancient nation, however advanced.

Manu's system, indeed, for elaboration will challenge any existing one. He allots to the king a consultative Privy Council of seven or eight sworn members—an efficient body of active councillors daily called on to advise and not gentlemen content to receive the compliment of “the Right Hon'ble” before their names—under an efficient President. Then there is a small Executive Cabinet of ministers in charge of different departments, of which those of Home and Foreign Affairs are particularly mentioned, under a Premier, unless the king chooses to be his own Prime Minister. The whole is worthy of a DeLohme, if not a Bagehot.

Manu gives the Foreign Minister a prominence which no writer of our day could exceed, and which Lord Salisbury would appreciate. Great care is required in the selection of the Ministers, and, above all, of the Foreign Minister. He must, to begin with, be a man of noble birth—a *kullin* in fact—honourable and pure. He should be handsome and brave, energetic and steady, of distinguished ability, apt in business, of infinite shrewdness, of a fine memory, versed in varied learning, particularly strong in geography and history, one who has travelled much and seen the world, experienced in affairs and well tried. Nothing could be better than such a selection if such a man could be found, and happy is the land where such men, to any extent, may be found, and found willing to serve their king and country.

The Foreign Minister should not only be a man distinguished for the accuracy and extent of his knowledge of different, specially neighbouring, countries, but he must improve and keep up his information. Not only the Minister but the king too who conducts his own affairs, is to be thoroughly acquainted with the powers and resources of other states. Nor is that an easy task. The sage goes into elaborate details as to the subjects on which information is particularly needed, insisting on seventy-two heads of minute

inquiry, ending with the statistics of the territories of foreign states, their wealth and treasures, their forces and their forts, and the characters and antecedents of all their Ministers. It is all very well to make this appalling demand, but how is it to be met? How is all the voluminous information, on every variety of difficult heads, to be collected and kept up?

Making allowances for the peculiarities of old Sanskrit and indeed generally all ancient compositions and, in especial, the exigencies of a metrical treatise on Polity and Jurisprudence, no candid man can help being impressed with admiration of the plan propounded and the maxims of statesmanship taught by Manu. Thorough and precise as the scheme of government of the old Legist is, there is a workmanlike homeliness about its provisions which precludes the suspicion of the Rishi having indulged himself in an imaginative ideal. Here is no Republic of Plato or Eutopia of More or New Atlantis of Bacon. Here the normal abnormal characteristics of ancient Hindu literature are wholly absent. There is no wildness such as marks even Hindu science. All is sober earnest. All is practical.

Accordingly, the Rishi does not omit to provide for the means whereby the numerous statistics and all the minute information on so many different heads are to be obtained, and not only obtained for once but to be kept up—statistics and information which are a necessary condition of successful statesmanship and administration in peace and war. Then, as now, such statistics and information could only be obtained by means of a special establishment. Manu has such an agency in view where he speaks of envoys, intelligencers, messengers, emissaries or spies. These, the first in particular, generally appertain to foreign countries. At home the duty devolved upon the civil officers. Hindu Government at the time of Manu seems to have been an administration of record and statistics, carried on by a hierarchy of paid officials—bespeaking, certainly, a high degree of civilization in the community. The system however was not overdone. The unit of administrative charge was the magistrate of the sub-district, who was to send all noteworthy information to the Magistrate of the District. That officer was to transmit his reports to the Superintendent of the Division (consisting of 20 Sub-districts) and the Divisional Superintendent to the Lieutenant-Governor of the Sub-Province. The Lieutenant-Governor was to report to the Governor of the Province. Finally, the information of the whole kingdom from the smallest sub-districts was to reach the Home Minister immediately through the Provincial Governors. Besides this established chain of intelligence, was another separate establishment for gathering information and for that only—an establishment of emissaries and spies. A large body of such intelligencers formed a necessary part of the public service. It was not enough to have superintendents or governors over every township and every hundred and every riding and every county and every province, but a vast number of on-lookers and reporters, known and secret, were distributed throughout the length and breadth of the land, to keep the administration straight, and to report laches and bring information of matters of more or less importance. Besides the emissaries from the fountain-head of power, the provincial, divisional and district authorities themselves employed similar intelligencers of their own, to keep them informed of the occurrences within their jurisdictions, and the doings of their subordinates, as well as the occurrences and views at the head-quarters of the powers above them unto those at the very capital and the palace itself. There were universal distrust and anxiety. Hence the number and importance of this Intelligence service.

So much for the internal administration. The demand for correct and adequate information is no less urgent in administering the external relations of the state. The international policy of a sovereign, whether it is to be a policy of war or of peace, of rupture or alliance, depends chiefly on accuracy of knowledge of the resources of other powers, of the views and principles and even the health and temper of different sovereigns and ministers, of the condition and temper of the peoples, of the intrigues at other courts, and the intrigues in the seraglio, as well as the ambition of heirs and the jealousies of rival statesmen and factions. Hence the Intelligence Department of the Foreign Office was equally strong. The Intelligence Service consisted of *em-*

ployés, both avowed and unavowed. To the category of the avowed belong the ambassadors and envoys accredited to foreign states and the members of their missions. Of course as modern ambassadors in other parts of the world do, these ancient Hindu ambassadors depended upon secret emissaries in their pay for procuring information to send home as well as to enable them to act with effect in the interest of their own sovereign. The kings themselves employed such emissaries of their own in foreign countries, unknown to their own ambassadors. As upon other officers in that régime of universal distrust or stern prudence, there were secret watchers over the Ambassadors themselves—to note their proceedings, and conduct and bearing, for their masters' eye. And truth to tell, the profession of diplomacy is so demoralising that in those days kings acted from an instinct of self-preservation in employing independent sources of information regarding the doings of their accredited agents abroad. Besides those engaged in quietly espying over ambassadors, there were other secret agents to convey general information from abroad. Public reporters were checked by private, but as the secret emissaries themselves might deceive, there were several men, unknown to one another, employed in the same duty. Altogether the acquisition and checking of information was a great point in Hindu statesmanship. The King is to consult his Council on the despatch of Ambassadors and Intelligencers alike. Spies are of five sorts, which, according to the great Bengali commentator, are, namely, wily and agile youngsters, religious men who have broken their vows, poor cultivators, failed merchants, and men pretending to go through difficult and protracted penances. Every evening at sunset, after the evening prayers, the king is instructed to take his seat in a room in his inner apartments to listen to the reports of the Intelligence department.

And here is another proof that Manu was not Eutopiasing—not drawing upon his imagination for a picture of an ideal state, but laying down rules for guidance—in the fact that the rules are still followed. To this day, government by espionage is the characteristic of Indian states under native sway. To this day, intelligencers, open and secret, are, more or less, employed in them. To this day, the reigning Prince at sundown, after evening prayers, daily listens to the confidential reports brought from every direction.

I will not enter into the question when the Hindus first learnt the art of writing—that foundation of all progress. It has been debated with equal ability and learning between some of the greatest men. Max Müller, in his *History of Ancient Sanskrit Literature*, simply evinced genius by a suggestion which virtually amounts to a discovery. Goldstücker, in his memorable introduction to his facsimile *édition de luxe* of the grand manuscript at the India House of the *Mauvra Kalpa Sutra*, contradicted him. On the whole, and on some grounds of my own, I incline to Müller. As to Manu, the Code passed through so many different editions with more or less variations during different ages, that the question whether writing was in vogue at the time of the Rishi author, is immaterial and has no practical bearing. Whether the contemporaries of the Rishi could write or not, the Code has been law in Hindu states through long periods accustomed to reading and writing. At one place the Code seems to speak of verbal reports of informants. Be that as it may, since the press or journalism does not necessarily require writing any more than printing, I regard the emissaries and intelligencers of the ancient Hindu sovereigns the earliest journalists—the humble precursors of modern journalism—the rude forefathers of the colossus of the Press of our day.

THE DECADENCE OF LONDON SOCIETY.

The May number of the *North American Review* (Brentano's, Agar Street, Strand) contains a striking paper on "London Society" by Lady Jeune. This most competent authority writes forcibly and pessimistically on the subject. Society, she thinks, has become demoralised in the last few years. It has become too large, too noisy, too luxurious, too vulgar:—

"London has become the centre of the civilised world, and every one gravitates there; and as it is the fashion to know every one and go everywhere, the struggle to accomplish this feat inevitably expands society. People have not the leisure to see their friends in a quiet simple way as formerly, where real intellectual pleasure was always to be found in a certain number of small coteries which existed. Life is too full and too busy, and any one with any pretence to social smartness finds his engagement so numerous that

his only way of seeing acquaintances is by inviting them to the house, where, packed together in a hot room much too small for half their number, a surging crowd of people comprised of the most opposite elements rub against each other, and try to find enjoyment in the fact that they are in a room with a large number of people more or less interesting and distinguished, none of whom they know by sight, and in whose existence they never interested themselves till it became the fashion to invite the lions and make them roar."

THE RUSH FOR PLEASURE.

The search for material pleasure, for show and ostentation, has corrupted society. We are under the rule of the rich; and refinement, simplicity, elegance, are disappearing:—

"Luxury, ease, comfort, are the watchwords of a large part of society in London, and they are undermining our society as surely and as certainly as they did that of ancient Rome. We have grown very rich, and we have a large leisured class whose only aim and occupation is amusement; and where such exists it must demoralise and relax all social restraints. Men and women who only live for pleasure, and who have no sense of the obligations of life and its duties, are becoming the parents of the young England around us, and to a serious degree the example of their lives is being impressed on the boys and girls who are their children, and who ought to carry on the traditions of which we in all time have been so proud."

SOCIETY SCANDALS.

The effect is worse for the girls than the boys. The latter are still exposed to the rough-and-tumble of English public schools, to the severe competition of public life and professions; and so they can resist, to some extent, the enervating influences of our drawing-rooms. But society in its tone and composition is created by women, and as women are virtuous or the reverse so is their *entourage*:—

"It would be idle to deny that recent scandals in London society which have been the talk of the world, and the existence of which surprised and shocked the moral sense of England, are only the outcome and logical result of the easy-going manner in which women of the highest rank and culture have allowed the old-fashioned rules and restraints which governed society to be relaxed. The decay of these restraints has been in many ways almost imperceptible; but the spirit of freedom and liberalism in every matter of life, whether social, political, or religious, has impregnated every condition of life and has gradually swept away the reserve and illusions of our forefathers."

THE EMANCIPATED MAIDEN.

All this tells badly on the unmarried maidens, who are as different from their grandmothers as light from darkness:—

"The young lady of to-day reads the newspapers, what books she chooses, and discusses with equal frankness the last scandal and the latest French mode; she rides in the park unattended by a groom, but always with a cavalier; she drives unattended in hansoms; she dances with partners who do not care to be presented to her mother, and she leaves her chaperon, not to dance, with the real enjoyment of girlhood, but to retire to some leafy corner of the ball-room where she can, to use the modern phrase, 'sit out,' instead of dancing. She spends her own money and dresses as she likes, and more often than not spends more than she can afford. Her stay in London is one round of pleasure from morning to night, varied during the autumn and winter by country visits which are only a repetition of London on a small scale."

THE CANKER OF LUXURY.

It is the growth and supremacy of wealth, to which we come back as the worst outcome, if not the source, of the mischief. Money rules in society; without it you cannot be "smart." The plutocrats have dethroned the aristocrats:—

"To their houses flock princes and princesses and the acknowledged leaders of what was once, and that not long ago, the most exclusive society in Europe. The atmosphere heavy with the perfume of flowers; the spoils of the Riviera; the bewitching sounds of the voice of the last fashionable prima donna, brought there at a fabulous price; the delicacies of the supper-room, and the banquet with its priceless wines—are the temptations which the crowd of magnificently dressed and beautiful women and blase men cannot resist, and such is the nightly spectacle offered to any observer of what we term the 'smart set' of London society."

Nor does Lady Jeune see much sign of improvement, though she admits that the mass of English people are still sound. But as for "society," it is quite likely to go from bad to worse:—

"The 'smart set' will follow its natural inclination, which has for its object the gratification of every pleasure and whim which are the fashions of the moment. The other, with certain ideals of duty, will, as now, endeavour to realise the responsibilities these impose, and, being composed of the strength and backbone of the country, will always be the power to adjust the baneful influence of its competitor. Fortunately for England, the mass—and the most important mass—of opinion will be on the side of the latter; but, unfortunately, owing to the glamour shed over the former by the rank and position of its leaders, it will always be the smarter, and therefore the fashionable, set."—*The Overland Mail*, May, 20, 1892.

"THE WORLD'S DESIRE."—THE NUDE IN ART.

At Bow-street Police-court on April 27, Mr. Vaughan was called upon to decide a case in which, on the information of Mr. Edward James Cox, Oxford-terrace, Islington, Mr. Rudolph Blind, artist, exhibitor, and proprietor of a painting entitled "The World's Desire," was called upon to show cause why the picture should not be held to be obscene and indecent and ordered to be seized and destroyed. The case was before Mr. Vaughan in a preliminary stage three weeks ago and adjourned till April 27, when great interest was manifested in the proceedings. Mr. Blind voluntarily produced the picture—a very large canvas containing a study of the nude, with cupids around and a crowd of allegorical figures below—and it was placed in the court room for examination by the magistrate and reference by the several witnesses.

Mr. Keith Frith, instructed by Mr. Beale, appeared in support of the information; and Mr. Rose-Innes, instructed by Mr. Hugh Innes, defended. A large number of artists and critics, several of whom were called as witnesses for the defence, occupied seats in the court.

Mr. Keith Frith, in opening the case, said the question was whether Mr. Blind, in painting an undoubtedly beautiful picture, had produced one which was obscene within the meaning of the 20th and 21st Victoria, cap. 83, section 1. Mr. Blind admitted that he was the artist, and that it was on exhibition at 391, Strand. Posters calling attention to it used the quotation "naked and not ashamed," and handbills which were distributed spoke of it as an unusually large and important picture, representing the adoration of the ideal female nude, and pronounced by all who had visited the gallery to be "a triumph of poetic inspiration and glowing colour." He did not think this was an exaggerated view, but the picture was not less but rather more obscene by reason of that, because it became more attractive and alluring to the youth of both sexes. He admitted that there had been a desire on the part of Mr. Rudolph Blind to meet the prosecution in the most frank and honourable way.

Mr. E. J. Cox was then called for the prosecution, and stated that, passing along the Strand, he had been induced to pay for admission to see the picture "The World's Desire." In consequence of what he noticed in regard to the picture he thought it to be his duty to take criminal proceedings.

Cross-examined by Mr. Rose-Innes, witness said he had never been out of England, and had no special knowledge of art. He hardly knew whether he had been to the Royal Academy, but had been to the National Gallery, where he had not seen anything to shock his sense of the moral. He was merely tempted by curiosity and the accident of being in the Strand to see "The World's Desire." It was the words on the placard, "Naked and not ashamed," that really tempted him. He saw no boys or girls at the exhibition, but he asked the attendant whether he allowed young people and females to see the painting, and the reply was "Oh, yes; why not?" Witness said he should not like his daughter to see it. The conclusion he came to was that the picture was indecent and obscene.

Mr. John Campbell de Morgan, engineer, Claverton-street corroborated. He said that he had acted as journalist in various parts of the world. He saw the painting, and afterwards put himself in communication with the prosecutor in consequence.

By the Bench: I saw that it was a highly suggestive picture to young minds.

Cross-examined: To a person of mature years and who understood art it was not perhaps suggestive.

Mr. Alfred Drew, 17, Ilbert-street, said he had taken photographs of the painting in March, 1891.

Mr. Rose-Innes said he should object at the proper time to the production of the photograph. The picture was there to speak for itself.

This closed the case for the prosecution.

Mr. Rose-Innes, while deeming it part of his duty to object to the framing of the information as not in accordance with the statute on which the prosecution was founded, said that his client, who was an artist and worthy of the encomiums passed upon him, did not want the case decided on that ground alone.

The Magistrate: Does the defendant propose to continue the exhibition?

Mr. Rose-Innes: Oh: certainly. We do not wish it to go forth to the world that we are unwilling to fight the case on its merits. Continuing, he said he proposed to call Royal Academicians, journalists, and critics skilled in art, who would say that in no sense could the painting be said to be an indecent picture, and the only evidence against the view he should bring out was that of Mr. Cox, whose sense of propriety was shocked, and an engineer, who confessed that the picture would not pruriently affect the minds of people of mature years.

At this stage the painting was uncovered for inspection by Mr. Vaughan. The first witness called for the defence was Mr. Frederick Goodall, R. A., who said he had been acquainted with art

all his life, and was familiar with pictures, not only in this country but in European galleries. He had visited nearly all the galleries abroad. Having had an opportunity of examining the picture of Mr. Rudolph Blind he was called for the special purpose of saying whether he felt that it was indecent, or in any other way offensive. He did not think it was any more than he should think so of many pictures in the National Gallery. It was meant, he supposed, to be a copy of the human figure.

The Magistrate: Supposing, instead of exhibiting a copy of the human form, you exhibited the woman herself, would you consider that indecent?

Witness: Of course, it makes a difference when you exhibit actual living flesh.

Can you point out to me any difference in the effect that would be produced in the minds of people in seeing this picture as compared with the sight of a naked human being?—I should say that the difference is this: In nature you never find a perfectly formed figure. You have to take many figures in order to produce a perfect form. That is one argument I should use. This picture is supposed to represent an ideal figure. I should look at all the finest works of the old masters as idealized figures, which you rarely find in nature. If you have a photograph from the nude the proportions are always wrong.

Here in this case a person goes and sees this picture by itself. He contemplates only one picture; does not that make a difference?—I think the mind is concentrated on a beautiful work of art.

Is this picture suggestive to a prurient imagination?—There are certain minds that would find offence in the most beautiful works of Greek sculpture and others would be offended by a portion of the human figure being shown.

Do you not make a difference between a picture that is coloured and a sculpture that is not coloured?—Perhaps so, but I am not thinking of this picture on its artistic merits—merely whether I consider it decent or indecent. It is a strange and original treatment of the subject.

Cross-examined: I am not a member of the Hanging Committee of the Academy this year.

Have you ever seen a painting of the nude with the shading of the figure as it is in this picture at the Royal Academy?—On one occasion I have.

Would you approve of this at the Royal Academy?—No, but you are asking me unfairly. It is very likely that the picture would have to pass the opinion of twelve artists, who would think it—

Mr. Rose-Innes: Indecent?

Witness (empathically): No; they might think it was not up to the mark in standard of excellence, but nothing more.

But it is a beautifully painted picture, is it not?—I am not asked here to answer that.

With one exception, have you ever seen any picture of the nude on the walls of the Royal Academy?—Oh! yes. This year you will find a perfectly nude figure—two or three perfectly nude figures—and I have had them there myself. For some years I have been a painter of the nude. I mention Gerôme, who exhibited a picture as naked as that (pointing to the painting) on the walls of the Academy.

Mr. H. Stacey Marks, R. A., said he was also a member of the Royal Water Colour Society. He had had an opportunity of critically examining this picture, and as an artist of many years standing he had formed an opinion of it.

Speaking from an artistic point of view, do you consider it indecent?—I can't conceive of anybody looking at it in that light at all. Certainly not.

And I presume you speak from many years' experience of the artistic profession?—Yes, I have been more than forty years at it.

The picture behind you represents an allegorical subject?—Yes.

The Magistrate: What is the subject?

Mr. Rose-Innes: The subject of the painting is that of the ideal woman, unveiled by Love, and yet unconscious of her sway, receiving the adoration of worshippers. (Examination continued.) As an artist can you say that there is anything of a suggestive or improper character in this picture?—Certainly not.

Cross-examined: Drapery is sometimes used in a study of the nude, but it is also usual to have no drapery whatever.

Have you ever seen a picture exhibited at the Royal Academy with the same characteristics of shadow as this?—Yes, I have. It is the same picture as that referred to by Mr. Goodall. It was hung on the line in the lecture-room, in, I believe, the year 1872. Since then there have been several nude figures.

The Magistrate: Is this picture calculated to refine or rather to corrupt the minds of people?—I cannot say that it is calculated to corrupt.

Would it refine?—I have very little faith in the refinement of the masses; but I can see no more harm in that picture than in the Venus de Medici or Gibson's tinted Venus.

The Magistrate: You are speaking of sculpture?

Witness: Or of Rubens's "Judgment of Paris."

Mr. Louis Falero, next called, said he was an artist and painter of the nude, who had exhibited at the Royal Academy, the Salvo

at Paris, and other places. He had inspected and examined this picture called "The World's Desire," and would describe the subject matter as an ideal one. The picture was, in his opinion, painted in accordance with the conditions of the representation of the nude, and he did not find sufficient realism in the representation of the flesh to make it obscene. Witness was known as a painter of the nude, and had exhibited a great number of pictures of the nude.

How would you distinguish between that picture and one that was distinctly obscene?—In one that is obscene we have most wretched reality. We must do something more than represent flesh in a conventional manner, and must especially make the subject realistic. This picture is not realistic. This woman has never existed, in my mind. This does not represent any thing of the real actual life. What I would consider obscene and indecent is a naked woman which represents an undressed woman, and there can be made a distinction between a nude figure and an undressed figure. They are two very different things. This (the painting) is the artistic nude. I am Spanish, and in Madrid we have a number of the most beautiful works of Titian and Rubens in the nude.

Cross-examined: As a matter of fact, have you ever seen in a gallery in Europe any picture where the shading of the figure was so marked as that?—I beg your pardon; yes, In the Universal Exhibition of Paris in 1889.

In this country have you?—No; in this country there is still much to be learned. (Laughter.) But in the Universal Exhibition at Paris, where all nations were represented by their greatest masters, in the Belgian section, the directors of the National Gallery, Brussels, and President of the Academy of Brussels sent a study of a woman just coming out of the sea from bathing. The figure was painted absolutely as we paint our studies in our studios—that is to say, absolutely true. I have had lately, at the Institute of Oil Colours, a siren lying on the rocks, absolutely as nude as that (pointing to the painting), and the same picture I am sending to other exhibitions.

Mr. David Christie Murray, novelist and dramatist, said he had had an opportunity of examining this picture and was familiar with the painter's art.

Do you see anything improper about that picture?—I see a wilderness of dirt in the minds of the people who think it improper, but not a sign of the improper in the picture itself. Only a prurient mind could see anything obscene in it.

Mr. John McWhirter, A.R.A., said he had studied from the nude as a student, though now a landscape painter. Having seen the painting he would not describe it as an obscene picture.

Mr. Ford Madox Brown said he had studied art for nearly sixty years, and was a figure painter—that was to say he had studied from the nude. He had seen the picture "The World's Desire."

Would you describe it as a work of art?—I think so if I know the use of the English words.

And as an ideal picture?—Yes; I think so.

I presume you would not describe it as obscene?—No. I certainly should not.

By the Bench: The nude in art is not indecent?—It is the intention of the painter which decides it.

But how is the intention of the painter to operate on the minds of those who see the picture?—I cannot answer that, but I can understand that if the intention is indecent, then the picture is indecent. All that I know is that mere nudity is not indecent.

The Magistrate: The artist might not intend to be indecent, but the impression on the minds of others might be one of indecency?—I can't help that. If nudity is indecent, we should have to destroy two-thirds of the Greek statues in Europe and the greatest treasures of the world. (Applause, suppressed.)

Miss Lockhart Wilson, art critic; Mr. Malcolm C. Salaman, art critic; and Mr. Williamson, journalist, were also called for the defence.

Mr. Vaughan, in deciding the case, said: This summons was the result of an individual passing along the Strand, and seeing this picture exhibited; and, certainly, when I came to see it for the first time to-day, I was very much inclined to the opinion that, having regard to the purity of the morals of the young, it is a picture that ought not to be exhibited. That opinion, of course, is only an individual opinion, and it is one which is very liable to be counteracted and overborne by evidence, and evidence of the character which has been brought before me to-day. I certainly was of opinion that a picture of this description exhibited by itself did not bear the same relation to pictures of the same class exhibited among others in a public gallery. But the evidence that has been brought before me undoubtedly shows that in the estimation and judgment of men of great distinction in the arts this picture is not one that is exposed to the criticism that has been passed upon it. I certainly must say this, that whatever my own judgment may be, I am satisfied that if this case went before a jury with the wealth of evidence that has been tendered to-day, no jury would convict the defendant of exhibiting a picture obscene and indecent. That being so, it would be highly improper of me to dispose of this case, except in one manner, and that of dismissing the summons.

The decision of the Bench was received with applause.

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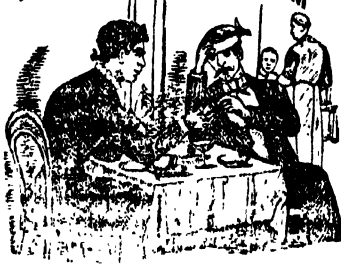
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Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 1892.

No. 529

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

THE RETURNED WANDERER.

Are these the hills I trod of yore ?
Is this my own blue Tweed ?
You trees did I erewhile explore,
To take the brown hawk's breed ?
Can this green nook be that whereon
I sported when a boy,
And dreamt, as youth may dream alone,
That life was one long joy ?
Absent long, long I now have been
From this my native soil,
And much of danger have I seen,
And much have borne of toil ;
For school-boy games of mimic war,
That pleased when life was new,
The stern reality afar
Hath met and chill'd my view,
How alter'd all these scenes of youth
To my old fancy seem !
To view this spot is as, in truth,
To waken from a dream.
The change is not what man could bring—
Few landmarks are removed,—
But yet, how different from the thing
That I so long have loved !
Of late I thought the day too brief,
To climb the Venlaw hill,
And pluck wild berries when the leaf
Had felt the Autumn's chill.
Hard-won my prize appear'd to be,
With that high peak my goal ;
Seen now, old Venlaw seems to me
A burrow for a mole !
Well love I still my native Tweed,
The theme and haunt of song,
And through full many a lovely mead,
I know she winds along ;
But I have view'd since my young years,
Broad prairies, giant streams,
And ah, how petty now appears
This river of my dreams !
Through the broad forests of the West
My foot hath found a path,
Where the huge pine uplifts a crest
That mocks the tempest's wrath.
And now, as Tweed hath dwindled down
To rank among the rills,
So shrunken seem those firs which crown
My own old olive hills.
A mighty change there seems ; but not
In nature may it be ;

Unalter'd is this well-loved spot—

The change is all in me,
And oft 'tis thus when man implies
Some turn for ill or good ;

The change lies still but in the eyes,
With which the chance is view'd.

Edinburgh, Sept. 1841.

T. S.

WEEKLYANA.

HER Majesty has approved of the appointment of Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick as Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab and its Dependencies.

THE Bengal Government very properly thus notice the death of Mr. C. F. Worsley :—

"The 7th June 1892.—For a second time within little more than a month, and for a third time within little more than a year, the Lieutenant-Governor has to deplore the death of one of the most experienced and valued officers of the Government. Mr. Charles Fortescue Worsley, who died at Bankipore on the 7th June 1892, of remittent fever, entered the Indian Civil Service in 1861, and for 25 years his name is associated with useful and indefatigable district work in the Province of Bihar. For nine years he was Magistrate and Collector of Muzaffarpur. As additional Commissioner at Patna, and as Commissioner of Orissa and Dacca, he enhanced the high reputation he had already won. A fortnight only has elapsed since he was appointed to be Commissioner of the Patna Division. His death is a heavy loss to the Administration, and will be grievously felt by his many friends, as well as by the people of the country, to whom he had endeared himself by his kindness and sympathy.

H. J. S. COTTON,
Offg. Chief Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal."

THE Lieutenant-Governor starts on his next short tour on the 30th June. Leaving Darjeeling on that day, Sir Charles Elliott arrives at Calcutta the next day, Friday, the 1st July at 10-40 hours (railway time) and leaves it on Sunday following at 22 hours. After visiting Raniganj, Bankura, Adra, Purulia, Chakardharpur, Chaibassa, Baidyanath, Madhupur, and Jamtara, he will be back to Calcutta on Thursday the 14th July arriving at Howrah at 5 45.

The departure from Darjeeling and departure from and arrival at Calcutta on the 1st, 3rd and 14th July will be private.

The Lieutenant-Governor will be accompanied throughout by Captain Currie, Private Secretary, and from Purulia to the end of the tour by the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

At Raniganj, the Governor will be met by the Commissioner of Burdwan and the Collector of Bankura ; by the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum at the border of his district, by the Deputy Commissioner of Singhbhum at Chakardharpur ; and by the Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Parganas at Baidyanath.

THE confiscated estate of Porahat, hitherto under the administration of the Deputy Commissioner of the Singhbhum District, has, under orders of the Governor-General in Council, been transferred to the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

MR. C. E. Buckland has chosen temporarily, for two months and eighteen days, commencing from 7th July, to keep himself away from the Secretariat. The Under-Secretary, Mr. W. Maude, will, in the interim, act the Secretary to the Bengal Government in the General, Revenue and Statistical Departments.

WHEN Mr. C. C. Stevens goes on leave, Mr. W. Kemble will act for him as Member of the Board of Revenue, and Mr. J. A. Hopkins, now acting temporarily as Commissioner of Patna, will be the Opium Agent, Behar.

MR. C. W. Bolton, Secretary to the Board of Revenue, goes on three months' leave from the 28th June, being relieved by Mr. J. A. Bourdillon, Mr. A. Earle acting for Mr. Bourdillon as Magistrate and Collector of Saran.

NAWAB Syud Ameer Hossein will be on leave during July. Khan Bahadur Abdul Jubbar, from the 24 Perganas, as on former occasions, will officiate as the second Stipendiary Magistrate of Calcutta.

MR. J. C. Veasey, Officiating Commissioner and Superintendent of the Tributary Mahals, Orissa, has obtained furlough for one year from the 17th July next.

PART IX of the Bengal Municipal Act (III of 1884) relating to the Construction and Cleansing of Latrines, has been sanctioned for certain wards of the Krishnaghur Municipality. Santipore equally needs this sanitary improvement. It is not enough, though, that the measure be introduced. An attempt ought to be made to have neat (not unsightly) and sanitary structures for the necessary purpose. It is time also that trenching grounds should be improved.

IN the defamation case against the *Banganibasi*, Mr. Justice Trevelyan has assessed the damages at Rs. 3,000. The claim was for one lac, the defendant Mahes Chunder Pal had offered Rs. 2,500 and the Counsel for the plaintiff Kadumbini had suggested Rs. 5,000. The order of the Court runs thus:—

"This was a suit for damages for a libel of a very gross character against a lady of some distinction in this city. The suit was withdrawn against every body on a complete and proper apology appearing. The defendant seems to have made an apology at an earlier date also. I am now asked to assess the damages, but I have had a good deal of difficulty about it. I am not, I think, doing wrong if I am guided by the many cases of this nature which have been tried in this Court for some time past. In the case of *Piggott vs. Hastie* the libel there was of the same description. The libel in that case was continued though here an apology has been made. In that matter Garth, C. J., and Wilson, J., who heard the case in appeal, gave Rs. 3,000 as damages. I have looked into this case, and I shall not go far wrong if I assess the damages at Rs. 3,000 with costs on scale No 2. The decree will recite the undertaking of counsel to publish the apology in the *Banganibasi* and in the *Dumuk*."

In the case referred to in the order, Mr. Justice Norris in the lower Court had fixed the damages at one anna, and the defendant had not been in jail for the same offence.

THERE was a prosecution for personation at the last Municipal Elections. The Deputy Magistrate Khan Bahadur Abdul Jubbar of Alipore who tried the case has recorded the following order:—

"This is a prosecution under Rule 20 A of the rules passed by the Government of Bengal under Section 19, Act II, (B.C) of 1888. It appears that on the 15th March last there was an election of Commissioners for the town of Calcutta, and Mr. Lloyd presided as polling officer of Ward No. 21. There were five candidates for this ward; and when voter No. 185 came before the polling officer to give his vote for one of the candidates, Sheikh Bechoo, Mr. Collins, and another candidate objected to the voter on the ground that the man who appeared to vote was not the registered voter under the number quoted above, viz., Meer Hossein. Mr. Lloyd noted on the back of the voting form the objection as well as the identification of the voter by Sheikh Bechoo and Baboo Preonath Mullick, and allowed the voting. On the 6th day, after the vote had been recorded, that is to say on the 21st March, the Chairman made an enquiry into the objection, and passed an order for the prosecution of the accused Nubby. The charge against him is that he signed and gave to the polling officer the name of the registered voter No. 185. The question is whether the accused appeared at the polling station and gave his name as Meer Hossein. The defence is that Meer Hossein himself was present at the polling station, and gave his vote for Sheikh Bechoo. The evidence on this point is conflicting. On one side it is said that the accused personated Meer Hossein, while on the other the witnesses stated that Meer Hossein himself and not the accused was the actual voter on the occasion. I have carefully considered the

evidence adduced both on behalf of the prosecution and for the defence, and must confess that my task was somewhat difficult. On one side there was Mr. Collins' assertion that the accused had appeared before the polling officer and given his name as Meer Hossein; while on the other hand Baboo Preonath Mullick flatly denied that the accused had voted, and both the gentlemen are deserving of credence. I had not the same difficulty in sifting the testimony of the other witnesses in the case, whether for the prosecution or for the defence; but it is not easy to say that either Mr. Collins has given false evidence or that Baboo Preonath Mullick has wilfully misrepresented a fact. Taking, however, the circumstances of the case into consideration, I come to the conclusion that in this case the testimony of Mr. Collins is deserving of more weight. There is no reason whatever that he should perjure himself to get into trouble a poor man like the accused, nor is it possible that he should join in a conspiracy to injure Sheikh Bechoo or Baboo Preonath Mullick. If the prosecution had been the result of any such conspiracy, it would have been unlikely that a man, who is said to be related to Meer Hossein, who was the last person to help the prosecution, would be the one to be made the cat's paw. The offence was punishable with fine only, and they would, if their object was simply to injure others and not the accused, have charged a man who would assist the prosecution by a defence that would implicate them. Baboo Preonath Mullick was not personally interested in the election of the candidates for Ward No. 21, and my impression is that he was induced to believe that the party who voted in the place of Meer Hossein was Meer Hossein himself. If actually Meer Hossein and not the accused had voted, the former would have most naturally been present at the investigation undertaken by the Chairman only six days after the election. It seems to me that Meer Hossein's advisers kept him out of the way in order to make the identification of the accused most difficult at a distant time. The summons had been taken out on the 5th March, but the accused did not surrender before the 30th May. If the accused had been innocent of the charge, his brother Meer Hossein would send notice to him of the summons, and at once try to get him back from his country. Why should full ten weeks be allowed to elapse between the institution of the suit and the accused's surrender. The object of his friends was to make his identification more difficult by lapse of time. The sentence of the Court is that the accused be fined Rs. 50, or in default one month's simple imprisonment."

An application was made for processes against Baboo Preonath Mullick and Sheikh Bechoo for abetment which the Deputy Saheb refused.

THE Lieutenant-Governor is unable to accede to the application of the Calcutta Charities for relief from municipal taxation. Mr. Risley, Secretary to the Bengal Government, writes, under date Darjeeling the 6th June, to the Secretary to the District Charitable Society:—

"Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 311, dated 22nd May, 1891, forwarding a memorial, dated 28th April, 1891, from the Managers of certain Charitable Institutions in Calcutta, in which they ask that the Calcutta Municipal Consolidation Act (II. of 1888) be amended so as to relieve such Institutions, wholly or partially, from the rates which they now pay under the Act.

2. In reply, I am directed to say that Sir Charles Elliott, who has consulted the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation in the matter, sympathizes with the object of the memorialists, but regrets that the law, as it now stands, offers no means of complying with their request. It is not open to the Commissioners to take action under section 122 in the manner suggested in the memorial, nor do the other sections of the Act quoted by you appear to be applicable. As regards the proposal to amend the law so as to exempt public charities from the payment of rates, I am directed to say that the Lieutenant-Governor is unwilling to adopt such a course for the sake of a single provision, and would prefer to postpone the consideration of this proposal until a more general revision of the Act becomes necessary."

WE take the following from the *Effective Advertiser*:—

"The late James T. Fields possessed a remarkable memory. Several years ago a gentleman, thinking to puzzle him at a dinner party, informed the guests prior to Mr. Fields' arrival that he had himself written some poetry, and intended to submit it to Mr. Fields as Southey's, and inquire in which of his poems the lines occurred. At the proper moment, therefore, after the guests were seated, he began—'Friend Fields, I have been a good deal exercised of late trying to find in Southey's poems his well-known lines running thus—can you tell us about what time he wrote them?' 'I do not remember to have met with them before,' replied Mr. Fields, 'and there are only two periods in Southey's life when such lines could possibly have been written by him.' When were those?' gleefully asked the questioner. 'Somewhere,' said Mr. Fields, 'about that early period of his existence when he was having the measles and cutting his first teeth; or near the close of his life, when his brain had softened and he had fallen into idiocy. The versification belongs to the measles period, but the expression evidently betrays the idiotic one.'"

MR. Sala lately wrote:—

"There ought to be a weekly paper called the *Ignoramus*—or perhaps the *Dunce* would be as appropriate a title—and for a consideration I would very willingly edit it. One half of the periodical should be devoted to frank confession of entire ignorance on all kinds of subjects from all kinds of people. In the remaining section, outside correspondents who were not ignoramuses might crack the nuts propounded by the dunces in the preceding

number of the paper. For example, I read in the *London Gazette* that the Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Tamiz-ud-din Ahmed to be Her Majesty's Consul at Hodeida and Camazan. I own, without the slightest shame, that I have not the remotest idea as to where Hodeida and Camazan may be. Again, the other day, in the Commons, Sir John Gorst, in answer to Mr. Lawrence, said that an arrangement had been made with the Jebus to abstain from levying tolls on travellers in consideration of a yearly present of £500; but that the Jebus had broken their agreement, and that an officer sent to remonstrate with them had not been allowed to proceed to Jebu Ode. Who are the Jebus; and where is Jebu Ode? I don't know, and I dare say that many of my readers are in the same predicament with myself; but somebody must know, and were there such a journal as the *Ignoramus*, that somebody would come forward and enlighten our darkened minds."

The long established weekly named *Notes and Queries*, in part and incidentally, fulfils the functions of the journal facetiously proposed by Mr. Sala. In general, however, *Notes and Queries* has other and more important objects in view. With respect to Mr. Sala's proposition, seriously speaking it may be doubted whether people would be willing to confess their ignorance like him. Had men been ready to do so, there would not have been so much ignorance, even in the absence of confessional in the Press. That ignorance is vast and terrible, so little is accurately known in the commonest matters by even the best informed! The blundering of our public teachers, whether in Parliament or in the Press, is frightful. Some thirty years ago, the *Saturday Review* made habitual sport of the lapses in this respect of the *Times*, and latterly the pretension of the *Daily Telegraph* was exposed in the same style of felicitous fun. In Indian affairs, the *Spectator* sometimes set leading English politicians and publicists right! Just now the office of corrector seems to have devolved upon the *Overland Mail*, which is performing its part most satisfactorily.

ERRATA.—P. 279, col. 1, last but one line of the remarks on Mr. Hume, for fire, read fine,

P. 283, Col. 1, in the poetical quotation, for *Great* read *great* (.)

NOTES & LEADERETTES

with

OUR OWN NEWS.

EAST Africa is being improved—of its aborigines. It is reported that the German Commander in the Kilimanjaro District has ordered the British missionaries to leave Moshi territory, as he intends to exterminate the tribe there. A very Christian resolve certainly! The threat of extermination has, however, drawn a protest from Mr. Gerald Portal on behalf of the British Government.

THE Sanitary Conference at Venice has decided, that all vessels passing the Suez Canal are to be subjected to medical inspection. Infected vessels having no doctor on board or disinfecter will be stopped at Moses' Spring and the patients landed and housed in a special hospital. Other infected vessels must undergo quarantine from five to seven days.

ALL the European Powers except Russia have accepted America's invitation to the Monetary Conference.

THE Austrian Reichsrath or rather its Committee has accepted the gold standard clause in the Currency Bill.

NEGOTIATIONS for a reconciliation between the Emperor William and Prince Bismarck have not proved successful. The ex-Chancellor was to have started yesterday for Vienna to attend his son Herbert's marriage. A triumphal progress is being organized for Prince Bismarck all along the route from Berlin to Vienna.

THEY are preparing for the General elections in England, though the date is not yet announced. The Parnellites have issued a manifesto in which they declare war to the knife with the MacGarthyites with whom they had sought peace but who had declined the advance. Mr. Balfour has given the programme of his party—reform in registration, revision of ground rents, the freest municipal government for London,

Future legislation, according to him, will turn mainly on social questions. He is prepared to give Scotland the control of private bills necessary for the reform of the poor law system, and to extend land-ownership.

OWING to opposition on both sides of the House of Commons, the Indian Officers' Bill has been withdrawn.

THE New Oriental Bank has gone into liquidation with Mr. Welton as provisional liquidator. It is hoped that the Bank would be able to pay a dividend of fifteen shillings. At the previous suspension, they paid 20 shillings, in instalments.

THE Gackwar of Baroda has arrived in London.

LORD Roberts has no nonsense about him. And he has generally the courage of his convictions. Such a man ought to be above the vulgar pertinacity and persistence in error of what in India we may call Bazaar heroes. We are, therefore, glad to notice that the great Captain—one of the greatest of contemporary warriors—has just exhibited a rare openness of mind, in regard to one of his recommendations to the Home Authorities. In order to guard against frauds in enlistment, Lord Roberts lately proposed that every officer and man should, on entering the army, be tattooed. The Commander-in-Chief subsequently modified his opinion and thought that vaccination with lymph with some colouring matter would serve the same purpose. It is time, we should think, that tattooing should be abolished as barbarous. The second suggestion admits the undesirability of the first, but, we are afraid, does not improve the situation. The introduction of a colouring matter into the human system is assuredly not the same as its deposit in a non-human body. To say the least, it is unnatural. Who knows that in many cases it may not lead to unhappy physiological effects? To prevent a human fraud, there can be no justification for spoiling God's work and plan. Above all, why should men be marked like beasts that perish? It is against the dignity of man. We, for our part, protest against our rulers and defenders being tattooed like savages.

It seems difficult for the race of the Picts to forswear tattooing themselves. Many Britons, Southerners as well as Northerners, voluntarily mark themselves for the beauty or the fun of the thing. Our Royal Family are unfortunately partial to the practice. Let not our Commander-in-Chief cause a Revival of the old barbarism!

THE Bengal Government has recorded a resolution on the final report of the survey and settlement of the Dubalhati Estate in the district of Rajshahi. The survey by plane table was commenced in March 1888 and concluded in March 1890. The settlement proceedings lasted from November 1889 to August 1891. The new rent-rolls were finally published in 1890-91, taking effect from April 1892. The survey embraced 8 estates comprising 211 villages. The area surveyed and settled was 37,758 acres contained in 195 villages, and an area of 2,493 acres cadastrally surveyed at the request of the Raja, but found not to belong to him; a further area of 1,543 acres was demarcated, but subsequently excluded from survey on the joint application of the Raja and his tenants as they had made up their differences.

The cost of the survey and settlement is given at Rs. 37,449-3-4 or 13 annas 8 pie per acre for 37,758 acres surveyed and settled. It is explained that the cost of survey alone is less than 4 annas per acre, the excess being "due to extreme confusion into which rights and accounts had fallen, and the large number of disputes which had to be settled." The settlement officer decided 4,448 disputes in 3 years. The satisfaction to Government is that "Had these disputes been separately filed in a Munsif's Court, they would have taken longer, and have cost the litigants a larger sum."

Of the Rs. 37,449-3-4, the cost incurred, Rs. 18,921-12-8 is payable by the Raja and Rs. 13,501-12-8 by the rayyets and tenure-holders. The result of the settlement, says the Resolution, is an increase of rent from Rs. 68,127-14 to Rs. 86,295-1-2½ or 26·8 per cent. The resolution continues, "Thus a single year's increase in the rental, Rs. 18,167, has almost recouped to the estate the whole cost it has incurred in the settlement operations." Nor is that all. "This increase is entirely due to more accurate measurement,

there having been no increase in the rates. The average rent per acre is now Rs. 3-6-8, which is lower than the average rate found to exist in Muzaffarpur, Rs. 3-12. The Raj and the rayyets have therefore every reason to be satisfied." At the same time, however, "the Collector is requested to watch carefully the progress of affairs, and to take such measures as may occur to him to prevent any wrong-doing on the part of the Raj which may lead to new difficulties."

The origin of the survey is thus given in the Resolution:—

"The necessity for undertaking these operations arose from protracted disputes between the late Raja of Dubalhati and his tenants, which were likely to culminate in serious disturbances. They were in conflict on almost every question affecting the relation of landlord and tenant, and their respective rights in the land. They could not agree as to the rates of rent, or the standard of measurement, or the extent of occupancy rights. The rayyets were aggrieved by the levy of illegal cesses, and by the interference of the Raja with their marriage and social arrangements: the zamindari accounts were in a condition of chaos, and, in the uncertainty which existed as to legal rights, both sides were prepared to appeal to force. Fortunately, wiser counsels prevailed, and it was determined to resort to the provisions of the Tenancy Act. The preparation of an accurate record was, however, under these conditions, a work of extreme difficulty. In many cases a rayyet was entered as paying rent for land which he did not hold, while he was holding land for which he paid no rent. There was no record in the Raja's office of mutations of holdings or sub-divisions of tenures, and, as a consequence, in many villages, the names of rayyets and the amount of their rents did not correspond with the entries in the khatians. The rents shown in some of the road cess returns of 1872 of which copies were in existence were much less than those shown in the returns of 1880. The rayyets relied upon the former, and the zamindar upon the latter. As a consequence, it was necessary to ascertain not only the existing rents, but by whom they were to be paid; and even after the rates had been determined by compromise, it was still a difficult task to prepare the jamabandi."

Who, after all this, can question the merits of the survey? Its beauties are obvious—its blessings are manifold. Not only are the disputes between the landlord and the tenants ended, but it has added more than 26 per cent. to the rental of the estate. Here is an opportunity for those dullards, the Behar landlords, if they will only see it.

OUR old acquaintance H. A. D. has—come to the front again. We refer, of course, to the irrepressible oracle of universal law of the Bengal Civil Service who is now Magistrate of Mymensing. We all know that when Greek meet Greek then comes the tug of war. Such was the case in the circumstances under notice. Such a meeting of Greeks took place early in the year with the natural result—an encounter between a brace of Phillips, or, strictly speaking, a Phillips and a Phillip. Mr. H. A. D. Phillips has scarcely the reputation of being sober as a judge or judicial officer, and he has stumbled from the bench—on a Philip drunk of the Bengali species.

IN the course of his official tour in January last, Mr. Phillips one day sent on his servants, a cook and a clerk, and baggage before him to wait at a certain village, where he would come the following morning. While the men were at halt at the village market-place, a neighbouring petty landlord (Talukdar) who was one of the owners of the bazaar, by name Sarat Chunder Roy, in a jolly state came on a lark on the scene, and went in a mild Bengali way running amok. He began with asking the carter, probably with the offensive assumption of a rural magnate and, being apparently answered with the insolence of a little man carrying magisterial chattels and bearing the reflex importance of the head of the District, struck the man. He was reminded of the Power which the carter represented, but the Babu was in his imperial mood and answered the information with abusing the carter's employer— even the great magistrate Sahib Bahadoor himself. And then he proceeded to show his temper upon others, assaulting people at random. Mr. Phillips coming next day heard all this, with due exaggerations it may be presumed, and to crown the trial of his temper, found one of his boxes missing. He immediately opened a judicial inquiry, taking the depositions of his carter, his cook and his clerk. None of them, however, alleged any theft. Nevertheless, he issued a warrant for arresting the rowdy Talukdar and another for searching his house for the missing box. No longer jolly, our Talukdar was *non est*. Other evidence showed that the box in question had apparently dropped on the way before the cart reached the village of halt, four miles from it, and had been picked up by the local Chowkidar who gave information of it. Mr. Phillips having already issued his search warrant against the Talukdar for the

same box, now ordered the poor Chowkidar to be sent up as a thief. He freely used both barrels of his magisterial gun. His search warrant against the ill-fated Sarat Chunder Roy was executed two days after the recovery of the missing property. All the rigours of British Indian law were employed against the poor terrified man who hid himself for fear of meeting the British lion. He was denounced by proclamation and all his effects were attached. At length, however, a change came over the spirit of the Magistrate's dream. He saw the impropriety of being judge in his own cause, but without realising his proper course he made the case over to his Assistant, ignoring the jurisdiction of the officer in charge of the subdivision wherein the occurrence took place, and actually went the length of instructing his Assistant in his duty with respect to the case. The Assistant Magistrate said that the whole was a mere drunken freak without any trace of worse criminality, and let Sarat Chunder Roy off with a fine, but doubtless in deference to the honour and *zid* of his superior officer, assessed the fine at the enormous sum of Rs. 120.

A MORNING contemporary has, we see, been duped into publishing, under pretence of a news-letter, an impudent and stupid puff of a noted Brahmo Zemindar who, we should suspect, is not above the petty vanities of the secular world. The disguise adopted by the writer, to blind the public to his object and the real character of his communication, is flimsy to the last degree. After a slight allusion to the weather and a bare mention of the visit of an official of no great consequence, this not over scrupulous Special unblushingly plunges *in medias res* into a lamentation at the absence of his patron's name in the Birthday Honours List. Then, the mouth speaking out of the fulness of the heart, burdened with obligations in the past or looking out for favours in the future, he proceeds to recount the claims of his neglected hero. Talk of digression? Why this is the height of irrelevancy! For there is no excuse for a Khoolna "Our Own Correspondent" inflicting on the public a whole "news-letter" to the glorification of Raja Mohima Ranjan Roy, of Kakina, in the Rungpur District. Not even the pretence, we believe, of the possession of a single interest of any kind, in Khoolna or of a single acre on the banks of the Roopnaram by this Northern Zemindar. Of course, it goes without saying that the stinking grease of flattery is laid on with no sparing hand. Any self-respecting gentleman who might chance to be made the victim of such belauding, would, at the outset, cry Bus! For the operation is commenced with a shower of epithets. This esteemed nobleman, we are told,—no—we beg "Our Own Correspondent's" pardon—"this deservedly esteemed nobleman has never lost sight of the Gallic maxim,—'noblesse of bligé.'"

SUCH is the risk of venturing on foreign tongues in writing for the Press in India. Devils are devils all over the world, but the imps of the printing Pandemonium in this country, with their little English and absolutely no French and no Latin, prove, in spite of the best intentions, a trifle more diabolical than their brethren in other lands. We wonder what our friend Mahima will make of the Gallic maxim—"noblesse of bligé." We don't know whether the old reading of it would be thoroughly understood at the Kakina Durbar, with its expert Doctors and the most learned Doctor of all, the Dewan Govind Mohun Roy. Nor is a deficiency in French scholarship a reproach to any native Court. We fear this Correspondent's flight a mistake, with the attending risk of the object of all this scholarly attention suspecting a covert satire, if not a horrible abuse, in an unknown tongue.

A CLEARER and graver mistake is the writer's going into details. So long as he kept to vague generalities he was safe, but in an evil hour he descended to particulars. In proof of the greatness of his hero he mentions that he last year gave certain donations to the Calcutta Charities. He talks as if the metropolis must still be ringing with the noise of those benefactions. We hear no noise and remember no benefactions. And none of our friends can tell us of any. Altogether, the writer succeeds in making as poor a case as ever was made in such a case. We dare say, friend Mahima gives away some of his money in charity and to public works, like many another Zemindar. The Collector would scarcely allow him peace if he did not spend part of his wealth usefully. Yes, the Collector! If he wants more titles, let him apply to the Collector, and tell us what he says. We will then help him to the best of our advice. This sort of puffing in the papers makes a fool of a respectable man, and a notorious ass of a fool.

THE higher judicial appointments, under the Government of India, are understood to be, in some sense, in the gift of the Honorable the Law Member of Council. The Resolution of the Government of India on the Public Service Commission, also gives Sir Alexander Miller an additional patronage. It is, therefore, natural that men who are in the running for higher judicial appointments should endeavour to keep well with such a high functionary. To be regarded by him as sensible at least in any matter, whether law or lunacy, is one point gained. If you have not the pretensions of a lawyer—either of the sound or of the unsound kind—you may still be a legislator or a political factor or any thing else, to entitle you to smuggle yourself into his good graces. A delightful road to higher judicial appointments!

The speech of the Hon'ble J. L. Mackay at the inauguration of the Indian Currency Association, Simla, which the *Englishman* has had the enterprise to have telegraphed entire, is an important manifesto. Mr. Mackay is known for a man of ability. He rose with the occasion and spoke well, and with the authority and weight that belongs to a successful and leading merchant, having taken the precaution of previously tendering his resignation as President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. One part of Mr. Mackay's utterance, whatever may be thought of it in England, cannot fail to excite derision in India, specially at Calcutta. Speaking of the support which the scheme of the Indian Currency Association was likely to receive, Mr. Mackay said that he had "telegrams and letters volunteering support." He could not, however, "refrain from mentioning that the Central National Mahomedan Association, through Nawab Syed Ameer Hossain and * * * are those who warmly approve of the movement." Now, in the name of goodness, what has the Central National Mahomedan Association or any other Mahomedan society to do with the business? Finance is not the Mahomedan's strong point. During all the six hundred years of Mahomedan rule in India, the Chancellors of the Exchequer were invariably Hindus. Such is the rule to this day in the Native States. In private life, the Mahomedan noble or merchant depends upon his Hindu Dewan. And Currency is one of the most abstruse subjects in Finance. Is there any Mahomedan who understands it? Does the President or the Vice-President or the Secretary, or any other officer of this, that, or any other Mahomedan Association understand its alphabet? On public grounds, we condemn the practice of public bodies, or such of those which are called so either by courtesy or reputation, trafficking in this way for purposes about which there can be no mistake. What conceivable interest the Central National Mahomedan Association has to support a scheme by which "the present silver currency shall have a gold standard of value, so that when we meet our old friend the rupee, be it in China, America, England or India, we know exactly what it is worth in gold," we hopelessly fail to understand. This time the Central National Mahomedan Association, ostensibly representing the sixty millions of Indian Mussulmans, has dropped its sixty tails and the princely head too. But its Secretary, the new Nawab, could not help all the same, "volunteering" support. To be sure, the temptation was too great for him to lose this opportunity. We object to the British public and Parliament being told that the movement of the Indian Currency Association has the sympathy and support of the sixty millions or even sixty of Indian Mussulmans. Whoever may be benefited by this new movement, it is by no means calculated to promote the interests the Indian Mussulmans are supposed to have in the European, American or Australian market.

HAVING apparently exhausted itself in a long course of exaggeration, in the constant publication of sensational accounts of oppressions, official or other, the *Indian Mirror* has taken to absolute manufacture of grievances. Witness the following in its issue of the 11th instant:—

"The *New Star* says:—'In broad day light, at 1 P.M., yesterday, the 5th instant, Babu Nanda Lal Sen, a Clerk of the Bank of Bengal, while on his way to Thunthunia, was confronted, just where Sunker Ghose's Lane meets Cornwallis Street, by four or five *budmashes*, who demanded the surrender of his purse, when one of them at the same time inflicted an effective blow on his face which stunned and felled him on the ground. Whereupon they rifled his person; and although a small crowd had gathered together, in the meanwhile, they effected their escape without any opposition whatever. Babu Nanda Lal soon however recovered the power of senses, stood up, and observed the miscreants escaping. He says he will be able to recognise, at least one of the *budmashes*, if he could be produced before him. Another day light robbery took place on the same spot a few months ago in which Babu Gopi Nath Sen, a respectable *employé* of the office of

the Clerk of the Crown was the victim. He too had been taken by surprise by a severe blow inflicted on his face, and his person was rifled. And it is scarcely now four months since a terrible assault was committed almost on the same spot by a *gunda* upon the person of a young man who had been remonstrating with a Police Constable as the latter had been dragging away an innocent man on the false plea of drunkenness. These instances of lawlessness, to which we would draw the attention of Mr Lambert, go to show that the Calcutta Police is not worth the enormous expenditure of six and a half lacs of Rupees spent annually for its maintenance."

The above has a questionable, almost apocryphal, look. "The *New Star* says." But what, and where, is the *New Star*? From the text professedly quoted, it would seem to be a Calcutta publication, but it is unknown to fame, unless among that particular part of the community which knows the Royal Society of India, and is edified by Dey literature and is charmed by the eloquence of Fakir Rajendra Nath Dutt. We never saw the "star," nor heard of it. Inquiry, however, has discovered it shedding its feeble light from the house of our old friend Baboo Umesh Chunder Mitter, in Shamponker. But the *New Star* knows nothing of the matter. The paragraph attributed by the *Indian Mirror* to the *New Star* did not appear in any of the few issues it has published to this day. Nor does the *New Star* know anything of the matters related in the paragraph.

If "The *New Star*" is a misprint of the *Mirror's*, the source of the paragraph has not yet been ascertained.

Supposing the news dropped from the sky—from a veritable *New Star*, or old, in the firmament—inquiry was directed to the scene of the occurrence related. For, the account is circumstantial and the circumstances are serious. One of the principal public thoroughfares of the metropolis, in a quiet neighbourhood, is represented as given up to highwaymen and ruffians. The inhabitants of the quarter are not, however, aware of any such change having overtaken their neighbourhood. It is as peaceful as ever. No attacks and no robberies have been known there. Finally, to probe the matter through, Nanda Lal Sen himself was found and he had not encountered any highwaymen or *budmashes* or roughs of any kind. His worst experience in that quarter was that one day as he was going with his son to buy his boy a pair of slippers, he saw a jolly neighbour in the street terrifying the poor Bengali passers-by pretending to be more drunk than he was. Being in a hurry and having his boy with him, he, Sen, tried to avoid him, and was buttonholed, but he easily extricated himself from the man's grip. That was all. There was no blow in the face or any other part, and no stunning nor prostration, any more than robbing or demand of purse. There was not more than one man who made himself rather disagreeable. The idea of robbery is absurd. The man is a well-known neighbour and, beyond taking a drop too much, is thoroughly respectable. Nobody in the neighbourhood would think of complaining against him to the Police.

Such is the premise on which the sage conclusion is drawn that the Police is no good. And such is the pass to which the Press has come!

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, June 18, 1892.

THE TANTALUS IN THE BRITISH SERVICE:

OR

THE MYSTERIES OF NATIVE EMPLOYMENT.

MR. Curzon's recent speech in Parliament regarding the employment of natives in the higher appointments hitherto held by the covenanted civilians, has once more revived the hopes of the members of the provincial service. But it is difficult to say now how far these hopes are well founded and reasonable, and, indeed, we are not sure whether one particle of these will be realised by the present generation of the unfortunate service. The ablest of the officers grovelling in the subordinate ranks have been repeatedly tantalised. Several times since Lord Lytton's creation of the Statutory Civil Service, have they been led to form legitimate expectations of an immediate betterment of their positions and

prospects, but all such expectations—the most modest of them—have vanished like vapours, and they have been bitterly disappointed. Not unpleasantly to them, occasionally, have their names appeared in the newspapers as the would-be candidates for high appointments or the favoured nominees on whom they would be conferred, but even this sort of business-like preliminary has served no purpose, except to ensure their being ridiculed and worried. Men who were fully qualified for such promotions as reward for good work, and who naturally cherished such hopes, have retired from the service with shattered health and broken hearts, and the few that are still left among the seniors have lost nearly all energy and ambition, and are only counting the days of their retirement. To three or four have sops of sorts been given, and they cannot but be thankfully satisfied on the maxim of "something is better than nothing."

The principle on which the Statutory Service was created and the qualifications which were prescribed and required for it, was never acted upon nor observed, and the deplorable inconsistency which marked the action of Government in this matter is marvellous. It is needless to dwell upon this point in detail, as they have more than once in so many words officially confessed their failure of judgment and forethought in this business, which was described as the failure of that service. Their selection of the first batch showed clearly what they were about, as one of their nominees could not pass the prescribed examination and was thrown out, and the other passed the examination after much difficulty in five years and was allowed so many chances in order to avoid another scandal. At the Public Service Commission the Statutory Service was in one voice condemned, and Government were obliged to admit that there were men in the Subordinate Executive Service who as good and capable officers were superior to many statutory men, and many who were equal to them in talent and ability. They could not deny this fact, because this result was obtained by the examination of the actual work of the men belonging to both the services, employed side by side under European officers of distinction and experience whose verdict could not be questioned. Although in name the Statutory Service is now dead and gone, among its present members also, only those few men seem to have made some mark who were at one time Deputy Magistrates, who entered it by different doors adopted at different times for its entrance. Among the rest there are men whose abilities and talents have been declared in many instances inferior to those of good Sub-Deputies.

It was said that Government wanted the double qualification of talent and family prestige. These were both available in the Subordinate Executive Service at that time with the addition of tried merit, ripe experience, and proved ability, but not a single appointment was given to the Mahomedan members of that service. Among them were men like Mirza Abdool Luteef Bahadar, Nizam Amir Ibrahim Khan Bahadar Abdul Jabbar. After these names there were such smart and approved officers as Moulvi Syed Mahamad and Moulvi Abu Khatir Mahamad Abdus Subhan and others, more or less qualified. Later on, also the same injustice was repeated with more severity and the Mahomedan members of the same service were openly insulted and indirectly discouraged, on the same wrong and unsustainable plea of individual talent and family

prestige. Men were indeed later on nominated (no Mahomedan having become successful in competition for the special years) from that community. Their two prominent qualifications were perhaps that they were Barristers-at-law (having had the good fortune of going to England,) and had probably held officiating appointments as Munsifs. Except these two, the general public were not aware of any other qualifications of this class of men who were forced into the Statutory Service. These were mere haphazard selections, and the appointments, if we are not incorrectly informed, came upon the recipients themselves as a surprise. We avoid personalities, but if we ask the Government about the family prestige of some of them and their attainments as scholars, they must blush, and we have authority to say that their abilities and work cannot be compared even to those of an average Deputy Magistrate of their standing. These are plain truths and therefore must be unpalatable to many, but we cannot help stating them in the interests of justice and fairplay. There are men in the Subordinate Executive and Judicial Services who could successfully fill the posts of ministers in most dangerous and troublesome native states, who could prove able and efficient Divisional Commissioners under the Nizam, who could supply the best Mahomedan Chief Justice under the Hyderabad Government, who could make successful and popular stipendiary Presidency Magistrates in British India, and Calcutta Collectors. Notwithstanding all these proofs of merit and ability, they are not trusted by their Government, who prefer to place boys, hardly out of their teens, who may well sit at their feet and learn their work for years, over the heads of these distinguished seniors, and thus discourage, not to say insult, a set of most faithful and valuable officers.

Now that the subject has again come to the fore, we confess that we are not without our fear that, when the hour comes for the distribution of good things, the old fancy of Government for patronising such boy and briefless Barristers who are comparatively better known in the country by themselves than by their fathers and grandfathers, on the false plea of aristocratic connection, family prestige and personal talent, may not revive, and the members of the Provincial Service may not again be deprived of their just right. It is very easy for Government, if inclined to injustice of this sort, to find dozens of pleas, and there are people who would readily supply them with plausible weapons to crush the doomed service.

For this very service there are many more openings in the Panjab and the North-Western Provinces. Above all, the members of it, under those British Administrations, have a vast field for their talents in the Native States to which their services are largely lent on liberal scales of pay. In those Native Governments many of the ablest administrators, magistrates, and diplomats who left in their old service in British India, would surely have died as obscure deputies, tahsildars, and munsifs, and no one would have ever heard of them. These opportunities are very few and far between for the members of the Provincial service in Bengal. Sir Stuart Bayley, while Resident at Hyderabad, took over some of them there, and they rose very high in the service of the Nizam. The distinguished Belgrami brothers whose names have been heard even in Europe, in fact belong to a Bengal Subordinate Executive Service family. It

is perhaps not generally known that the accomplished and respected father of the two gentlemen was a distinguished member of that service, who after retiring from Government service was employed under the Nizam in some good post and died at Hyderabad.

If with all these disadvantages, their claims are superseded and their merits ignored when the time for their promotion to the Imperial service comes, the members of the uncovenanted service are truly to be pitied. It is said that the S. E. S. is nowadays particularly in the bad books of our present Lieutenant-Governor, and therefore much apprehension is felt regarding the distribution of the prizes by him to the deserving members of that body. The Judicial Service has not that difficulty, because the Government are bound to act on the recommendation of the High Court. We hope the interests of the S. E. S. will not suffer in the hands of Sir Charles Elliott and that when the time comes he will do justice to the claims of the deserving—of men of good families and high personal qualifications who have done good service. We are disposed to regard the alarm as groundless.

A SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF THE PRESS IN INDIA.

By DR. SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE.

[Continued from page 284]

European literature—chiefly English literature—is no less unjust to the Mussulmans than to the Hindus—perhaps more. Their invasions of India have been regarded as the raids of mere barbarians without law and amenable to no superior influences, who devastated wherever they went, or who, at best, went with the sword in one hand and the Koran in the other, massacring all who did not accept their proffered faith, and establishing with their religion their own political, administrative, and social institutions wherever they established themselves. That is an improbable, not to say impossible history, and it is not true history. War is a bloody and barbarous business in all climes and ages and among all races, specially where its severity is aggravated and embittered by ethnic and, above all, religious antagonism, and the raids of conquering hordes are the worst form of the calamity of war of which any people may be the victim. Inasmuch as the earlier incursions of India by the Mahomedans were of this character—mere plundering expeditions rather than wars of conquest—they were pure disasters to this country. But so soon as these strangers aimed at holding their conquests and governing them, above all, when they aimed at establishing themselves *in propria persona* in them, their policy changed—their treatment of the natives became different—their very wars ceased to be vindictive and rigorous or unnecessarily bloody—gratuitously savage. There was no more massacring or ravaging, except on extreme provocation, beyond the requirements of military or political chastisement or the customs of warfare of the times. I feel it due to put in this word in favour of the ancestors and pioneers in this country of those—our Muslim brethren—with whom for seven hundred years we Hindus have formed one people—feel it the more because I grieve to see that our Hindu writers, even the best of them, educated under British auspices, blindly accepting the cue of European misrepresentation, regard the Mahomedan Conquest as a pure disaster to India and the Mahomedan rule as, with slight occasional exceptions, one continued abomination and misery to the children of the soil.

So far from this or that, the Mahomedan attacks gave the Indians a fine opportunity for showing their mettle, but alas! the imminent danger of wholesale subjection and perchance slavery failed to weld the millions, divided into numerous kingdoms and principalities and numberless tribes into a common nationality. When, therefore, a long period of constant failure in the field and its concomitants and consequences culminated in the long threatened subjection,

the event was hailed as a relief. And no doubt, for one thing, it was better to exchange a lot of imbecile princes unable to protect their own, even though those princes were of our own flesh and blood, for the strong, though possibly harsh, sway of a single Power, however foreign. But the slavery, which, in those times and under such circumstances of ethnic and religious difference between conquerors and conquered, was, with good reason, anticipated as a necessary complement of subjection, was spared. It was spared in pure kindness. Say, if you will, that it was in wisdom spared. No matter. It is the same thing, to all intents and purposes. It comes to this, that the Mussulmans were not Goths and Vandals, any more than flights of locusts; they meant settled government; and they gave the best pledge of their honourable intentions by making the conquered land their home. Their adoption of India as their home was a fact of the utmost significance. It was a godsend to a helpless people. It necessarily altered the character of the relations of the strangers with them, tending as it did to convert a foreign occupation into a national government. Thus the Mahomedan conquest became a positive good to India—an instrument in the Divine Plan for the progress and advancement of the people.

So far from abusing their irresistible power and taking undue advantage of the people's helplessness, the Mahomedans gave the country the best administration according to their lights. In conquering and subduing the country they only carried out the Hindu doctrine of the duty of kings, while they treated the conquered country with a consideration which no Hindu Prince could well have exceeded, specially in his dealings with aliens in race and religion. Indeed, they unconsciously followed the recommendations of Manu. In this they made sacrifices which the great lawgiver never contemplated in the case of his Hindu conqueror. Against their very grain they left the Hindus in the enjoyment generally of their idols and their peculiar institutions and usages.

The Mussulmans not only did not disturb the Hindus in their own hereditary ways, however wrong or absurd, or even mischievous these appeared to them, but they went the length of adopting them, in many instances. The Mahomedans were admittedly a ruder people from a bleak and rather barren country, who came to live as rulers among a more polished race in a fertile and rich land, and they were not obstinate and foolish enough to scorn the advantages that lay before them. They made the most of them in every respect. The conquerors stooped to learn from the conquered. Except religion, in most particulars in which the Mahomedans in India enjoy a superiority to the races of men, in India or elsewhere, that superiority is of Indian origin. They are simply the pupils of the Hindus, whom they have distanced. The Mahomedan dress is the ancient Hindu dress. Mahomedan cookery is ancient Hindu cuisine. Mahomedan music is ancient Hindu music. Mahomedan etiquette is old Hindu manners. So the Mahomedans preserved as far as they could the administrative and revenue systems they found in vogue. If they were compelled by their faith to establish the judicial system of their Koran and Hadis, they practically left the Hindu landlords an important local jurisdiction, and generally they left the Hindus very much to their ways among themselves.

They adopted the Indian system of governing with the assistance of emissaries and news-agents. As in other things, in adopting they improved. It is reasonable to suppose that as the Hindus learnt to write, they employed the new accomplishment for the improvement of their favorite system of procuring regularly minute and accurate information bearing upon war and peace, as an aid to government. There are, however, not many distinct traces of such employment. The reason of this may be the lamentable neglect of historical composition and of historical records by the Hindus. Be that what it may, the fact is as I have stated it. Very different was the case with their conquerors. The Mahomedans, whatever their other deficiencies may have been, were blessed with an undeniable disposition to historical pursuits and they brought with them to India their historical instinct and passion. Whatever the rudeness of their Chiefs and Princes in their original homes, they were since their conversion to Islam *Ahl-e-kitab*—the people of a book—a book neither thoroughly understood nor at all sufficient as a guide to all the manifold concerns of life without

interpretation and expansion by learned men. Besides, however illiterate the races and tribes who, whether in Western or in High Asia, embraced Islam, may have been in what among the Arabs is called the Age of Darkness, they were from the first—from prehistoric times—addicted to song—to poetry and music. Here, therefore, was a double motive for the Mahomedan partiality or kindness to their cultivators. Even in the absence of personal cultivation, there was a genuine partiality to literature in general, not merely theological literature. Nor were the Mahomedan conquerors and rulers of India themselves invariably illiterate. Several of them were tolerably accomplished scholars, while others employed learned men to such purpose as to make the question of their personal attainments quite immaterial. One of the earlier Emperors of Delhi, who was almost a Durwesh on the throne, actually lived by the sale of Korans copied by his own illustrious hands. The so-called Mogul Dynasty specially affected culture. The first conqueror of India belonging to that Dynasty has left the most imperishable and the best monument of his greatness in his Institutes. So the founder of the Dynasty has contributed to letters his Memoirs, while at least another sovereign of the line has left a most valuable Autobiography.

Under such princes and in such favorable times, naturally the old Hindu state devise of a regular intelligence department was improved and strengthened. The lines of improvement may be easily determined. In an age in which writing had become a common enough accomplishment, writing would naturally be largely availed of to obviate the waste and inconveniences and, above all, to rectify the uncertainties and remove the misunderstandings of oral reports and to reap the advantage of a system of record. Nor are we left all to speculation in this period of our enquiry. For information from abroad—from countries beyond the empire and specially beyond the geographical limits of India—the Mussulman rulers still depended upon oral testimony, the reports of missions when they returned or of members of permanent or protracted missions sent home on purpose, like the despatch-bearing couriers of European princes, or from the mouths of travellers, fakirs, merchants and pilgrims such as were employed by their Hindu predecessors. At home they had the benefit of news of record. This change from oral deliverance to written report was itself no small reform, but it also necessarily led to a vast improvement. In the first place, it necessitated the entertainment of a better class of emissaries—a superior agency. It also improved the character of the intelligence, obviating disappointment and misunderstanding. It is easy to make a vague or wild oral statement, but writing itself is a considerable check upon looseness. It for the first time introduced a distinct sense of responsibility. In fine, although the Hindus originated the method, it was during the era of their successors that it could be improved and consolidated into a truly workmanlike organization and a most efficient aid to statesmanship. It was during the Mogul Period in especial that it took shape as a Press, in the sense of the present day—as a reorganizable journalism before the use of printing.

Here, then, we discover the modern institution in embryo. If the Press, as we now understand the term, was unknown in the East before European intercourse, not so was the regular circulation, however limited by the circumstances of the times, of news by means of manuscript. Here was an agency employed by the kings to learn the true condition of the country, the secret history of transactions in different parts of the empire, the intrigues of viceregal and subordinate Courts, which could not be gathered from the public despatches. The Intelligence Department of the Hindus had been gradually improved with the progress of society, until in the hands of later Indo-Mahomedan statesmanship it developed, at least in part, into a Newspaper Service distributed throughout the Provinces of the Empire. This appears to have been an agency more efficient and far more important for purposes of government than even humdrum contemporary chroniclers generally seem to have suspected. Many intrigues were prevented, many dangers nipt in the bud, by the reports of these news-letters, many circumstances in the administration of distant satrapies known which would not otherwise be known. There are traces that able rulers made

a good use of this source of information. The persons of the editors were specially protected by the sovereign, so that their independence might be better secured. The Governors held them in dread, and no doubt conciliated them by favors and courtesy. Some of the writers, possibly, exacted blackmail on the strength of their power to injure. That, however, is a liability of all journalism, not that of our day excepted, as indeed of all power. Nor must it be forgotten that the official journalism of Moslem India was kept pure by checks to which our present Press is not amenable. This rude "Press," such as it was, imposed an irregular discipline upon the authorities which virtually functioned as a kind of "constitutional" check on maladministration as well as on the personal ambition of subordinate courts.

I have said that the news-carriers—the emissaries and spies—of the Hindu period, in course of time, turned into the news-writers of the Mahomedan *régime*, but in part. I mean that the old service of intelligencers were not, as they could not be, abolished. Their numbers might be limited but they could not be entirely done away with. For valuable as the newspapers were and much as they doubtless were in their infancy, with the glamour of freshness and novelty, appreciated, they did not supersede the special personal agency. The newspapers could not possibly do what that agency could. In the first place, that principle of distrust—which I would rather call inexorable prudence—which prevails throughout Eastern governments, and which was the patron of the innovation of newspapers, itself required the retention of the old agency, if only to check the new journalism. Besides, some kinds of information are not well communicable through the newspapers. Some news is spoiled and lost as soon as the public journalist babbles it. News of a confidential character, news of operations in the field and of movements of enemies, could only be procured by means of emissaries and spies. Accordingly we find that service in full swing to the last days of the Mogul Empire into the thick of the British Period. Bengal certainly had its Establishment not only under Nawab Serajud Dowla but also during the reigns of Nawabs Mir Mahammad Jafer Khan and Mir Mahammad Kasem. The spies formed a part of the machinery of state—an essential and important part.

Don't be alarmed, gentlemen, at the sound of "spy!" What's in a name? Rather is it a case of Give a dog a bad name and hang him. Call your informant a "spy" and he is lost for ever! Call him a "Special Correspondent" and he is a gentleman of the Press—a worthy representative of Letters, fit to be the companion of princes, statesmen and generals!

The word spy is in bad odour with Englishmen, from their ears being filled with the abuses of espionage in the absolutist monarchies of the Continent. But the system need not be a horrible or a terrible one. It is, I am afraid, practised, more or less, throughout the world. It is necessary.

ERRATA.—P. 284, col. 1, l. 17, and col. 2, l. 35, for Eut... read Ut...

BOMBAY MILL-OWNERS' ASSOCIATION.

The annual general meeting of the members of the above Association was held on Tuesday (May 31,) afternoon at the rooms of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, Mr. G. Cotton presiding.

The following are extracts from the report of the Association for the period from 1st January to 31st December, 1891 :—

Although the year under review has not been remarkable for the number of topics discussed, it has nevertheless been to some extent an eventful one in the history of the trade as the subjects dealt with have been of leading importance. An amended Factory Act for India has been passed into law which it is to be hoped, in the interests of employers and employed alike, will prove the termination of legislative interference with the manufacturing industries of the country for many years to come; and second only in importance a new Boiler Inspection Act for the Presidency of Bombay has been adopted by the local legislature. An event of equal significance, although widely different in character, has been the adoption and successful maintenance during the last three-and-a-half months of the year of the Short Time Movement rendered necessary by the depressed state of the yarn markets in China, and had the Association never accomplished any other work the results of its action in connection with these two legislative measures and the unanimity with which it originated, controlled, and maintained for the entire period agreed upon, a short Time Movement of excep-

tional magnitude would in the opinion of your committee have amply justified its existence.

Curtailment of production naturally means reduction of profits, and as a general rule the results of working during 1891 have been much less favourable than in 1890. Still it is gratifying to find—and it speaks volumes for the stability and soundness of the industry—that it should pass the test of a very trying period without disaster. So far from anything of that kind having resulted nearly all the mills have shown profits of a more or less satisfactory character and only in a few exceptional cases where special reasons have existed have actual losses been declared.

A further encouraging feature is the fact disclosed by figures that notwithstanding all drawbacks our exports of yarn to the further East continue to increase, the total showing a gain on the previous year of about 3½ per cent., and this too in the face of a further serious falling off in the shipments to Japan where local yarns have largely superseded Bombay spinnings.

The shipments of piece-goods from the United Kingdom during 1891 still show well above the average of the past ten years, but yarns for the first time since 1886 are below the average. The falling off, however, is almost entirely to Japan where the demand for English yarns has no doubt had the same adverse influence to contend with as Bombay productions, and the cause of the diminution therefore is not the result of the favourite Lancashire that Indian yarns favoured by the decline in the value of silver are superseding English. On the contrary both are suffering from the same cause—increased home production—and Bombay has suffered most, the decrease being 10,713,200 lbs. as compared with only 8,274,000 lbs. from Lancashire.

The tone of the industry has not been such as to encourage the erection of new mills, and for the year ending 30th June, 1891, the returns made up by the Association give a decrease of three mills in Bombay owing to the destruction of two by fire and the abandonment of one which was under re-construction. Since that return was made up two up-country mills have been destroyed by fire, but are being re-erected. There has, however, been a considerable increase in the number of spindles of the existing mills, 13,463 spindles having been added up to 30th June in Bombay and 77,498 for all India. The increased manufacturing power represented by these is considerably in excess of the mere numerical increase in the existing number of spindles, as the producing power of the newer machinery is considerably in excess of the old. Thus, notwithstanding dull markets the quantity of cotton consumed in Bombay has increased by 126,328 bales and in all India by 170,444 bales. The addition of weaving power is but slight, only 562 looms having been erected in Bombay and 1,119 in all India during the year ending 30th June, 1891.

FACTORY LEGISLATION FOR INDIA.

The subject of primary importance to the trade during the year under review has again been the question of factory legislation for India; but with the passing of the amended Indian Factories Act, which comes into force from 1st January, 1892, it is to be hoped that the question has at last reached a settlement which is not likely to be disturbed for some years to come. The alterations which have been effected by the new law are mainly the raising of the minimum and maximum limits of age for children from seven to nine years for short-timers, and from twelve to fourteen years for full-time workers; the restriction of the number of hours in which women may be employed during the day, to eleven hours; and the enforcement of the day's holiday during the week on Sundays in event of no other holiday intervening. These alterations do not go beyond the views which the members of this Association have always favoured, and there has therefore been no necessity for assuming an antagonistic position with regard to the discussion on the Bill. In some places the restriction in the working hours of women will, no doubt, tend to disorganize the industry for a time, but this will eventually regulate itself, and the same may be said with reference to the limitation of age for children.

BOILER INSPECTION BILL.

With the view of remedying certain defects shown by the practical working of the Bombay Boiler Inspection Act of 1887, the Government of Bombay introduced a Bill, No. 1 of 1891, to amend the law for the inspection and management of boilers in the Presidency of Bombay. As originally introduced it was proposed to retain the permissive power given in the old Act to authorize by notification the inspection also of prime-movers, and as this was a point which had invariably been combated by the Association it was decided to memorialise Government against the retention of this power. Your committee also took objection to the manner in which the Bill laid down that an Engineer should at all times be in direct and immediate supervision of the boilers while under steam, showing that the interpretation placed upon this had already given rise to certain inconvenience, and the committee pointed out that it would be ample for all purposes Government might have in view if the supervision defined under the Act was that usually required of an Engineer in the usual careful discharge of his duties. The Bill having been referred to a select committee, a number of the points raised by the Association were thereat conceded, and the

principle of abolishing the inspection of prime-movers was distinctly affirmed by the committee. At the same time, however, by a majority, the committee appended a clause to the proposed Bill to enable inspectors to have the opportunity of examining prime-movers and giving owners any advice which might be suggested by such examination. This permissive power your committee decided was likely to give rise to a most objectionable principle inasmuch as it practically constituted an Inspector of Boilers a Consulting Engineer for all engines. They accordingly addressed Government before the second reading of the Bill, asking that in event of it being ultimately decided that it was necessary to retain the power to inspect prime-movers, it should be provided for in the Act under the same terms and conditions as laid down in the Act of 1887. This suggestion was ultimately accepted, and your committee feel convinced that Government will never, so far as Bombay itself is concerned, have occasion to utilize this power.

ALLEGED FRAUDS IN THE COTTON TRADE AND THE DETERIORATION OF THE STAPLE.

The Association having been favoured with a copy of Mr. H. E. M. James' papers on the subject of frauds in the cotton trade and the deterioration of the staple, more especially in the Broach District, the subject received the most careful consideration of your committee. After a prolonged discussion in which the various points raised by Mr. James were most carefully debated, it was resolved to address Government in the terms of a resolution passed by the Bombay Cotton Trade Association, namely:—"That this Association approves most heartily of Mr. James' proposals, requesting Government to organise the distribution of good local seed in large quantities at cost price, or even gratis, in order to induce the rayyet to procure his seed from the Government depots only, but the Association cannot accept Mr. James' views with regard to legislation in any form, not considering the same desirable in principle nor conducive to the purpose intended."

SHORT-TIME MOVEMENT.

The exceptionally depressed condition of the market for yarn in China led to several representations being made to your committee in favour of the adoption of short time with the view of reducing stocks of yarn. Your committee having considered the matter came to the conclusion that it would be desirable to ascertain, by circular, the views of the members of the Association on the subject. They accordingly invited an expression of opinion, and ascertaining that the owners or agents of 59 out of 66 mills in the town and island of Bombay were in favour of the proposed movement the following resolution was passed at a meeting held on 12th September, 1891:—"The committee of the Millowners' Association beg to inform members and other millowners that the short-time circular has been signed by the owners or agents of 59 out of the 66 mills in Bombay. Of those who have not signed, 2 mills are stopped, 2 are owned by a firm who have referred the question to their senior partner who is in Europe, and the remaining 3 will most probably sign during the coming week. Under these circumstances the committee resolve that short-time should commence from 15th instant and continue until December 31st."

STOCKS OF COTTON IN BOMBAY.

At a meeting of the committee of the Association held on the 13th June it was resolved that, in the interests of the trade, an endeavour should be made to ascertain, if possible, the stocks of cotton held by the mills in Bombay on 30th June, 1891. The Secretary accordingly addressed the agents and owners of all the mills in the island, asking them to be good enough to send him a return of the stocks which they held on that date, and with the one exception of Messrs. E. D. Sassoon and Co., the request was unanimously and courteously acceded to. The ascertained stocks, with the exception of the quantity held by the firm already mentioned, amounted to 106,700¾ candies, and the information without doubt proved most valuable to the trade, enabling agents and owners to estimate with comparative accuracy the prospects of supply and demand for the remainder of the season. It also afforded a valuable check on the statistics of the trade.

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT.

As mentioned in the report of the previous year, your then committee addressed Government with respect to the rules under the Merchandise Marks Act, regarding the average count of yarn and the manner in which the trade description thereof had to be complied with. As laid down in the rules, the average count of the whole of the yarn in a bundle, bale, or consignment must be neither greater nor less than the described count, or, in other words, it must be exactly the described count. This, your committee pointed out was practically an impossibility, as no spinner could produce yarn throughout of the absolute count which it purported to be, and they therefore suggested to Government that the words "greater or" should be deleted, leaving the law to be that the average of the yarn should not be less than the described count, which would, in their opinion, be a sufficient protection to buyers. In reply to this representation the Government of India declined to make any alteration; but so far as your committee are aware the manner in which the Act is administered has prevented any hardship arising from this requirement.

COTTON MILLS IN JAPAN.

In accordance with a resolution passed by the committee of the Association the Secretary took steps to ascertain the position and development of cotton spinning in Japan. On the 30th June, 1891, there were in all 36 mills containing 377,970 spindles, employing 17,248 hands and consuming 6,156,300 pounds of cotton.

REGISTRATION OF TRADE MARKS.

Under the scheme organized by the Association in 1886, a large number of new tickets and trade marks have been registered in the books of the Association during the past year. In a few cases new tickets have been objected to when circulated for the inspection of members as being colourable imitations of tickets already in use and the property of members of the Association. These objections have been promptly met and complied with, and the system of registration has thus proved of the greatest benefit to all interested in the industry, obviating any necessity for an appeal to the law in connection with trade marks, which, at one time, was a fertile source of dispute and litigation. The register of tickets and marks is carefully maintained at the office of the Association where it is always open to the inspection of members—a privilege which it is satisfactory to know is extensively availed of.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said he would first explain why it was that the report was so late. It was because the committee was anxious to embody in it the rules which they wished to frame for the general guidance of the mill-hands under the new Factory Act. Those rules took up a considerable amount of time, and had to be carefully thought out and approved by legal advisers. They had been generally adopted by all factories, many objectionable clauses, especially the one of two days' wages fine for any mill-hand absenting himself without leave, being deleted from them. So far as possible, they had made the new rules fair to the employers and the employed. Fortunately the report did not call for very many remarks. They had had a peaceful time lately, which, he trusted, would not be disturbed. As the report pointed out, they had not had the best of trade during the last eighteen months, but he was glad to say that things seemed to be on the mend. China still continued to take an increased quantity of Bombay production every year, and it appeared to him that just now demand was very nearly overtaking production, if it had not already done so. There was no doubt they had helped themselves considerably by three and a half months' short time, and he felt sure that the members of the Association would agree with him that, if for nothing else, the strength which the Association had shown by combining together without exception for the common welfare of all showed how justifiable the existence of the Association was. He thought they might congratulate themselves on the fact that they had shown, whenever anything was against them, that they had strength within themselves to combine so as to overcome difficulties. He repeated that he considered they would see their trade improve very considerably. They would see Japan again taking their yarns. They were asking for their yarns very much less than before, and every year enabled them to work more economically. Even Japan was now taking their yarn. He did not think it possible for Japan mills to compete with them much longer. They had been brought into existence under protection, and he did not think that even with the assistance of that protection they would be able to continue to earn a sufficiently remunerative return. It was impossible for them to import cotton from India, and then compete with them. Bombay was again sending cloth to China, and he could only hope that the same causes which had induced the Chinese to increase the consumption of Bombay yarn might also induce them to increase the consumption of their cloth. There was no doubt they could produce cloth cheaply, and so long as they could do that, they had nothing to fear about their future. They had had now some five months' experience of the new Factory Act, and he thought they would agree with him in saying that it had put them to a minimum of inconvenience. He was sure that they all felt the advantage of having one day's rest in a week which had long been advocated by the Association. Regarding women, the Association had all along considered that eleven hours per day was as much as any woman could work, and although there might be complaints from the mofussil, even there 11 hours were as much as a woman should work. If they in Bombay thought eleven hours sufficient, surely in the hotter climate of the mofussil it became more necessary that the hours should be restricted. They had every reason to hope that there would be no further legislation in that direction. (Hear, hear.) Referring to the rules under the Factory and the Boiler Inspection Act, the chairman said that as one who had opportunities of conferring with Mr. Campbell, the Collector of Bombay, he did not think he should let that opportunity pass without saying how deeply the Association was indebted to Mr. Campbell for the courtesy and consideration he had shown to their representations. With regard to the boiler rules he asked the deputation of the Association to meet him, and as they were able to point out that they only wanted reasonable concessions, Mr. Campbell readily and willingly consented to them. This might be said about the Factory Act. Mr. Marshall, their Secretary, placed himself in communication with Mr. Campbell, and

the result was that everything necessary was done. It was satisfactory to feel that all times, when dealing with Government, their representations received that consideration which they expected and which enabled them to put themselves right, and obtain concessions and give Government information which enabled them to comply with the law without placing unnecessary restriction on the trade. The new Boiler Inspection Act was a great improvement on the old one, and he was glad that the clauses to which they so strongly objected were removed. There was only one thing to which he specially called the attention of the Association, namely, they had no correct statistics of the stocks of yarn and cotton. Cotton statistics were got once a year, but he considered they should have them every month. He was sure if they could obtain the figures and know exactly what stocks were in Bombay the same as they knew what was held in China, each of them would be better able to judge of the future market. Of course there was one great objection; members might object to their neighbours knowing what yarn they held, but the figures might be obtained and given in such a way that no one would know whose stock they represented. Steps were being taken to bring about the desired information, and he trusted that members would help the committee to obtain. He then congratulated the Association upon the fact of their having an exceedingly good Fire Brigade that could not be surpassed or equalled in any place in India and many places out of it. The Municipal Corporation deserved their best thanks for giving them such an efficient Fire Brigade. A resolution would be placed before them, the object of which was to still further increase the usefulness of the Association, and to make the fees or the subscription from outsiders equitable. It would besides encourage all steam users to join them and contribute towards their funds, and generally to share the benefits which the Association received and to combine with them in fighting against a common grievance. (Applause.)

Mr. Dinshaw E. Wacha, in seconding the proposition, said that the chairman, who had gone over the whole ground covered by the report with his accustomed ability, was right in saying that the year had been one of peace, and he (Mr. Wacha) hoped that its successor would also be of plenty. (Hear, hear.) There had been a little depression of late, but there was a combination of circumstances which led them to hope that cheerfulness and prosperity were not far remote. It appeared from the statistics given in the report that China was consuming the cloth manufactured by Bombay mills in larger quantities, and the increase promised to go up by leaps and bounds. (Hear, hear.) Whatever the Lancashire mill-owners might say or do, the geographical position of Bombay made it a strong and a healthy rival and competitor in the matter of piece-goods in Chinese markets. The silver question had nothing whatever to do with the exports. Whether the price of silver went down to 1 shilling or rose to 2 shillings, their exports would go on increasing, because there were certain conditions of the local trade which would fetch better rates of yarn and cloth than Lancashire would ever expect to obtain. As regarded the factory legislation, the Association should congratulate themselves upon the very able and constitutional manner in which their cause was put before the Government, and which eventually resulted in a good and workable Factory Act. The question of adult, female, and children labour might now be considered to have been finally settled, and he hoped that there would be no more "cries" heard from Lancashire for the purpose of hampering their trade. That the Indian mill-hands should under the new Act work for shorter hours could not but be productive of the greatest good to them. According to eminent physiologists if the mill-hands worked for shorter hours they would be better able to preserve their health and be in a position to work better and in more efficient manner than they otherwise would. In this respect, he (Mr. Wacha) could not forget the very valuable and enduring services rendered to them by Mr. Nugent. The very admirable manner in which he had placed the whole condition of the Bombay mill industry before the Government of India was beyond praise. Although Mr. Nugent had left India, he could not help observing that special thanks were due to that officer for his most able and correct representation of the mill industry of this city. (Hear, hear.) Again as far as the Factory and the Boiler Acts were concerned, the Government of Bombay was entirely with the Association, inasmuch as they took their stand on a broad and sympathetic basis that the manufacturing trade of Bombay should not be hampered or restricted by vexatious clauses, though he came to forget the needless clause regarding the examination of engineers. (Hear, hear.) The harmonious working and the reconciling of conflicting interests by the Government of Bombay deserved the best thanks of the Association. (Applause.) The Association had now reached its age of adolescence, and during its comparatively brief existence had been able to accomplish great good in the interest of the rising mill industry of Bombay, and it was hoped that as time went on it would take deeper and firmer root, financially and otherwise, and become a strong body capable of furthering the interest of the vast and growing industry which had brought prosperity to this city. (Hear, hear, and applause.)

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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 1892.

No. 530

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

LINES ON A STATUE OF HIS DEAD CHILD.

BY RICHARD LANE, ESQ.

I saw thee in thy beauty ! bright phantom of the past,
I saw thee for a moment—'t was the first time and the last ;
And, though years since have glided by of mingled bliss and care,
I never have forgotten thee, thou fairest of the fair !

I saw thee in thy beauty ! Thou wast graceful as the fawn,
When, in wantonness of glee, it sports along the lawn ;
I saw thee seek the mirror—and when it met thy sight,
The *very air was musical* with thy burst of wild delight.

I saw thee in thy beauty ! with thy sister at thy side—
She a lily of the valley, thou a rose in all its pride—
I looked upon thy mother—there was triumph in her eyes ;
And I trembled for her happiness, for grief had made me wise.

I saw thee in thy beauty ! with one hand among her curls—
The other with no gentle grasp had seized a string of pearls ;
She felt the pretty trespass, and she chid thee, though she smiled ;
And I knew not which was loveliest, the mother or the child.

I saw thee in thy beauty ! and a tear came to mine eye,
As I pressed thy rosy cheek to mine, and thought even thou couldst die :
My home was like a summer bower, by thy joyous presence made,
But I only saw the sunshine, and felt alone the shade.

I see thee in thy beauty ! for there thou seem'st to lie,
In slumber resting peacefully ! but, oh, the change of eye—
That still serenity of brow—those lips that breathe no more—
Proclaim thee but a mockery of what thou wast before.

I see thee in thy beauty ! with thy waving hair at rest,
And thy *busy* little fingers folded lightly on thy breast ;
But thy merry *dance* is o'er, and thy little *race* is run,
And the mirror that reflected two, can now give back but one.

I see thee in thy beauty ! with thy mother by thy side—
But her loveliness is faded, and quelled her glance of pride,
The smile is absent from her lips, and absent are the pearls,
And a cap almost of widowhood conceals her envied curls.

I see thee in thy beauty ! as I saw thee on that day—
But the mirth that gladdened then my home, fled with thy life away :
I see thee lying motionless upon the accustomed floor,
But my heart hath blinded both my eyes, and I can see no more.

A DAY IN JUNE.*

AND what is so rare as a day in June?

Then, if ever, come perfect days ;

The heaven tries the earth if it be in tune,

* Not in Bengal.—ED. & S. R.

And over it softly her warm ear lays ;
Whether we look, or whether we listen,
We hear life murmur, or see it glisten ;
Every clod feels a stir of might,
An instinct within it that reaches and towers,
And, grasping blindly above it for light,
Climbs to a soul in grass and flowers ;
The flush of life may well be seen
Thrilling back over hills and valleys ;
The cowslip startles in meadows green,
The buttercup catches the sun in its chalice,
And there's never a leaf or a blade too mean
To be some happy creature's palace ;
The little bird sits at his door in the sun,
Aslant like a blossom among the leaves,
And lets his illuminated being o'errun
With the deluge of summer it receives ;
His mate feels the eggs beneath her wings,
And the heart in her dumb breast flutters and sings ;
He sings to the wide world, and she to her nest—
In the nice ear of nature which song is the best.

Now is the high tide of the year,
And whatever of life hath ebbed away
Comes flooding back, with a ripply cheer,
Into every bare inlet and creek and bay ;
Now the heart is so full that a drop overfills it,
We are happy now because God so wills it ;
No matter how barren the past may have been,
'T is enough for us now that the leaves are green,
We sit in the warm shade and feel right well
How the sap creeps up and the blossoms swell ;
We may shut our eyes, but we cannot help knowing
That skies are clear and grass is growing ;
The breeze comes whispering in our ear,
That dandelions are blossoming near,
That maize has sprouted, that streams are flowing,
That the river is bluer than the sky,
That the robin is plastering his house hard by ;
And if the breeze kept the good news back,
For other couriers we should not lack !
We could guess it by yon heifer's lowing—
And hark ! how clear bold chanticleer,
Warmed with the new wine of the year,
Tells all in his lusty crowing !

Joy comes, grief goes, we know not how ;
Everything is happy now,
Everything is upward striving ;
'T is as easy now for the heart to be true
As the grass to be green, or the skies to be blue—
'T is the natural way of living.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

WEEKLYANA.

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reports the Mecca and Medina roads unsafe. Pilgrims, beware!

AT the request of the members, Mr. J. L. Mackay has resumed the Presidentship of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, which he had resigned to accept the Chairmanship of the Indian Currency Association without compromising the members of the Chamber who hold a different view on the Currency question. Mr. Mackay will now guide the deliberations of both the bodies.

THE vacancy in the Local Legislative Council caused by the resignation of Sir Alfred Croft, consequent on his retirement from India on furlough, has been filled by the appointment of Mr. J. Lambert, Commissioner of the Calcutta Police. This post is rising in importance. This is the first instance of a pure Commissioner of Police having been accepted as a law-maker. The Bengal Government justifies the appointment on the fact that there is the Fire Brigade Bill in Council in which Mr. Lambert cannot fail to be useful.

PASSENGERS by the mail arriving at Bombay on the 5th, had a terribly hot descent in the Red Sea. At 10 P. M. in the cabins on the four days, namely, two days before and two days after the steamer's arrival at Aden, the thermometer was 95°. Baron de Horn who had been up and down the Sea no less than fifty-three times, declared that this was the hottest journey he had ever made.

THE Black Town Presidency Magistrate of Madras sentenced a census peon to one month's rigorous imprisonment for using a Service post card valued at quarter anna. If the punishment has any meaning, it is a warning to the officers of Government from the highest to the lowest not to use for private purposes Government property of whatever value. The peon was evidently charged with theft of Government property and sentenced under the Penal Code. But what officer of Government, to whom it is open, does not post his private letters under Service stamps or official frank?

THE *Hitabadi* changes hands, at least in the business management. Baboo Nobin Chand Boral, the managing director, retires from it. The paper too changes color. It no longer blushes—but blanches. Nor are its manners of the best. It is free, we suppose, to indulge in gross vilification. The tendency has recently been marked.

IN August 1890, the *People's Friend* of Madras appealed to the generosity of its subscribers for Rs. 1,000 for renewal of types, requesting them "to send immediately a donation of not less than one Rupee each without fail." The donations, up to 13th June, 1892, amount to only Rs. 127-11. On the 15th June, again, we find the paper addressing its readers thus:—

"From the acknowledgments published in our columns for some weeks past, our readers must have perceived that the remittances received recently have been very few in number and ridiculously low in amount. We beg therefore to ask the judicious reader how at this rate we could manage to issue the '*People's Friend*' regularly, as we are obliged to borrow for current expenses almost every day. We trust that this hint will suffice and that subscribers who are in arrears will at once remit in full what they owe to the paper."

Indian subscribers need constantly to be reminded of their dues. We constantly prate of our advancement in all directions, but we have yet to learn to pay for our books and newspapers. Government is not particularly anxious for native journals, the Europeans care more for Anglo-Indian than purely native undertakings, and the natives themselves won't pay. How then can native authors or journalists live—to talk not of thriving? There are journals and journals, but the same fate overtakes them all.

HERE is a cutting from the *Effective Advertiser*:—

"*Discovery* is a readable book on matters chiefly scientific. The editor wrote in a recent number: 'We have now an issue of about 10,000 weekly, without counting our Australian edition. If every sub-

scriber obtained two other subscribers each year we should have over a million subscribers in seven years' time. This would enable us to still further improve the character of the paper.' What do you think? *Discovery* will make the discovery that these figures will remain figures of speech only. What a glowing prospectus that Brother Editor could write for a great public company!"

Just so. It was at this rate that the *Bangabasi* got, within the very first year of its existence, about 25,000 subscribers. Again, during its prosecution by the Government, some of the friends of that journal calculated upon raising a lac of Rupees by imposing a trifle on each patriotic citizen of Calcutta, those, that is, who had swelled the mob on the maidan on the occasion of the irresponsible protest against the Age of Consent Bill. Nowhere, however, was this extravagance of arithmetical addition perpetrated more coolly and with a fuller certainty of immediate accomplishment than on the occasion of the talk of raising a National Fund in India for the purposes of political agitation, both here and in England. The population of India was ascertained to a 4, from the census report, and Europeans and Eurasians and half the followers of Islam being excluded from the figure, the Fund was estimated at an enormous amount, on the supposition of remaining individuals contributing at the rate of only a pice each. The prospect was simply glorious. Some of the National Fundists actually began their collections. Soon, however, was their arithmetic dissipated by the little item that had been overlooked, the item, namely, of expenses of the collectors! So much for the practical wisdom of those who clamour for India being placed under their piloting for the years to come.

IN Spain, they have taken to manufacture of cripples for the delectation of France. They are chiefly from Talossa and its neighbourhood. In France, they are known as *culs-de-jatte*. These objects of pity, by rolling themselves about on boards cause amusement, and earn for themselves and their exhibitors their means of livelihood. They are recruited from the weakly offsprings of the peasants who are induced to part with them for considerations of gain. As born they are a burden to them, but when transformed into the objects of exhibition they must prove a source of gain to them and to their "farmers." The process of disfigurement is simple. The legs of the child are so tightly compressed that the circulation of the blood in them is stopped. Little by little the legs wither away, and the *cul-de-jatte* is made.

THE *New York Recorder* relates an amusing trial in the courts of Rome, where an Italian Duchess explains the birth of a male child as due to *astral conception*. The Duke had been absent from home for two years in America, whence he lately returned, just in time to see the Duchess give birth to a male child, whose paternity he is, not unaccountably, reluctant to admit. The Duchess, however, is equal to the situation. A follower of Mme. Blavatsky, she is trying to fasten the responsibility of her interesting situation not upon the frail tenants of this giddy world, but upon the heavenly bodies. No one was more surprised than she (she seems to say) at a certain physiological development of her person before confinement. Before the commencement of that development she remembered how she had been the victim of melancholy and restlessness. Be that as it may have been, the brave lady repudiates all notion of sin. She is chaste as the virgin snow. As for that brat she has introduced, that is nothing. Great minds are not terrified by little things of that kind. So far as there might be anything amiss, she knows nothing. It is the doing of the Planets. Those exalted persons have of late taken to mashing. The Duchess will perform a miracle if she can convince the law Courts by mystic reference to astral bodies and spiritual unions. It is indeed a "phenomenon," as she calls it, to her theosophic brethren but prosaic matter of fact to her husband as well as her judges.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL M. C. Brackenbury, R. E., has been confirmed as Manager, Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway.

MR. C. C. Stevens ceases to be a Government representative on the Municipal Board. He does not leave it, though. He will now represent the Port Commission in place of the late Sir Henry Harrison, Dr. J. O'Brien coming in in Mr. Stevens' place as a Government nominee.

OUR MEDICAL COLUMN.

THE *Black Noble Palm of Africa* is extolled as a sure remedy not only for snake bite but also for hydrophobia. It is the discovery of a German Physician named Engles, who emigrated to Africa in 1874. Extracts from this tree have been furnished to Pasteur and Koch and, after receiving their opinions, the detailed method of preparing the remedy will be published.

THE *Homœopathic Recorder* speaks highly of the phytolacca berries as a sure anti-fat. Equal berries to their weight in alcohol or the berry juice with sufficient alcohol to prevent fermentation is the best form of preparation.

THE simplest method to remove foreign bodies from the throat is to blow forcibly into the ear, when they will be expelled from the trachea by the excitement of a powerful reflex action. The treatment, though an old one, is generally forgotten when it is most needed.

THE best depilatories are the sulphide of sodium and the sulphide of barium, each used as a paste. The sulphide of sodium with one to eight parts of water acts well, but as it deteriorates very rapidly it may produce ulcer on the applied part. Fifty parts of sulphide of barium with each of twenty-five parts of starch and oxide of zinc with water forming a paste, is a safer form. After ten minutes, if scraped off, it will leave a smooth surface.

WE read in a European medical journal that mustard powder retaining its full power of counter-irritation may yet be purged of its blistering properties, by mixing it with the white of an egg to form a plaster for application. An external stimulant and irritant, with all the advantages but without the drawbacks of mustard, ought to be highly acceptable by the old school physicians. Yet for our part, we have some doubt in the matter. In fact, we hardly understand it. It seems to involve a contradiction in terms. If a true counter-irritant is required in a particular case, what is the good of a mild application that will not cause a blister! An external counter-irritant, in the very nature of the thing, means a blistering plaster. To tone it down to a harmless thing—to disarm it of its property of disturbing the skin—is to rob it of its therapeutic virtue—its efficacy as a medicinal agent.

EVACUATION of the bowels upwards is a most unfortunate phenomenon which Nature, in kindness for our kind, does but rarely permit. It takes place usually in obstruction of the bowels—far from a common complaint. Regular defecation from the mouth for a long period is not an impossibility, however. Such a case was recently reported by M. Desnos to the Societe Medicale des Hopitaux, Paris, in connection with a young man of nineteen with hysteric symptoms.

A PARISIAN woman was prosecuted for committing nuisance in a public street. Fortunately for her, she found a magistrate with a heart, as with a soul above legal routine, who bravely discharged her on the ground that the law of health cannot be superseded by statutory enactment.

DR. Gritian of Lyons, in his recent lectures, suggests an easy cure of sterility for women. The remedy indeed is as queer as it is novel, but it has produced brilliant results, not only promoting conception of a single child but sometimes of twins. The wife is to sing at the top of her voice during the *actus conjugus*. This really beats the medication of the court physicians of Mahomedan Princes for pleasantness. The idea of a lady pining for a son getting rid of her barrenness by singing at the proper time, is charming, if somewhat ludicrous. After this, it is a pity to start doubts about the feasibility of the method. We are assured by a medical friend that the direction is quite capable of being followed. He speaks from professional experience, not from books. The eminent professor of Lyons hit upon his discovery from the intimate connection existing between the uterus and the larynx.

A NEW antipyretic is again in the field. It is called phenocol hydrochloride, and is closely related to phenacetin. Like its predecessors, the new drug is sure more to kill, or, at any rate, to aggravate the disease, than to give relief.

THE hypodermic injection of nitrate of strychnine is now the favorite remedy for dipsomania. Drs. Portuloff and Jorgalski have cured many cases with it and subsequently Dr. Portagalow of Samara also expresses himself in its favour. The method for using it as follows: take strychnine nitrate one grain and add distilled water half a fluid ounce. Daily one to two hypodermic injections, with at first eight minims of the medicine and later on with 4 minims and ten to sixteen injections will be sufficient for a complete cure. It not only cures but produces a positive hatred for alcohol.

AT Tuxpam, on the Gulf of Mexico, there are men who are safe from the bite of snakes for their previous inoculation with the poison of these animals. Before the inoculation they take the bulb of a native plant called "mano del sapo" (toad's hand), then the inoculation is made with the venom tooth of one of the most poisonous snakes. Dr. Jacolot has published his experience of them in the *Archives of Naval Medicine*.

NOTES & LEADERETTES

with
OUR OWN NEWS.

THE long talked of general elections are at hand. Parliament will be dissolved on Tuesday, the 28th. The papers by this week's mail thus speak of the election prospects:

"A very sanguine view, says the *Standard*, is taken by the Liberal Unionist supporters of Government in the House as to the probable results of the approaching elections. This estimate of the situation is based on reports received from the constituencies during the last few days. Speaking generally, a most hopeful feeling prevails both in the Conservative and Unionist ranks upon the subject. The *World* says 'The Liberal whips have recently come in for a large amount of money, and will certainly have more to spend for election purposes than any other party. No one knows where the money comes from, but numbers of people are wanting Peerages. Irish wire-pullers are very badly off.' The *World* wickedly suggests that some money for the Gladstonian electioneering fund may have come from Russia. Undoubtedly both Russia and France are anxious for Mr. Gladstone's success."

Doubtless the British *World* knows its own. English patriots and ministers have before now been in Continental pay.

The elections will probably begin on the 4th of August, or as soon as the writs are out, the borough elections being fixed for the 4th proximo.

Mr. Gladstone has issued his Midlothian manifesto. It makes no definite proposals, and of course lays much stress on the necessity for Home Rule in Ireland, as that would leave the English Parliament free to better attend to the wants of Great Britain. Mr. Gladstone is sure that Ulster will soon return to a feeling of brotherhood. He advocates local option, the principle of one man one vote, and a reduction in the hours of labour.

The G. O. M. opens his campaign with an Edinburgh meeting on the 30th.

LORD Rosebery, speaking at Whitechapel, pointed out that the Liberals had made it a rule as far as possible to refrain from opposing Lord Salisbury's foreign policy, but he thought that Mr. Gladstone went a little too far in commending it. His Lordship said that if our foreign relations were as good as was asserted, including those with France, wherein some doubt appears to exist, the Liberals, if returned to power, would doubtless continue Lord Salisbury's foreign policy as far as they at present know it.

THE Ulster Convention met at Belfast on the 17th, twelve thousand delegates being present. The Duke of Abercorn presided. The audience rose and cheered the Chairman when he said that all had unanimously determined to fight for home and liberty. Resolutions were adopted repudiating the authority of any Parliament in Dublin. The Opposition has replied to the Convention denying that Ulster is entirely Unionist, and that any danger exists of civil war.

At a Conformists' gathering at Clapham, on the 18th, Mr. Gladstone charged the Government with raising religious issues. He asserted that the Ulster Protestants were not solidly opposed to Home Rule and that it would not lead to an established Catholic Church in Ireland. And why not? What would there be to prevent it? The influence of the priests he attributed, with more justice, to the people's lack of legitimate freedom.

THE Presidential elections are proceeding in America. President Cleveland has been nominated by the Democratic Convention as the candidate on the first ballot, having secured 616 votes. Ex-Governor Hill came next with a total of 112 votes. The Democratic platform promises to repeal the McKinley law and demands the revision of the tariffs in the direction of free raw materials, a reduced duty on manufactured goods, and concludes with endorsing Home Rule for Ireland.

Prince Bismarck arrived at Munich on the 24th, at two in the morning. Notwithstanding the early hour, an ovation from thousands awaited him in the streets.

RAVACHOL has been found guilty of numerous murders and sentenced to death. Another of his tribe, Deeming, has already been hanged.

THE creditors of the New Oriental Bank have confirmed a resolution for voluntary winding up of the corporation.

AS usual, the Under-Secretary of State for India presented the Indian Budget, on the 20th, in the House of Commons, on the eve of dissolution, to empty benches. There were only six members present. He referred to the silver question without committing himself to any particular view. At the same time, he thought the fall in the rupee was a claim on Government for strict economy in every direction. The high price of the Indian securities, he cited as the best proof of the stability of the Government. It was not impossible, according to him, to reduce the duty on salt at some future time.

In Committee Sir Roper Lethbridge elicited from Mr. Curzon the reply, that it was impossible to make the exchange on pensions two shillings per rupee and to reduce the term of service to twenty-five years. Putting all Europeans in the service on the most favored furlough and pensions scale would, if the counsels of the Select Committee were accepted, give the Natives an equal right to the same consideration, which was precluded by the expense.

AGAIN, there is rumour of Lord Lansdowne's early retirement and official denial by Lord George Hamilton of his nomination as the next Viceroy of India.

THE cyclone in the Bay of Bengal in the beginning of the month, was one of the strongest observed in recent years. The formation was a very sudden one as is generally the case. On the 1st of June there was not the least apprehension of such a storm wave. In the South of the Bay, a strong monsoon was blowing, and the surmise was that it was extending northwards. On the 2nd there was irregular distribution of pressure in the surrounding coasts, being high at the head of the Bay, and the look was suspicious. The next day almost the same condition prevailed, the wind being cyclonic but of moderate force in the northern half of the Bay. The day after a sudden fall of pressure was observed almost all over the Bay and the coasts, with the same irregularity in the north of the Bay, the cyclonic wind being less marked. The barometer though moderately falling, the condition of the Bay continued much the same on the following day. Except a rapid fall and a tendency to cyclonic circulation of the wind on the north, nothing more was observable on the 6th. In the south the winds were south-westerly on the 7th, the barometer falling moderately, nearly tenth of an inch, especially at the west coast, from Gopalpore to Madras, accompanied by marked cyclonic winds. The apprehension was that the centre of the storm was to the east of Gopalpore with a tendency to advance towards Orissa. The cyclone was now rapidly developing. On the morning of the 8th the

centre was to the east or south-east of False Point. The lowest pressure then at Pooree was recorded at 29.425. The storm signals were hoisted this morning at the Hooghly stations and the Orissa ports. At 4 A. M. of the 9th "great danger" signals were exhibited at the Hooghly stations and at Calcutta, indicating the storm's probable advance towards them. This day was terribly cyclonic being more severe than in the previous storm of November last. The centre was advancing slowly towards the north. At 2 A. M., it was due east of False Point. Mr. Milner, a Senior Branch Pilot, who was on board the *Sarsuti*, fixed the calm centre of the storm on the evening of the 9th at 55 miles east by north of False Point, or about 80 miles south of the mouth of the Hooghly. During the night the storm advanced rapidly and recurved towards the west. At 2 A. M. of the 10th it was west-south-west of Saugor Island, the centre crossed the coast about 40 or 45 miles west of the mouth of the Hooghly at about 6.30 A. M., between Balasore and Saugor Island, the barometer at Balasore recording the low pressure of 28.670 inches. At 8 A. M., the centre was to the north-west of Balasore with a pressure of 28.731 inches, and on the 10th it advanced north-westerly towards Chota Nagpur. The rate of advance was more rapid than before. On the following day the centre was on the extreme south-west of Chota Nagpur and on the 12th at about 8 A. M. it was close upon Sutna. Here, the storm began to fill up and by the 14th, it was all over.

The cyclone travelled over an extensive area, its force being considerably felt at Chittagong, Akyab, Diamond Island, and even down to Coconada. Heavy rain accompanied this severe storm, and Orissa, Chota Nagpur and Behar had a large proportion of it. South-west Bengal had a normal share, in the east and north it was comparatively small. The storm over, the monsoon winds prevailed, stronger than usual in the north of the Bay. On the 16th, there was a fresh but very slight barometric depression near Bhamphore, with feeble cyclonic circulation of wind about that place. It continued the next day, entirely disappearing on the 18th. Up to the 21st, the ordinary monsoon weather prevailed almost everywhere in the Bay. In Bengal, it was of a very ordinary character. At Galle of a very strong one. The two following days the monsoon was blowing strong in the Bay with a break in rains in Bengal. Much the same condition was observed the next day with a strong wind in the north of the Bay. This morning the pressure came down slowly over the entire Bay, but it was more than normal, and irregular winds were blowing in south Bengal. In the north-west angle of the Bay it was a little stronger than usual with a rough sea. The rainfall in Calcutta was about an inch, with an equal amount at Chittagong.

There is as yet no indication of the general destruction—"loss of life and property by the inclemency of the weather on the 27th"—calculated by "Jyotishi Kulendra Prasad Saraswati," towards the end of last month.

THE Secretary of State for India has ruled that officers, on accepting high permanent appointments, which may extend over five years or more, must forego the intention of applying for ordinary furlough within two years from the date of their appointment.

The rule is made applicable to civil officers as also to military men in civil employ. It is, however, open to the Government of India and the Local Administrations to grant leave of absence when an officer is forced to apply for it by sickness or urgent private affairs. The Government of India, in its turn, empowers the Local Government or Departments which ordinarily grants the leave, to decide in each case whether the special circumstances are, or are not, of such a nature as to justify a relaxation of the rule. It is left to the Government of India to determine to which of the higher grades in each department of the service the rule will apply. There is as yet no delegation of this power to the Local Administrations. The Government of India had opposed the rule as neither necessary nor desirable. The instances which might have suggested it were not of frequent occurrence, inasmuch as an officer permanently appointed to a high post would not willingly forego the pay of the post in favour of leave allowance, which is independent of the pay and much less in amount. The Secretary of State was firm. He found the facts different and saw no reason to change his opinion.

We may mention that Lord Cross would not press his other suggestions made with the object of reducing the home charges by amendment of the Civil Furlough Regulations. These suggestions

did not find favor with the Government of India as not having any appreciable financial effect.

FOR the Jangopal Mallik Scholarship for education in Europe, the rules of which were published in *Reis and Rayyet* in November last, fourteen candidates presented themselves. Six of these came under the rules, having passed the recent F. A. examination in the first division. The other eight were graduates, but as according to the terms of the Scholarship it could not be awarded to other than F. A.s passed at the last examination, the occasion did not arise for taking the graduate-candidates' qualifications into consideration. The choice has fallen on Sarat Kumar Chakravarti of the Presidency College, son of Pandit Behari Lal Chakravarti, of Nimtola, in this city. Sarat goes to England to prepare himself for the Civil Service competition of 1895 or 1896, for both of which he is by age eligible.

THE Registrar-General has taken notice of the waywardness of his inspecting staff. The Inspectors are prohibited from inspecting offices at unusual hours and on Sundays. It is, however, free to them to examine the office records on the weekly holidays if the officer in charge agree.

OUR own news from the Happy Valley is as queer as ever. One of the Members of the Council has worked himself into the confidence and into the credulity of the Maharaja. He has offered his terms for the full restoration of the Chief to his own. The abolition of the Council and the deportation of the royal brothers are no great matter with him. The price claimed for these offices is the Prime-ministership and the appointment of his son—now on employ in British India—to a high office in the state.

THE suspended head assistant and Treasurer of Colonel Prideaux in the Oudh and Mysore Pensions office, has turned up at Cashmere, under the ægis of his old friend and patron, the Resident. He has already made himself a terror in the state.

He is not satisfied with an immediate contract for Rs. 35,400. He must have its terms wholly suited to himself. The Revenue Member and the Governor of Jumna confess themselves beaten in his awful presence. They cannot but submit to the Resident's Own.

THE English papers report a remarkable phenomenon :—

"The British ship *Habitant*, Captain Potter, from Hull, which arrived at New York on May 16, reports having met a remarkable number of icebergs in latitude 49 deg. 30 min., longitude 45 deg. 20 min., on May 10. When the fog lifted in the morning the ship seemed to be in a great valley, with peak after peak of ice towering all around amid acres of floating ice-cakes 6 feet or 8 feet above the water. The captain counted twenty-five bergs within sight, averaging from 100 feet to 250 feet high. For some hours the ship sailed along a narrow passage between ice mountains, reflecting all the colours of the rainbow in the bright sunlight. Clear water was not entered until night, when the ship had run seventy-five miles through the ice. The captain thought he had taken a course far enough south to escape all the ice."

That was an unique sight—a spectacle of beauty and sublimity to inspire the poorest and most languid imagination. The danger of the situation was an additional element of fascination. Had there been notice of it, it would have been worth while sending a deputation from the Academies of Art and of Letters to await in the neighbourhood of the gulf stream the descent of the multitudinous icebergs down the Atlantic. With what enthusiasm would Ruskin have reported the sight! Perhaps Turner and Coleridge only could do justice to it, each in his line. We wonder if Swinburne, our grandest living rhapsodist on the sea, will be tempted to paint it from hearsay.

THE *Madras Standard* notes :—

"The *Reis and Rayyet* heads its weekly notes 'Weeklyana.' We may hereafter hear of Dailiana, Monthliana, Quarterliana, Yearliana, &c., &c."

No wonder. And no harm, either—except to ourselves, truth to tell. The fact is that there is an inordinate passion abroad in this country to copy *Reis and Rayyet*—not only our literary forms in writing but also our very headings. "Reis and Rayyet" and "Prince and Peasant" have become stock phrases with speakers and writers and we have no complaint. Every trumpery new venture in hebdomadal journalism is a weekly newspaper and review of Politics, Literature and Society, with additions into the bargain, such as Science and Art, Commerce and what not besides. As if every conductor who can with difficulty present the news of the day in tolerable or intolerable grammar and work out some sort of an editorial out of his head, is entitled to call his printed rag a "review"!

The headings of two of the three different original sections of our

journal have been so adopted by others that we have repeatedly changed them. We would not have minded at all had the headings been utilized for appropriate matter. But it was the fact of their being used for departments of cuttings and clippings that annoyed us, considering that we used them as sign-posts to direct the reader to matter more or less original, to writing of our own, or news carefully selected on a principle of our own and presented in our own way, or at least accompanied by some remark or information or anecdote from our own stores.

All the three departments of our paper from the beginning of the columns of miscellaneous news—now *Weeklyana*—to the end of the leading columns and, not unoften, as in this issue, even beyond, are in the highest commercial sense original as our own handiwork or rather brain work. Original too is our correspondence, as, except under peculiar circumstances, we do not publish any letter which has appeared in any other paper, and many a time have we broken up matter ready in type on seeing it in another newspaper. Likewise, our very "Official Papers" are often original in the sense that we alone of, and before, all the Press, by our enterprise and outlay, obtain them for the good of the public. From a public too dull and indifferent we rarely get any thanks for the service, though we may easily find ourselves in a hole. Indeed, the hazardous nature of the game prevents us from drawing pointed attention to our achievement, or else the laggard public would know more frequently, and think more highly, of our enterprise.

We wonder our contemporary did not criticise the issue of our mint, pointing out its glaring inaccuracy and say that it should be *Weekliana* and not *Weeklyana*.



REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, June 25, 1892.

THE TRUTH ABOUT LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

SIR Charles Elliott is justly entitled to the thanks of all experienced and right-minded persons who are not carried away by the craze for an impossible self-government in Bengal, for his action towards amendment of the mofussil municipal Act. This action shows that he has discerned the difficulty of managing large and important municipalities through non-official chairmen, and realised the necessity of altering the present arrangement whenever it was found desirable for the efficient administration of the civic affairs of a city or town. An agitation is going on against the proposed moderate change in the law, but it is totally devoid of any real representative element and is as half-hearted and empty as such movements generally are and of which we have seen enough. Such meaningless and reckless agitations—such make-believe clamour—should always be treated with contempt. What is the worth of bogus telegrams reporting meetings of schoolboys and resolutions by nobodies? Government should take care to ascertain who's who? and what's what? Above all, Government should weigh the facts and arguments adduced against, rather than the numerical strength of the mob opposed to, the proposed revision of the Act, which, in its present shape, is doing harm. It is all very well to talk and write without knowing the real state of things, or criticise without possessing the necessary power of observation. It is very easy to please a mob of thoughtless school-boys and irresponsible enthusiasts with long and oratorical harangues, but not so to examine soberly and minutely the administration of a municipality and judge its effect upon the people. Since the introduction of the present system, things have, in many municipalities, gone from bad to worse, so much so that the municipal administration has become a burning scandal, and sensible people of all classes speak in unmistakable terms against it. Experience has forcibly demonstrat-

ed at least two things: (1) that the non-official element is wholly wanting in that power of control, self-reliance, and independence of action which are the life and soul of all administrations, and (2) that it does not possess that official administrative training without which it is generally impossible for a man to control and rule scores of servants and officers belonging to a corporation and command the respect of a town. Besides, many of our men are physically disqualified to exercise the active functions of a Chairman or a Vice-Chairman. There are again some who, if otherwise much better than others, are thoroughly conscious that they have not sufficient leisure at their disposal to devote to and promote local self-government, nevertheless the greed of power and influence impels them to canvas for and obtain such appointments.

The causes of municipal failure are not far to seek. They lie on the surface. They are congenital. Nor is there occasion for surprise. What ground had anybody to expect success? Is it possible for men who have never controlled half a dozen servants in their life to any purpose, to control properly a multitude of subordinates of different castes and grades? Can they command their allegiance? Can they send a thrill of awe through their veins by a frown of their forehead or by a stroke of their riding whip? Is it likely that men who have lived for generations in most wretched and dirty habitations, with all insanitary surroundings, and many of whom, notwithstanding their great boast of enlightenment and knowledge of sanitation, are still living in such houses where it is difficult to stand for half an hour without inconvenience and fear of some kind to one's health, will be able to look after the sanitation of a town? A person who is quite incapable of putting his own house in order, is entrusted with the duty of looking after the health and life of a city and improving its sanitary condition. Nothing madder than this is possible to conceive. I have seen non-official executive heads of municipalities being insulted by their subordinates and quite incapable of punishing the delinquents adequately and promptly and making their orders obeyed. Firmness, courage and manliness are absent in many of them without which it is quite impossible to successfully govern or control even on a small scale. This will account for the notoriously bad collections which cannot be denied. There are again many subordinates who are one way or the other connected with the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman or this Commissioner or that, and the executive cannot keep a tight hand over them, either for personal reasons or for fear of some Commissioners. They are no doubt very good at drawing up elaborate reports and satisfactory explanation, or in examining accounts, &c., but they cannot do that amount of good to the ratepayers and residents of a town in three months which an official Chairman does by his one morning's ride. One *dhamki* from the magistrate or his Deputy or Joint to the overseers, tax collectors or clerks will make them shudder and stand a whole day on their legs to do a particular work—a result the Babu cannot obtain by writing six sheets of paper in good and grammatical English. I have never seen a Babu Chairman or Vice-Chairman ride, although there may be some exceptions to the rule. Many do not know to ride, others do not attempt it, being in such miserable health. Some of these city fathers are miserable pictures of physical depravity and health. Some are subject to diabetes and some to asthma or

dysentery, and it is hardly practicable for them to move conveniently in their professional circle, not to speak of a large town. Can we expect that these gentlemen will make useful, energetic and careful executive Heads of a municipality?

A magistrate or an official Chairman sees nearly one fourth of the town every morning before he takes his breakfast. Among the lower ranks of the corporation, his administration is effectually conducted by the point of his whip instead of his quill. His orders are respected and obeyed and his wishes readily carried out by the high and the low. He never hesitates to punish an officer on any personal or private grounds. He knows how to abuse the sweeper and how to threaten the overseer. If he asks anything for the good of the town, whether in cash or kind, it is readily given by the wealthy. A non-official Chairman cannot get a farthing from any one even if he begs for it. I know some of the best native non-official Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen and have great respect and regard for them as polite, honest, educated and good gentlemen, but many of them are too weak and quiet for superintending and administering a municipality. There are some exceptions, of course, but then their previous official training stands them in good stead. People erroneously think that university degrees and some success in a profession, whatever its nature might be, suffice to qualify a man for the most difficult work of municipal administration, for which great experience of the world, ample leisure, capacity for hard labour, much tact, and, most of all, sober courage and special training in business are indispensably necessary. These can mostly be acquired gradually, according to opportunities and not at the expense of the inhabitants of large towns, such as Dacca and Puri. There is much difference between the management of a godown, a large *mudi* shop, a class of schoolboys or a school, of a jute mill, a nursery, a Zemindari or a money-lending business, and that of a municipality, which avaricious and ambitious people cannot clearly see.

Municipal Commission is fast becoming a lucrative and charming profession, and municipalities have become paying concerns. The head executive offices are the prize appointments of the department and are therefore greatly coveted by all and especially by that profession which is most well paid and covetous.

Pleaders, particularly the prosperous among them, have very little time to devote to anything except their own profession, but this notorious fact never deters them from canvassing for the Chairman- and Vice-Chairmanships of Municipalities and District Boards, and the number of these aspirants is yearly increasing.

In conclusion, I must insist that I am not deficient in patriotism. I may add that I have had the experience of both the posts and have some real sympathy with the local self-government scheme, if it be warily introduced and if our application for its general extension is based upon the maxim of "first deserve and then desire."

—TRUTH.

A SKETCH OF

THE HISTORY OF THE PRESS IN INDIA.

By DR. SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE.

[Continued from page 296.]

As practised in this country, down to this century, the employment of a *corps* of scouts and spies was not an improper thing, nor so regarded. The official name for spy was *hilkdrá* or *harkard*—no offensive word certainly, being now a synonym for messenger. Nor was the occu-

pation of a *harkard* or spy a disreputable one. On the contrary, it was an office of honour and distinction, because of great confidence. Raja Ram Narain Singh of Midnapore (brother of Raja Raj. Narayan Sing, a powerful landlord and a political factor,) as the head of the *harkards* and in charge of the Intelligence Department of Nawab Serajud Dowla, enjoyed the emoluments and held the position of one of the Principal Ministers of State. The famous Trimbakji Dangliah of Mahratta history originally held without reproach the post of a *jasoos* or spy.

The correspondence between the British of Calcutta and the Country Powers during the Revolutionary Period in Bengal, which commencing with the death of Nawab Mahabbat Jung culminated in the grant of the Dewani to the British, printed in Parliamentary Papers or Proceedings or published in books or pamphlets in various interests, frequently mention *hirkaras* on both sides. There is a valuable collection of official records published under the title of *Original Papers*, in 2 vols., in London, 1765, in which one comes from time to time on such notices as—"advices of my *hircaras*."—vol. I., p. 147. The "papers of news" mentioned in that book are, of course, newspapers, written out from information brought in by the *hircaras* or spies—or newsmen, or special correspondents if you will.

The old Hindu system, adopted by the Mahomedans, was followed by the Europeans in India in quite the indigenous manner, though of course with a hastening decline in dignity of the service. In proof, I would refer you to an old publication, Hadley's *Grammar of the Moors, with a Vocabulary*. This curious and historically valuable book, of which I have a copy of the 6th edition, dated London, 1801, was published towards the end of the last century. It contains a typical conversation between an officer (English) and a spy into the backwoods of the Burdwan country to enquire after an aboriginal Chief with whom there was then war.

Proof still more clinching that neither the new British Government of India nor individual officers looked with disfavour upon the employment of the agency, is furnished by the fact of the adoption of the native word for spy for the name of one of the earliest ventures of the British in India in the journalism of print. Long the most respectable and the ablest English newspaper in Bengal was the *Bengal Hircarah*, dated from the last century. That was the old spelling, while the old meaning was spy. The spelling was changed from *Hircarah* to *Hurkaru* in the early part of the present century, while the meaning still continued. It is superfluous to insist that the learned gentlemen and officers of position who presided at the baptism of the newspaper, would not have adopted for it such a designation, if any the slightest opprobrium attached to the word *hurkaru* or its English synonym, in either Indian or Anglo-Indian acceptation.

It was usual in squibs in rival journals to suggest The Bengal Peada or the Bengal Porter as the equivalent of the Bengal Hurkaru, and, in later times, when the old traditions were forgotten and words acquired a new significance, the name was usually rendered the Bengal Messenger. This version was the accepted one, and it was certainly true to the philology of the day. But a *Peada* or a menial messenger was too humble a character to tempt the English in undemocratic times when dignity was observed in the smallest matters, and specially in India where it was most cultivated, to adopt it for the title of a newspaper, at a time when newspapers first came into existence and consequently enjoyed a unique importance. It is reasonable to suppose, therefore, that the name *Hircarah* or *Hurkaru* was taken not for its humility but rather for its dignity as well as appropriateness. The *Hircarah* or The Spy was certainly a designation fit and honourable for a newspaper as suggesting the importance and usefulness of a recognized and respectable service which used to supply the earliest accurate news.

In tracing the origin of the Press to its sources, I commenced with unfolding the whole system of the ancient Hindu ministry of state, and dwelt on the prominence given in it to the Intelligence Department. Allow me now to show the function of that Department in the Mahomedan Polity which rose on the ruins of Hindu government. The conquerors, who exhibited no violent intolerance towards the institutions of the conquered, no doubt heard of the solicitude of the national rulers for obtaining a regular and timely supply of correct information as an auxiliary to government. This is not so simple a matter

as tyros in human nature and human history might suppose. The necessity of procuring intelligence about the enemy is so obvious that even savage tribes must be supposed to recognize it, at least in war time. Yet so conservative and barren is the mind of man that the next step, apparently so easy, to perceive the desirability of it in the piping times of peace, is not attained by many peoples in a state of considerable social advancement. Still more rare is it to see the idea so grasped and utilised or to lead to a system of intelligence and information at home and abroad as among the old Hindus. Thus, although all the best points in Mahomedan policy were of indigenous origin or Hindu suggestion, yet it was long before the very rudiments of the Hindu system of intelligence were adopted and longer still before a regular department arose among the Mahomedans. Even Akbar, the greatest administrative and social reformer, did not thoroughly grasp the utility of an intelligence department. His famous Regulations, embodying the model of all subsequent organization in India, do not provide for one. Yet before the decay of Mogul Power one was established.

As in regard to the Hindu period I cited no wild *Purdna* or staggering *Itihasa* but a law book—the code of Manu himself, so in regard to the Mahomedan times I will cite, if not an analogous, yet an equally business-like and satisfactory authority—a word-book. A vocabulary or glossary is above all nonsense, in a greater degree than even a juridical treatise. It deals simply in bare facts, without any sort of embellishment. I cite, therefore, Gladwin's *Dictionary of Mohammedan Law, and of Bengal Revenue Terms, with a Vocabulary. Persian and English*. Calcutta: From the Press of Thomson and Ferris, 1797. Francis Gladwin, who modestly represents himself as a compiler, was one of the earliest Englishmen who led his countrymen, fresh to the difficulties of Indian administration, through the mazes of Hindustani and Persian speech. He was no mere word-catcher that lives on syllables, having distinguished himself by the translation of important literary and historical works from Oriental languages. He was better acquainted with the whole system of government to which his lucky countrymen had succeeded almost by a fluke, than any other man. Therefore, I the more readily look into this guide to administrative and business terms prepared by him for the benefit of his countrymen, and come upon some curious facts. There were several sorts of reporters, though most of them did not bear affinity to journalism. In their laudable solicitude for information, the British have only followed their predecessors. Nor was Mogul Centralization a whit less perfect than British. The Mahomedan rulers took particular care to preserve the boundaries of the Empire. Not a rupee of the revenue of a straggling village on the skirts was left unaccounted for. The administration of the farthest Province was as regular and as systematically attended to, as that of the metropolitan districts. The difficulties of frontier management were well-understood, and to meet its special requirements a special officer of ability and experience as well as dignity was stationed on each frontier Province. He was appropriately called *Sewanahnigar*. The term is explained by Gladwin as meaning

"An officer stationed by the Mogul Government, in distant provinces, to transmit weekly to court, an account of all public transactions, such as the collection of the revenues, the management of the lands, and the state of the country."

An officer who transmits weekly an account of all public transactions and of the state of the country, no doubt in part fulfilled the part of a local newspaper, but he is not to be confounded with a journalist, inasmuch as the accounts were not available to the public, and as the staple of their contents was purely administrative information, to the exclusion of all others. These weekly accounts were simply official despatches, and as frequently conveying frontier political news—accounts of border raids, of the intentions, perhaps, of the attacks of next neighbours, of encroachments of the landlords or fiscals of other states, and so forth—they were necessarily confidential communications.

After all, it was only on the distant frontiers that the *Sewanahnigars* were located. There was, however, a similar provision for information from all the Provinces, far and near, in the *Wakanagars*. Let us see what Gladwin has to say on this head:—

"WAKANAGAR. A writer of news, or occurrences. There

were formerly officers, established under this name, throughout every part of the empire, whose business it was to transmit weekly to court, by the post, an account of the collection, the management of the lands, and other matters which came to their knowledge, respecting the country and the revenues. A head Wakanagar resided at Patna, and his deputies were dispersed through every district."

Here then, at last, was a news agency of the modern sort. Here we have in embryo the *Akhbarnavis* and his *akhbar*.

There was a *Waka* business at least as old as Akbar. The famous Institutes of that great sovereign, the *Ayin Akbari*, as given in the contemporary history of his worthy Minister, mentions with distinction the office of Wakyahnavces. But although the words are apparently cognate and synonymous, they are not the same things. They represent very different occupations. Akbar's Wakanavis was an office of record of all the doings of the Emperor and of his government, in peace or war, and of all official transactions from day to day, taken down and laid before His Majesty every day, while a *precis* was made, doubtless for convenience of reference in future. The idea was worthy of an Emperor and it was carried out with imperial vigour and success. It was the Diary of the Empire and its Master, for it included abstracts of all important reports from the country at large in all its Provinces. But it was not a newspaper. There was no establishment of intelligencers or couriers or carriers attached to the Department, and though the *Yaddast* prepared in it was a daily chronicle of the Empire, it was not, so far as can be discerned from Allami's description, available, even in its *precis*, to the general public. Still it was in its way a fine germ of journalism, which developed into the Wakanagar of the great-grandson.

Before dismissing this part of my history, I must put in one word, to prevent misunderstanding. Although no prominence is given in the great Emperor's system to the machinery for obtaining intelligence, he was not without his couriers and spies. Without such a service he could scarcely get on. No commandant in the field could venture to march without the reports of scouts. We learn incidentally that Akbar had an establishment of a thousand. Under the head of Mewra or Mehra, in the military regulations, we see that these were chosen from a particular tribe, the Mewatis. They are said to be admirable for quick messages; excellent spies who will engage in the most difficult undertakings. Their being placed in the military department did not, of course, restrict their service to it.

The earliest distinct mention of antetypographic newspapers that I have discovered in the annals of Mahomedan India, so rich in historical literature, is in the times of Alimgir I. Notwithstanding the Emperor's prohibition, a hereditary historian, Mahammad Hashim, known in literature as the celebrated Khafi Khan, managed to record in secret the occurrences of that eventful period. In the year of the Hijri, 1110, corresponding with the year of Christ 1698-99, occurred the death of Ram Raja of Sattara, of the House of Sivaji. This was in the forty-third year of the reign of the Emperor Aurungzebe. At any time the death of the Mahratta Chief would have been an important political occurrence. But at the time when it took place, when the great Emperor was prosecuting his long and endless warfare in the South, with the Mahrattas among other Powers, it was to Aurungzebe no less than to the distracted heirs of the inheritance of Sivaji, a momentous event. How did the Emperor come by his knowledge of it? It was not from any official despatch or any special courier that he learnt of it, any more than from one of his advanced pickets or scouts. No staunch ally or adherent nor faithful feudatory sent the message. The first intimation was brought to the imperial camp by the newspapers. We read in the *Muntakhabul Lubab* of Khafi Khan:—

"The news-papers now reported that Rám Rája, after encountering some ill luck and failure in his descent upon Berár, was returning to his own mountain home, when he died on the way, leaving three sons of tender years, and two wives. Immediately afterwards it was announced that the eldest son, a boy of five years of age, had died of small-pox. On this the chiefs appointed Tára Báí, the chief wife, and mother of one of the sons, Regent. A clever intelligent woman, she had made a name during her husband's life-

time by her knowledge of civil and military affairs. Tára Báí proceeded to the almost inaccessible hills."

Nor did the Emperor disbelieve the account. Had it been one newspaper, it might have been imprudent to give it implicit credence and shape state action upon the information. A single sheet might be manufactured by the designing and thrown on purpose into the imperial camp to mislead. But the text uses the plural number. Evidently, more than one journal brought the same news, so the Emperor had no ground for doubt. He had confidence in the good faith as well as the accuracy of the Press. Accordingly, adds the Mussulman annalist:—

"On receiving this intelligence, the Emperor ordered the drums of rejoicing to be beaten,.....the soldiers congratulated each other,.....saying that another prime author of the strife was gone.....and that (now) it will not be difficult to overcome two young children and a helpless woman. They thought their enemy weak, contemptible and helpless; but Tára Báí, as the wife of Rám Rája was called, showed great capacity for command and government, and from day to day the war spread and the power of the Mahrattas increased."

That, following the preceding extract, if you will observe it closely, is a most suggestive passage. Besides the existence in number of newspapers, it proves several other things—their character, quality, status, and usefulness. It has been surmised that the so-called newspapers in the East, before the era of printing in this century, were simply confidential reports to Government. Such, certainly were not these Indian papers of the seventeenth century. They were not of the nature of special news-letters for the eye of the Emperor himself only or the Emperor and his confidential Ministers. They were in every sense newspapers—that is, public vehicles for the dissemination of news of the day. And they constituted a genuine Press—unto the best sense, as I mean to show presently. The Mahomedan annalist gives us clearly to understand that the common soldiers in Aurungzebe's camp were supplied with their newspapers like the British privates before Sebastopol, and like them discussed their contents. It will be seen that no modern journal—no telegram in the *Times* from its Paris or Berlin Correspondent is more implicitly believed in, or is capable of creating a more profound impression, than the manuscript newspapers mentioned by Khafi Khan. Nor is this a solitary instance. With a liberality which the Princes of Europe themselves might follow with the best results to themselves and their states, the former rulers of India allowed the utmost liberty to the press in, at any rate, the matter of news, and thus enabled the newspapers to be more useful than they otherwise might be. These did not spare princes and satraps, and they took cognizance of news sure, in colloquial parlance, to cause a row. A remarkable example is afforded by Aurungzebe in his latest relations with his grandson, Mirza Azim Oshan. This Prince held the important government of Bengal and Behar. As such he was second in resources and power to the Emperor himself. Yet the Bengal newspapers did not scruple to expose him. He was not a bad specimen of a Mogul Prince, but he had his foibles, as who has not? and these were seized by the argus eye of the journalists of the day. His Highness certainly harboured views of succession to the throne, like the rest of his family, and it was I believe with that object that he set himself to cultivate the people. But in procuring the good will of the Hindu subjects of the Empire, he went to lengths which could not fail to displease the Mussulmans. For he actually celebrated the Hindu Festival of the Spring with the appropriate red powder and red liquid. This was an abomination to the Sunni bigot on the throne, as the ruler of Bengal well knew, and it was Azim Oshan's interest to keep his Hindu proclivities out of his stern grandfather's notice. He was so far successful in this that no formal complaints from the orthodox Mussulman community in these Provinces reached the imperial ears. But that did not prevent the Emperor knowing of his grandson's vagaries. The Press did its duty, without fear or favour. It was through the newspapers that Aurungzebe learnt the truth.

Another more serious foible of the prince was his avarice. He would make money at any cost. This left him a prey to evil advisers and sycophants who served their own purposes by pandering to the prince's weakness. Under

such advice he essayed to add to his functions of the ruler the character of the chief merchant in the country. He began with monopolising all the seaborne imports and vending them to retailers. This was a hardship to the foreigners, chiefly Europeans, as well as to the people of the whole empire, and must have stopped the external commerce of the country. He established agents at all the ports to buy up the foreign cargoes cheap, to be afterwards disposed of by other agents to the best advantage to merchants and traders for circulation throughout the land. The Europeans and Armenians who were the importers were threatened with the loss of their occupation, but they found complaining to the Viceroy useless and they dared not appeal to the Emperor. Luckily, there was in the *Judimentary Press* an indirect but effectual check even on satraps of the Blood Imperial. Again the journalists did their duty. The historians do not quote the words of the newspapers. I presume they allowed themselves no comments. It was enough to publish the news, and explain the system to which the Viceroy gave the name of *Souda-e-khash*—commerce in special—as distinguished from *Souda-e-aam*—commerce in general. Historians aver that Aurungzebe learnt of the innovation not from the official reports of his *Sewanahigars* but from the newspapers. He immediately took steps for its discontinuance. On this double provocation, His Majesty wrote with his own hand to his grandson, commenting with bitter sarcasm on his vagaries. A yellow turban and saffron-coloured garments ill became a beard of forty-six years' growth, said the grave grandsire. As for Azim Oshan's fiscal reform, it was indeed *Souda-e-khas*, but only in the sense of *personal insanity* rather than *particular commerce*.

Under the Mogul Constitution in India, the revenue administration of the country was kept separate from the functions of maintaining military possession and preserving civil order. The theory was to leave these in different hands, and so they were left in the palmy days of the Empire. If latterly, from time to time, they became centred in the same hands, the offices and occupations themselves were always kept distinct, and there was a persistent tendency to their separation into several officers. One was the Nazim or Subadar, the Lieutenant of the Emperor, the Governor. The other was the Imperial Dewan or the Chief Fiscal or Revenue administrator. Thus, when Azim Oshan was appointed Nazim of these Provinces, the Dewanship was given to an experienced officer of Hindu extraction converted to Islam, by name Jafer Khan, under the title of Moorshed Kuli Khan. The capital of Bengal was then Dacca, where they both resided and worked.

Under the influences of poor human nature, the two offices are singularly well calculated to come into collision. Nor did the characters of the officers afford the least guarantee of mutual good understanding. The Viceroy was a Prince of the Blood, grandson of the Emperor, presumably a middle-aged imperial scapegrace who had not yet sown all his wild oats, surrounded by flatterers, and in whom the latitudinarianism of the House of Timour was barely kept under by fear of his austere grandsire. The Dewan was an abstemious bigot, careful of his pence and the pence of the state, who regarded an army for governing Bengal a costly luxury which could well be dispensed with. Moorshed Kuli Khan was always treading on the Prince's corns unawares. He insisted on reduction of establishments in order that he might send an ample tribute from the Province to Delhi. The Prince saw that the dignity and *clat* of his government was being continually shorn by this beggarly fiscal. His demands for money were frequently refused. Meanwhile, the viceregal court became the resort of disappointed soldiers of fortune, ambitious officers in the army, and dismissed officials in the civil service. Rowdies and desperadoes surrounded him at all times and poisoned his mind, already prepared by his own grievances, against Moorshed Kuli, until the Dewan's presence as well as office became hateful to him. At last, Azim Oshan, under the influence of his *entourage*, descended to a conspiracy against the faithful Moorshed's life. One morning as he was proceeding to pay his respects to the Prince at the Poshtah as usual, in his palki attended by a meagre retinue, he was stopped on the way by an ill-meaning crowd on pretence of demanding their pay. His guards showed funk, but the Dewan, who was no poltroon, at once descended from his vehicle and drew his sword. Unprepared for such a

prompt exhibition of pluck, the rascals slunk away and dispersed, but not before the Dewan had recognized the leader Abdul Wahed, who commanded a favoured corps. Moorshed Kuli entered his palki and pursued his journey to the Poshtah and, presenting himself direct before Azim Oshan sitting in Durbar, reproached him for his pusillanimity in resorting to such underhand measures for compassing any one's death,—in the present case the death of a good servant, and challenged him to single combat there and then as the more honorable way of killing. The Prince was confounded. He, of course, denied his complicity in the attempt, if any had been made. But Moorshed urged that without superior countenance nobody could venture upon such an impertinence as to stop the Imperial Dewan in his passage or to meditate his destruction. The Prince could only feebly insist on his innocence and mutter his wonder and indignation at what had happened. The Dewan did not wait but went straight to the chancellery and summoning Abdul Wahed, gave him an order for the arrears due to his corps, and disbanded it. He now returned to his private residence and thence he wrote to the Emperor fortifying his complaint by a narrative signed and sealed by several public officers. Then in anticipation of sanction, and without the courtesy of a farewell salaam to the Prince, he removed himself and his office, with all the revenue records and establishments, to a fine village or township on the Bhagirati, not far from its confluence with the Ganges, which, first as the seat of the Dewan and the Dewani, and afterwards as the capital, became famous under the name of Moorshedabad.

The Viceroy doubtless did not neglect to report to the Emperor, remarking on the unaccountable hallucination under which one day, all of a sudden, the eccentric Dewan, of his own instance, removed the imperial exchequer and all the valuable records of generations of the most important Provinces of the Empire, to no body knows where! All to no purpose, however. Moorshed Kuli Khan's explanation must have been an able one and satisfactory enough. His character for veracity and probity supported it. And if anything was wanted to complete the favorable impression, that was supplied by the Press which was noted for its truth. No doubt the newspapers had before given some hints at least of the state of things in Bengal, and the strained relations between the two Chiefs of the state. And now they must have been full of the strange culmination, not only going into the origin and particulars of the famous quarrel but also informing the whole country of the great administrative *coup*, the change of venue of the Dewani and the whole Revenue Department, in detail. The end of it all was not only creditable to the Press and the Dewan, but also honourable to the Empire. Aurungzebe sanctioned the removal, supported his servant, and not only rebuked his grandson threatening with the severest punishment if a hair of his Dewan or an atom of his property were touched, but withdrew him from Dacca, bidding him to fix his residence at Patna. The virtual Government of Bengal was subsequently given to Moorshed Kuli.

Placed in full charge of Bengal, in both the Nizamat and the Dewani—the civil government and the revenue administration—Moorshed applied his whole energies and all the powers of his mind to justify the extraordinary confidence reposed on him by the Emperor. He attained the highest success and reaped its full reward from the justice of Aurungzebe. His chief solicitude was to acquire as large a surplus revenue as possible, which he religiously transmitted to Delhi. He held a great state ceremonial on the day of transmitting the treasure from Bengal once a year. The convoy was marched under a military escort with music playing and banners flying. The despatch was notified in the royal gazettes and newspapers, intimating the route to be followed, so as to warn the Governors and authorities on the way to facilitate the passage of the Bengal Tribute and take measures for its protection.

BABOO—NO GENTLEMAN.

EDITOR, "REIS AND RAYYET."

DEAR SIR,—What a perpetual butt of ridicule and contempt are the *natives*! Go where you will, dress any way you like, educate yourself as you will, you are sure to be pursued most pitilessly with this significant opprobrium. *Natives* can not be gentlemen, *Babus*, never.

A friend of mine, a few days ago, had been on a visit to an England-returned Bengali gentleman. This latter, though he had undergone all the phenomenal changes inevitable, and even married an English woman, had not altogether forgotten the traditions of his race, and was even courteous; in short, he seemed quite in touch with the much abused *native*, in spirit at least, if in nothing else.

My friend, accordingly, was graciously received in the drawing-room, where, on a sofa, the young hopeful of the host, of 12 or 13, lay absorbed in his own play.

And now the conversation began; from sympathetic it grew even warm: they seemed to enjoy each other's company. All on a sudden the boy enquired, in all the simplicity of his age, "Papa, who is he?" pointing to my friend. "A gentleman," was the brief reply of the father. That ogre of a boy seemed not satisfied, and with the conviction of one more knowing, rejoined whining, "No, he is not a gentleman, he is a Babu."

Horror of horrors! They could not be more surprised if the flooring beneath up-turned and outstarted a monster therefrom on the scene. The host grew red in spite of his native darkness, possibly more with shame at this bold unpleasant truth than rage, and rated his little hopeful soundly, my friend interceding all the while for the formidable juvenile, pleading his childhood, &c.

But who can describe the awkward position of my friend, the opposing feelings that agitated his breast, the painful efforts, "The struggling pangs of conscious truth to hide?"

And this is how the very children of the "Darkies" are brought up, not to speak of the Whites and Browns and their issue! Yours,

JAY K. BANERJEE.

15th June.

MR. CURZON ON INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The Hon. G. N. Curzon, Under-Secretary of State for India, addressed a great meeting of the Primrose League at Brighton, on May 10. After some references to general politics Mr. Curzon proceeded to give an account of recent frontier wars in India. The British Empire, he said, was spread over many seas and lands, and included the greatest maritime dominions and the greatest commercial dominions that the world had ever known, but no part of the Empire was equal in importance or comparable in prestige to India. If we lost India our sun would decline from the meridian, and there would be visible the first signs of the twilight of a long decay. But he had absolutely no fear of that result, not merely because he believed we were better fitted in India to meet any enemy than any enemy was to attack us, not merely because he believed our rule in India to be a wise and sagacious rule, just to the people and acceptable to the various classes and religions, but because he believed British character to be composed of the same fibre, that the same blood coursed in English veins, and the same pulses beat in English hearts as in the days when we carved our way to fortune and to fame. He would give three instances in recent history of acts of heroism calculated to make any English heart glow with pride. In India there were chronic petty frontier wars undertaken for the defence of the border, or of allied and feudatory States, against the turbulent clansmen, who inhabited the surrounding regions, wars not filling a large place in military or political history, but imposing a severe test on the character and capacity of soldiers taking part in them, fought as they were in a trying climate and with a small force against a numerous enemy expert in mountain and jungle warfare and animated with a savage bravery. If three niches in the temple of fame happened to be vacant he would commend to their notice three heroes of these wars. An expedition recently set out to coerce and punish two rebellious States among the mountains north of Cashmere in the depth of severe winter through a country so rugged and inhospitable that the enemy deemed themselves invulnerable. In the course of their advances they were confronted by the strongly fortified stone fort of Nilt, placed in an almost impregnable position. It was soon realised that entry was impossible unless the gate was broken in or destroyed. Captain Aylmer pushed forward and placed the slabs of dynamite at the gate in the face of a murderous fire. He ignited the fuse and retired. It failed, and the gallant fellow went back again, and, though three times wounded, succeeded. In an instant Captain Aylmer and Lieutenants Boisragon and Badcock, with their handful of men, were inside fighting like demons, and in five minutes not a single defender of the fort but was fleeing pell-mell down the valley. Continuing their way, the British troops were stopped by Sangars or stone breast-works on almost impregnable cliffs. For three weeks they sat down before their works, and then Lieutenant Manners Smith, with a hundred Ghoorkas and Dogras, undertook the task of storming them. They descended a ravine, crossed a river, and climbed the cliff higher and higher and were not discovered. Then they found that they had taken the wrong track, and had to descend and try again. Suddenly their presence was ascertained and down came upon their heads rock after rock from the defenders of the Sangars above. They held on until the moment came when they turned the corner, and then, with wild hurrahs, stormed the breastwork, and the deed was done.

Far away in another part of the Empire in Upper Burmah Lieutenant McMunn, followed by only 14 men with a camp following of 15 mules and three drivers, fought his way yard by yard and step by step for 24 miles in the face of an enemy greatly exceeding his force in numbers to the relief of a fortified post named Sadon. In the course of the march he and his little handful of men had to rush three stockades and to ford three deep rivers under a continuous rifle fire, but by that conjunction of prowess and luck which constituted heroism they pulled through to the end. Those three names of Captain Aylmer, Lieutenant Manners Smith, and Lieutenant McMunn, along with that of Captain Grant of Thobal, were names of heroes whom they should hold in honour. It was gratifying to know that British officers were thus showing in an age when war, he was told, had begun to be unpopular, and even surrender at any price had its advocates, that they were still made of the same grit which made a small island the Queen of the Seas. It was an answer to those who were always croaking about the attitude of the Indian peoples towards their British masters to say that it was not with British soldiers, but with Indian soldiers that these feats were accomplished. They followed English leaders and trusted them, and when he heard, in the House of Commons, men talking about India who knew nothing about it and who had never been there in their lives, and about the decrepitude or the hardness of British rule, he thanked his stars the defences of India did not depend in the last resort upon those voluble gentlemen of the town who would probably run away at the mere rattle of a popgun, but on true sons of the sword, who were also natives of the soil and who knew what British rule was and what it meant. He could not help rejoicing that he did not live in a day when the Universal Arbitration Society or the peace-at-any-price school had rendered it impossible for stout hearts and brave hands to defend by the sword that which by the sword was won, and which by the sword must be kept.

THE NATIVE PRESS.

Exception has been taken in interested circles to certain observations made by Dr. Sambhu Chunder Mookerjee in the paper recently read by him at the fiftieth meeting of the Hare anniversary. That an accomplished and scholarly writer like the Editor of the *Reis and Rayyet* should have condescended to notice the claims of certain newspapers to the estimation of the public is to be regretted. At first sight it would appear there was not much excuse to be personal in treating of a broad subject like the history of the Press upon which he was called to deliver an address. To do the speaker justice, however, it must be said that a history of the Press meant a history of individual journals that went to the making of that Press; and if we bear in mind the outspokenness and fearless candour that have always characterised the writings of the erudite Editor of the *Reis and Rayyet*, we need not feel surprised that he should have said what he honestly felt to be true, and what in the discharge of his duty as an honest historian he felt himself in duty bound to say. However distasteful his personal attacks may be to men of chiselled notions of propriety and decorum, we feel constrained to observe that, in the higher interests of truth and for the suppression of much intolerable humbug, it becomes imperative at times, on those that have the keep of the public conscience, to sacrifice sentiment for subject. Books like the "Rehearsal" or the "Dunciad" always have their value, and exercise a salubrious influence on society. Readers who have carefully followed the *Reis* from its birth in 1882, ought to know that it has always taken a particular delight in robbing the jackdaw of its borrowed feathers. In this age of humbug, when cunning thrives at the cost of honesty, and the true scholar or politician has to beg his daily crumb of bread, when worthless and unlettered sharpers and turncoats roll on the couch of luxury, it is sometimes a risky game, and often unpleasant to "good and virtuous" men, to unmask hypocrisy and dishonesty, or even to call a spade by its commonplace name of spade. Verily, it is folly to be wise where ignorance is bliss, and our friend has once been made to suffer and pay, rather dearly for his folly. We cannot permit ourselves the luxury of entering into an elaborate discussion as to whether the remarks passed by the lecturer in regard to some newspapers of Calcutta were unjust or unmerited. It would not be very wise to question the facts and figures that have been used by the Nestor of the native press who must have watched the little baby of the press as it first breathed the air of India, and through its successive stages of growth. Nor would such a discussion be of any benefit either to the public or to those papers that have come in for a large share of the speaker's censure. People whose conduct in life is not quite above suspicion ought to bear in mind the good old saying—"Let well alone." In conclusion, we may be permitted to hope that, now that some of our contemporaries have been made to see themselves as others see them, they will try to deserve the good opinion of the public and of themselves by withholding their support from such objects as tend to lower them in the estimation of all right thinking men.—*The Indian Daily News*, June 18, 1892.

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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

REVIEWS OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XII.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1892.

No. 531

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

BERTRAND DE BORN.

BY MRS. HOARE.

Henry the Second, harassed by the continued rebellion of his eldest son, Henry, at length went over with an army to France, in order to put down an insurrection which the young prince had raised among his vassals in Guelonne. Bertrand de Born, Lord of Hautefort, was a noble equally celebrated for his poetic talent as a troubadour, and his valor as a warrior. He warmly espoused the cause of young Henry, and accompanied him to the castle of Martel, whither he had retired on hearing of his father's approach. The king encamped at Turenne, and hostilities had already commenced, when a messenger arrived at the English camp, bearing tidings that Prince Henry was dangerously ill, and longed to see his father, and receive his forgiveness before he died. Henry, however, had so often been deceived by his rebellious son, that he believed this to be a ruse, and refused to visit the castle of Martel. Two days or two the prince died, and Bertrand de Born, dreading the king's vengeance, fled to his castle of Hautefort, and prepared to hold it out against the English. After an obstinate siege, it was at length reduced, and Bertrand was taken and led bound into the presence of Henry. The king was about to pass sentence of death on him, when Bertrand in a few touching words, spoke of the love which the dead prince had ever borne him, and the monarch, bursting into tears, pardoned the Lord of Hautefort, and, for the sake of his son, restored to him all his honors and possessions.

Why do the island banners gleam, the island knights advance,
Mid strains of warlike minstrelsy, across the plains of France?
The island host lies camped within the walls of old Turenne,
And forth they sally to the fight, who never fight in vain.
The hall was draped with banners, and there a throne was set
For the haughtiest king of England's line, Henry Plantagenet.
He sat him down in silence, his nobles standing by;
And they that knew him well might mark strange trouble in his eye.

His cold stern lip was quivering, his furrowed cheek was pale,
His brow was dark with the shade it wore when he listed the fearful tale,
How vengeance muttered, half conceived, was fully wreaked the while,
And proud à Becket weltering lay in Canterbury's aisle.
An English knight came spurring fast, he rushed into the hall:
'Good news!' he cried, 'my liege, I bring from Hautefort's ruined wall.
The strong-barred gates are battered down, the citadel is ta'en;
Our soldiers forced their bloody way o'er pyramids of slain.'

'And there within the donjon, at bay, and fighting still,
We seized the traitor Bertrand, and bound him at our will.
Without he waits thy sentence—will it please my liege to see
The rebel lord in life, or shall we bear his head to thee?'
'Bring him in hither,' said the king, 'I fain would see him near,
Who dared to raise his arm in fight, spurning our kingly fear.'
They led the sword-reft prisoner in, his stalwart limbs bound tight;
The dour they scattered on his head had dimmed its golden light.

His father's eye looked up, and still the gleamed fire was there,
His proud lip moved, yet sent they forth no utterance of prayer;
He bent no knee in reverence, there stood that prisoned knight,
As proud as when his cuirass gleamed and falchion waved in fight.
Ere he and few the words he spake, and yet they touched a string
That thrilled the parent-stricken heart of England's mighty king:
A chord whose plaintive tones broke forth erewhile by Judah's son;
"Would God I had died for thee, my son, would I had died for thee!"

"Thou art the monarch, sire," he said "of fair and wide domains;
Thy horse have scaled the craggy hills, and ploughed the level plains;
Thy voice that summoned to the fight made many a dwelling lone;
Thou hast ta'en away the peasant's child—canst thou bring back thine own?"

Thy son whom once thou loved'st so well, thy first-born son lies low;
No brother watched beside his couch, no father smoothed his brow.
I only held him in my arms till death's dark night was won;
I only heard his last sad words—"Father, forgive thy son!"

A strange thing is a parent's heart—the words that Bertrand spake
Were strong to move the old man's soul, as breezes stir a lake.
The steel-clad bosom sternly heaved, the cold, clear eye was wet,
Of him who never quailed in fight—Henry Plantagenet.
And soft, sad memories awoke of the blessed far-off time,
When his boy was in his infancy, and he was in his prime.
Could the bold rebel that had turned to gall his cup of joy,
Have been indeed the glad some child, the darling, fair-haired boy,
That rode his squire-led war-horse, that waved the mimic brand,
And kissed his father's bearded lip and clasped his mailed hand?

Now, now the loving lips are closed, never to speak again,
Never to say, "Forgive me, father—shall thy child plead in vain?
And pardon him who served me better than words can tell;
He sinned 'gainst thee, my gracious sire, loving thy son too well!"
Such thoughts passed through the monarch's breast, and gently then
he spake:—

"Bertrand de Born, I pardon thee, for my dead Henry's sake.
Take back thy castle—take thy sword, but wield it not in strife
Against thy king, who gives thee now thy liberty and life."

He said, and low the Norman lord bent down his haughty brow;
That heart the death-stroke might not break was swayed by kindness now.

They cut the bonds that held his arms, and as he grasped his sword,
"Oh I would," he cried, "that my dead lord could hear the blessed word!"

He was a falcon, snaring high on proud but erring wing;
He did not know his father's heart, I did not know my king.
Would he could stand before thee now, and bend a suppliant knee,
And say, 'Kind sire, I render here my life and love to thee!'
But he is gone, and I can nought but offer thee my part,
My sword, my vassals, and withal true fealty of heart.
As I have served thy princely son, I fain would serve thee now;
God grant that merrie England's crown may long rest on thy brow!"

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WEEKLYANA.

THE Lieutenant-Governor arrived here yesterday, leaving Darjeeling the day before. The guns from the Fort announced the advent in Calcutta a quarter of an hour before the arrival at Sealdah. He holds his Legislative Council to-day, when Mr. Risley introduces the Bill for amendment of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884. Sir Charles Elliott starts to-morrow night on his tour in the Bankura and Southal Pergunnahs districts.

MR. E. N. Baker, from the 24-Pergunnahs, on leave, will act as Under-Secretary in the Finance and Commerce Department of the Government of India. Fortunate for him that Sir Auckland Colvin is not now the Financial Minister. Mr. F. R. S. Collier, from Moorshedabad, has been appointed Magistrate and Collector of the 24-Pergunnahs.

IN announcing, with the rest of the Indian press, the Ninth International meeting of Orientalists to be held in London in September next, the *Hindoo Patriot* on Thursday says in especial—"The Ponorart president of the Congress is the Duke of Connaught." Can any one say what is the position assigned by our Patriotic friend to His Royal Highness in connection with the next assembly of Orientalists? "President" may be a freak of our contemporary's Pandemonium. But what Oriental language is "Ponorart"? It is not to be found in any English Dictionary. Not long ago, the *Hindoo Patriot* distinguished itself by the discovery of a new disease which it christened *thisis*. It acquires another feather to its cap by the creation of a new office or the coining of a new designation for an old office.

THE Judge of Alipur having, in the case in connection with the piggery on Mount Parisnath, decreed against the Jains, they have appealed to the High Court. For the last two weeks and more, Sir Comer Petheram and Justice Chandra Madhub Ghose have been hearing the case, Mr. Woodroffe, the officiating Advocate General, arguing on behalf of the Jains, Mr. Jackson being on the other side.

KUNDA Kedar Nath Chowdry Bahadur, of Mohiary, is undergoing trial in the Howrah Police Court on a charge of obstructing a thoroughfare. The Teli Bahadur has at least the consolation of good company in his misfortune—in the Brahman Raja of Muktagacha.

A POST CARD has put a girdle round about the world in seventy days. On the 19th March it was sent from London *via* Vancouver to Hong Kong where it was delivered on the 28th April. The same day the reply being posted, it was received in London on the 30th May.

THE habit of editors manufacturing sensation in defiance of the reality, after descending to the rank and file of contributors, has now reached the riff raff. The Santipore correspondent of a morning contemporary complains of being compelled by divine vengeance to live in a furnace. He says that if the drought continues much longer, dire consequences will result! We hope no one will be frightened by this tale of distress into disturbing the gods with prayers for more rain for Santipore. She has had enough of ducking. There never was a serious complaint within the last two months. There has been rain from time to time and copious showers occasionally, and a heavy downpour at the end of last week.

The same correspondent reports the doings of the local Brahmos. They have already bought land and are about to commence a place of worship of their own, of a rather ambitious character. At least we are told that, besides a prayer hall, there will be a large room for a library and other necessary apartments. This not only looks like business, but it suggests numerical strength. But are there any Brahmos at Santipore? We never heard of any. An old Santiporean, a respectable gentleman, who is with us at the time of this writing, knows no Brahmos in his town. There are Gossains and Vaishnavs in any number, and of late Theosophists, Mohimites, *et hoc genus omne*.

THE Lalbagh sub-division in the Moorshedabad district has ceased to have an independent existence from the 1st July, 1892, being amalgamated with the Sadar sub-division, with the exception of the

Sagardighi independent outpost and the Kalianganj thana which are included in the Jangipur and Kandi sub-divisions, respectively.

KAYASTHAS are Kshetrias, according to some Kayasthas. They are Brahmans too, according to some members of the Kayastha Sabha of Eita. Such is the latest development of the claim.

THERE is a demand for pipe water in Travancore. The *Travancore Times* "hears of a mass meeting in the open air to memorialize the Maharaja for a project to supply good water by pipes to Nagercoil, Kottar, Susindium, &c."

MR Alexander Pedler, Meteorological Reporter to the Government of Bengal, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was one of the fifteen selected by the Committee of that learned body. We congratulate Mr. Pedler on his admission to the most eminent fraternity of *savants* in the British Empire.

THE oldest resident of New Jersey—"Uncle Jimmy" Layton—is dead. He had attained the age of 105 years.

THE personal estate in England of the late Mr. George Yule has been sworn at 71,550*l*.

WE read:—

"For years now it has been noticed of the New York woman that while she was the best-dressed female in the country, she was also the most inconspicuous. But a change, says the New York correspondent of the *San Francisco Argonaut*, has come over the spirit of her dream. This spring she has burst out like a tiger-moth, brilliant as to colour, gorgeous as to material, startling as to cut and make. She is pranked out in every sort of shade, her hat laden with flowers, her parasol as gay as Joseph's coat, her gown of varied hue raised daintily out of the dust and revealing to the gazer a petticoat that shines with a combination of bright colours that would shame a bird of paradise. Even her gloves have taken a sudden freak to be as conspicuous as they know how, and the modest blacks and tans of a season ago have given place to the most dazzling white, or palest grey, or a sort of mahogany-red, that rise up and strike you in the face half a block down the street. A peacock is not more brilliant than this fanciful being when arrayed in her best. Sometimes she is in black, striped gorgeously with yellow and green and pink. Bright pink and green ruffles show all round her petticoat's edge, and her diminutive waist has tight bands of stripes round it. Sometimes she is palely clad, with great wing-like frills of lace falling out round her neck and shoulders. As for her hats, the flowers that bloom in the spring bloom on them in immense bunches—every sort and shade of flower, some nodding high up in the air on long stalks, some twining round and round in thick wreaths. Over all she ties a huge white veil, with white flowers all over it and long ends hanging down her back. The most remarkable thing in this sudden freak of fashion to deck its votaries out like the rainbow is that there seems to be no heed paid to harmony or the careful combination of colours. At the recent society functions nobody's hat matched her dress, nobody seemed to consider that a bright yellow and black gown did not harmonise well with a pale-green and blue hat. Women in stripes of the most glaring hue caught your eye on every side, and with the stripes went large hats ornamented with diamond buckles and great bunches of the palest-tinted feathers, or purple and yellow flowers nodding on their stems."

THEY are about to construct the largest reservoir in the world—in Texas. It is intended to be sixteen miles long and to contain 103,058,040,800 cubic feet of water.

THE Grand Duke George, the Czar's second son, who had to hasten back from his Indian tour, is being treated for pulmonary disease. A private letter received in St. Petersburg from Abbas-Tuman, in the Caucasus, where the royal patient had been wintering, thus speaks of the treatment:—

"The walls in his apartments are bare and unpapered, the furniture is of plain wood or cane without upholstering or stuff covering of any kind, and his bed consists only of the thinnest of mattresses. Throughout the winter only a very moderate fire has been kept up, while the windows of the Grand Duke's rooms have been continuously open. His attendants have suffered dreadfully from the cold, but his medical advisers hold that this low temperature is very beneficial to their imperial patient, as it tends to destroy the bacillus and prevent the formation of tubercle. They maintain that the progress of the disease has been arrested, and express hopes that, if the treatment which they prescribe is persevered with, the Grand Duke will in two years' time, have completely recovered."

—if he lives till that, of course. It is only a Russian who can survive such treatment.

THE habitat of the Mahatmas is to be transplanted from the Himalayas. They are projecting a colony at Majave on the summit of

the Tehachapi mountains. It is no long leap from India to California for those who possess astral bodies. But what is a Mahatma? The question has been answered for the uninitiated in the mysteries of Theosophy by Mr. William Q. Judge, Secretary of the Aryan Theosophical Society of New York, to a reporter:—

"The Theosophical definition of Mahatma is very long; but if you want a newspaper definition, it is a human being so wise that he knows all things in the universe and can control the elements at will. It can be either a man or woman, for in Mahatmadom the right of woman suffrage is conceded. A Mahatma is a perfect human being. The knowledge of the laws of nature possessed by Mahatmas is so complete that they can travel from San Francisco to New York in a jiffy. A Mahatma loves retirement. If one were to show himself, the people would prostrate themselves before him and worship him as a god. Mahatmas do not want notoriety."

SINCE the Editor of the *Indian Mirror* retired in a huff, no sooner than he had joined it, from the Native Press Association, that journal has been continually exposing the shortcomings of the nebulous organization and the sins of officials in connection with it. Politicians and publicists who could hold themselves in readiness for any political move and even to compromise the Press itself—the single popular institution in the land—at the beck of a Chief Secretary, or, for that matter, a Government clerk, are incapable of a blush. But do the Government labour under an equal disability? One would have thought that the constant exposures by our contemporary would have their effect upon the officials concerned. There was no sign, however, of contrition or shame. Assured of the advocacy of the associated brethren in disgrace, perhaps the Government think they can defy one native paper. Perhaps they rely on the lost credit of the *Mirror* as a shepherd boy who has been too often found to give false alarm of "the wolf!" Be that as it may, surely the Government cannot defy every other papers. Others do not cry "wolf!" for nothing. We are accordingly glad to see that the *Indian Daily News* has given its independent support to the cause of good government and right principles as against the constituted authorities. Will the officials ignore the veteran Englishman too who is the oldest member of the Anglo-Indian Press, and who never speaks without adequate ground? Says the *Indian Daily News*:—

"Since the institution of the Press Association the members do not appear to be a happy family; and it may be doubted whether it is in any way answering the purposes for which it was designed. Such at least is the opinion of the dissentient members. Whether this arises from jealousy or envy we are not concerned to enquire. But the *Mirror* has stood steadily aloof from the connection and has plied his batteries freely on the President of the Association and the connection of the *Patriot* with the Bengal Secretariat. There is no attempt to disguise the fact that the *Patriot* has sold itself for a mess of pottage occasionally to the Bengal Secretariat. There is no mincing of matters in this connection. It is affirmed again and again that the *Patriot* is inspired from the Secretariat, and there is no hesitation in asking whether Mr. Risley is paid by the country for editing the *Patriot*. These are not pleasant remarks to make, and yet they are made and repeated without reserve. Then it is further imputed that the *Patriot* has sold itself for a mess of "pottage" in the shape of 150 copies of the paper said to be subscribed for by the Government of Bengal. We cannot affirm that this is so, nor are we in a position to deny it except on the ground of extreme improbability. It is not much of a *Patriot* to sell itself on such terms nor much of a Government to make such a purchase. *In fact this Press concubinage is in no case a creditable connection especially where there is any disposition to concealment. Disguise is difficult if not impossible and discovery discredits both parties. It is felt that a Government that needs such support is not a strong one, and a paper that accepts the position is little more than a broken reed. The merits of the points of difference among the members of the Press Association we have no desire to investigate; and there is not much to be gained by the connection especially where the ministerial agency is connected with a daily paper and take the first bite at the cherry. It would be much better both for the Government and the Press if these unhallowed associations were avoided altogether. There would be advantage in candid and cordial relations between the two; and much good public service might thereby be rendered. But affectation of superiority on one side and of mystery on the other will effect no permanent good."

HERE is a recipe for rheumatism. Beat one egg, yolk and white together, add one wine-glassful of brown vinegar and one glassful of turpentine. Let the mixture stand one hour and then put it in bottle and cork, and apply it morning and evening over the affected part.

NOTES & LEADERETTES

with

OUR OWN NEWS.

PARLIAMENT was dissolved on the 28th June. The new Parliament meets on the 4th August. The Speech from the Throne speaks of the Indian Councils Bill. Her Majesty has willingly accepted the measure, which she trusts will enable the Indian Government to ascertain more fully the opinions and wishes of the various races and classes in India, and secure the co-operation of those best qualified to advise and assist in the conduct of affairs. The words of Her Majesty ought to set right those who had opposed the Bill as not far-reaching enough, preferring the existing state of things to a small instalment of reform. The allusion to the new law in Her Majesty's Speech, we take to be a call on her ministers at Home and representatives in India to give effect to it as soon as possible.

IN a manifesto Lord Salisbury appeals to the electors to decide whether Parliament is to be devoted to internal legislation for improving the lot of the workers, or to an Irish struggle, perhaps entailing civil war. His Lordship implores the electors to pause before they abandon the Loyalists in Ireland to men whose crimes a Special Commission had denounced to the world. Mr. Balfour in his address to the electors of East Manchester emphasises the danger to the loyalists of a separate Parliament in Ireland. Lord Randolph Churchill too does not favor Home Rule. He considers it impracticable, unnecessary, and a national folly productive of imperial ruin. He has been elected unopposed for South Paddington.

WHILE driving to an electoral meeting at Chester on the 25th June, Mr. Gladstone was struck in the eye by a woman with a ginger nut. In spite of the great pain caused, he spoke for an hour. The injury, however, is not permanent as was at first supposed. Yesterday he was able to commence his Midlothian campaign, opening it at Edinburgh, where he declared that he had never retracted one syllable of his Irish proposal of 1886. He leaves the Liberal Government to settle the question of the retention of Irish members in British Parliament.

LORD Tennyson in a letter says—"I love Mr. Gladstone, but hate his present Irish policy." The feeling of all the best and wisest friends of the unhappy old statesman.

IRISH Elections are Irish elections still, and Cork maintains its notoriety. There was at that city on the 26th June, a serious conflict, with wreck of houses and breakage of bones, between the rival factions. Mr. William O'Brien was mobbed. For a long time the police were powerless against the rioters.

THE Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire opened at South Kensington on the 28th June, Sir John Lubbock presiding. Lord Knutsford was present representing the Government. At the instance of Lord Brassey, the assembled delegates unanimously adopted the proposition that it was expedient to devise a closer commercial union between England and her colonies.

Lord Knutsford presided at the banquet at St. James' Hall to the delegates. Sir John Lubbock proposed the toast of the Empire, which, he said, was a united great brotherhood inspiring confidence in the future.

MESSRS. Rothschild have advanced to the Transvaal Government for railways 2½ millions sterling at 3 per cent. interest.

NATAL will be granted its own Government.

CAPTAIN Dale, the aeronaut, is dead. On the 29th June, at the Crystal Palace, he, with three others, went up in a balloon which at a height of hundred feet burst. The Captain was killed and the three companions injured, two, it is feared, fatally.

THE Bengal Tenancy Act (VIII of 1885) does not by itself apply to the Town of Calcutta, the Division of Orissa, and the Scheduled Districts specified in the third part of the First Schedule of the Scheduled Districts Act, 1874, but it or any portion of it may be extended by the Local Government, with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council, by notification in the local official gazette, to the Division of Orissa or any part thereof. Under orders of the 27th June last, it is now notified that sections 27 to 38 and 80 of the Act apply to the Division of Orissa. The first twelve sections relate to enhancement of rent; the last allows a landlord to apply for registration, by such revenue officer as the Local Government may appoint, of any improvement which he has lawfully made, or which has been lawfully made at his expense, or which he has assisted a tenant in making.

THE Government of India dissent from the finding of the Commission on Mr. Wheeler, holding it not proven that the Judge of Jaunpur in Debi Pershad's case did not write and deliver a judgment. As if the *onus probandum* lay on the Commission! As if such a negative admits of proof, or, at any rate, that it could be proved in a manner so as to preclude the possibility of all doubt. Thus Simla disposes of the first four charges. On the fifth charge, dealing with the decree against him, the Government agree in only censuring him. That conduct also was not such as to deserve dismissal. Notwithstanding this virtual reversal of the finding of the Commission, the Government of India do not think that Mr. Wheeler can be permitted to continue in the Service and that he must retire. Mr. Wheeler is saved the ignomy of dismissal but he must sever his executive connection with the Service. There is yet another hope for him for perfect clearance in the Secretary of State in Council. Such is government by Bureaucracy—of kith and kin.

MR. J. G. Ritchie, appointed, under Act II (B. C.) of 1888, officiating Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta, will also act, under orders of the Lieutenant-Governor, as Chairman of the Burial Board for the Town and Suburbs of Calcutta, in place of Mr. Lee about to go on leave. We have already expressed our doubts as to the legality of appointing an outsider officiating Chairman of the Corporation without first making him a Commissioner. We are not any more sure that Mr. Ritchie can properly accept the second appointment. The Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation is precluded, by the Municipal Act, from holding any other office, excepting that of a member of the Port Trust or of a member of the Bengal Legislative Council. By authority of the Bengal Act (V of 1881) to provide for the appointment of a Burial Board in Calcutta and its Suburbs, the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation is a member of the Burial Board, and the Lieutenant-Governor is empowered by the same Act to nominate the Chairman of the same Board. But that is an earlier law than the Municipal Act, and the Act of 1888, by its subsequent enactment, must have greater force. At any rate, the Act of 1881 cannot supersede that of 1888. At the same time, contraries cannot co-exist. How can then Mr. Ritchie be and not be Chairman of the Burial Board at the same time? Again, the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation not being eligible as a member of the Burial Board, it is indeed a stretch of imagination to suppose that he can be the head of that body, though it may be desirable to have the same person to preside at both the Boards.

True, the Act of 1888 does not expressly repeal any of the provisions of the law of 1881. It cannot, however, be denied that its later enactment, in direct opposition to the earlier law, gives it, by implication, superior force. Law cannot be foolish. Effect must be given to it. The later enactment must have preference as more wise.

THE trial in the Allahabad High Court of Charles Spencer, a private of the Gloucester Regiment, at Nusseerabad, Ajmere, for shooting a cultivator while out to hunt, ended on Wednesday week. Mr. Justice Knox in his charge to the jury noticed the fact that the accused had undergone two trials, and that charges had been added in his court, but said also that these were not matters for the jury to consider. He just mentioned them only because they were referred to by counsel on both sides. After premising that the hinge of the case was, whether the accused had done the act in self-defence, he observed that

no soldier or civilian, let him be the best marksman in the world, had a right to frighten a man by firing a gun at him even if he fired it over the man's head. His lordship said he might have misapprehended the evidence, but he gathered from the evidence of Major Wilford that the Martini-Henry rifle was, in the hands of soldiers, to use a Scotch expression, a very "uncanny" weapon indeed. They tampered with the trigger and interfered with it in a way that made it as unsafe as it could be. As no soldier or civilian was permitted by law to frighten a native by firing over his head, if an accident ensued he could not take the benefit of the plea that it was an accident. The only exception to this was when he proved that it was necessary so to act in self-defence. This plea of self-defence it fell on the accused to prove, and he could not ask the jury to give him there the benefit of any doubt. The right of self-defence was against any act that might cause harm. If one man were attacked by another with a stick he had the right of self-defence; but he must take care not use more violence than necessary to prevent the hurt. In the case of one man armed with a gun threatened by another with a stick, the former had no right to prevent the blow with the stick being repeated by firing the gun. The right of self-defence only went so far as to do what would prevent any harm that was likely to happen. Notwithstanding the Hibernian expression of one sentence, that is good law. His lordship then went on to state the law applicable to the minor charges against the accused. In the face of that clear exposition, the jury, after half an hour's consultation, returned and gave a unanimous verdict of *not guilty on all the charges*, and the accused was discharged.

THE *Hindoo Patriot* in its new guise has taken arms against a sea of troubles in the shape of the Partition Bill in the Supreme Legislative Council. For ten days continuously it had been harping on the measure, trying to make out its uselessness or its inadequacy. The measure as introduced is much more moderate than the one framed by the member in charge when not yet in that Council. That Bill, while it had its detractors, was welcomed by many good men and true. Those who thought it necessary to condemn the first draft welcome the second as a wholesome one. One of the earliest converts is the Calcutta High Court. The Judges have accepted the Bill.

RAJA Surya Kant Acharjee, of Muktagacha, has been fined Rs. 500 by the Assistant Magistrate of Mymensing Mr. A. G. Halifax. He was prosecuted under orders of the District Magistrate, the famous Mr. H. A. D. Phillips, for closing up a water channel and otherwise causing public obstruction. It seems that in consideration of two strips of land given by the Raja for constructing two new roads, the Nasirabad municipality had resolved to allow the Raja to incorporate a byelane in his premises, which the Raja did. The District Magistrate who had acquiesced in the arrangement subsequently discovered that in giving effect to it the Raja had closed an important water channel. Mr. Phillips also found that the sanction of Government to complete the transfer was wanting and that the road which the municipality had made over to the Raja had been previously transferred to the control of the District Board. To set matters right, Mr. Phillips gave his sanction as Chairman of the District Board for "prosecution under any byelaw that may be applicable." In transferring the case to his Assistant, the District Magistrate dispensed with the personal attendance of the Raja allowing him to appear by Agent. Mr. Phillips was agreeable to withdraw the charge if the Raja broke down a wall he had built and restored the drain.

The Raja considered it an indignity to be so called upon to demolish a portion of his premises or to appear in a criminal court. Under no circumstances could he agree to the first, as it would be a confession of offence charged to him. He made other proposals to get rid of this botheration, but they were not accepted. He had applied to the High Court to quash the proceedings of the local magistracy but it was not granted, the application being premature. His counsel would not advise a transfer of the case in the absence of sufficient grounds. So the trial proceeded. The Assistant Magistrate insisted on the accused's personal attendance and finally convicted the Raja. To complete the drama, while the enquiry was proceeding the wall was taken down by order of the District Magistrate.

BOTH Raja Surya Kanta Acharjee and his counsel Mr. Ghose and Mr. Barrow have come to Calcutta.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS of all tea districts in Assam have been instructed not to countersign any certificates for recruitment of coolies in the Rewa State at the instance of the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, Indore.

THE Secretary of State for India has ordered that in future different sorts of papers required for Government use, should be obtained from the India Office, London, unless the local mills could supply them on more favourable terms.

THE military authorities have asked for the reservation of the Jalpaiguri elephant field for the Khedda operations of the Government of India.

THERE is at least one man in Europe who is truly and deeply aggrieved at the abduction of his wife and who rights himself in the rude Oriental way. He was lurking about the quay when the North German Lloyd steamer from New York arrived at Southampton Docks. As the passengers landed to take train (which was ready alongside the vessel) he sprang upon one of them and thrashed him with his heavy walking stick. He was separated by the Police. But he again found an opportunity of belabouring him. He gave a good explanation of his hostility. The victim had run away with the assailant's wife to the United States, and, as if one offence was not enough, afterwards deserted her to destitution in a foreign land. The heartless Lothario is a wellknown barrister. It is said by the correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* who reports the scene, that the matter will come before the courts. That will be by the action of the man of law, we suppose. The aggrieved has taken his proper and full revenge, and ought to be satisfied. He cannot resort to another remedy without impropriety. If he go to law he will have committed an offence by the assault.

There are doubtless others in that part of the world of the same mind with this honourable assailant who, in the same circumstances, would take the law—the law of Nature—in their own hands. But their number must be very limited, or else the law there would not be so different from what it is in the East.

IT is satisfactory to read in an English paper that "the habit of wearing false hair in plaits, braids, or frises is being discarded. Ladies make the best they can of the hair nature has supplied them with, which they arrange to suit their faces according to their fancy." A little more of Nature in everything is the prevailing desideratum in Europe—Western Europe in especial.

A PHILADELPHIA journal has calculated that there are 240,000 domestic servants in London, and of these 10,000 are always in want of service. Who would have thought that there were so many servants in London? The popular impression here is that the help of personal servitors is a luxury reserved there for comparatively a few, and that even the Upper Ten in England are not encumbered with help like the employing classes in this country. This enormous extent of domestic servitude appertains doubtless to the population of the great capital including the outer ring. Considering that the population of London in this sense is 56,57,000, there are more than 6 domestics to every 100 inhabitants.

THE last was the one hundred and twelfth Derby Day. Bull-baiting doubtless is a much older and more venerable British institution.

ALTHOUGH the sports were instituted as long ago as 1780, their importance is quite a modern affair, within the memory of elderly men. The saying goes, Bell made the Derby Day. Bell made the other national Days, too. The fact is, that the importance of these national sporting holidays and of the sites consecrated to these periodical diversions of the people, is due to the sporting Press. These newspapers, aided by their trusty and intelligent agent the sporting special, brought them into popularity. *Bell's Life in London* was the making of the Derby.

THERE has just been a great battle between two heroes of renown, all by themselves, without the assistance or interference of common humanity, except in the way of seeing and seeing that nothing wrong takes place. It was a dreadful business—a desperate encounter between foemen worthy of each other's steel—or fist—in which no quarter was given nor expected. It is thus graphically described:—

"The scene at the National Sporting Club on the night of May 31st reminded one forcibly of the evening of November 11th, 1890, when Peter Jackson met and defeated the much-vaunted champion, Jem Smith, at the defunct Pelican Club. Then, as now, the black came off the victor, and never was a success more popular than that which Jackson last evening gained over his old rival, Frank Slavin. The theatre was filled by a large and thoroughly representative company, that took the greatest interest in a contest which is without parallel in the history of modern day boxing. Jackson was formerly the tutor of Slavin, and although a native of the West Indies he has spent the greater part of his life in Australia. The present match was the outcome of an old quarrel between the pair, but for five years past all efforts to bring them together in the ring had been unavailing until the National Sporting Club offered a purse of £2,000, of which the winner takes £1,750. Twenty rounds was the stipulated number, but in the brisk speculation that ensued prior to the contest a lot of money was betted that the men would not go four rounds. Slavin, who trained at Dovercourt with his brother Jack, looked in the pink of condition, and before they entered the ring odds of six to four were freely laid on him. He weighed 13st. 3lb. Jackson, who scaled 10lb. heavier than his rival, did his work at Brighton, where he was reported to have gone amiss about ten days ago, and although there was a certain amount of truth in this, he judiciously cased his work, and he, too, came up to the scratch in grand trim. The battle was a terrific one, and that the better man won there is not the slightest doubt. Slavin, knowing the class of man opposed to him, did not box as usual, and his rushing tactics gave place to cautious sparring. When it came to out-fighting, however, Slavin was no match for his rival, who displayed wonderful science. Jackson utilized his extra reach to good advantage, but for a very long time the issue hung in the balance. Once he had the opportunity, however, Jackson never gave his opponent a chance, and early in the tenth round he had Slavin at his mercy, and though the latter stood up manfully when his chances were hopeless, Jackson stuck to him and knocked him out within a minute of the close of the round."

Nor is that all. Such is the importance of this historic conflict the writer is not satisfied with the foregoing description. We for our part consider it both very well and vigorously written and minute enough. But we are not even novices in the subject. Accordingly, the Sporting Special narrates the war over again, campaign by campaign so to say. He notes the events of each round. By way of examples for the edification of our native readers, we will quote the description of a few of the most remarkable passages at arms.

Passing over the earlier rounds, mere parrying and scratches, we come to serious work in

"Round 6.—Slavin took the initiative throughout the greater portion of the three minutes, and in the first half he put in some heavy work on the body with both hands. Once or twice he tried to get Jackson in a corner, but the latter, being tricky on his feet, dodged him, although, just before they went to their seats, Slavin landed two fine rights on the jaw."

Then to come to the end of the chapter:—

"Round 9.—Slavin left his corner with his left eye almost closed, but he never relaxed his efforts. Peter calmly waited for him, and then drove him away with a straight left, and twice crossing Slavin with the right the latter found 'time' a welcome relief.

Round 10 and last.—By this time little doubt was felt as to the ultimate issue, for Slavin was to all intents and purposes a beaten man. For half a minute Slavin made the semblance of a show, but suddenly Jackson, with a terrific punch on the throat, drove Slavin back on the ropes, dazed. Jackson gave him no quarter, but Slavin was quite unable to defend himself and, although for a time he kept his feet, Jackson, who punished him severely, sent him to the boards when only half a minute was required to complete the bout. Here Slavin laid until the ten seconds were counted off, and, amidst a scene of the wildest enthusiasm, Jackson was declared the winner."

All that is typically British, and utterly removed from the quietism of the Oriental. We too have our athletes and athletics, our gladiators and their fights. But our fellows are only showmen and their fights are mere academical contests and are child's play before this downright steady havoc.

A HUNGARIAN paper says that in Hungary, in 1848, about a dozen women fought in the Insurrectionary ranks. Whatever the truth about that number, two ladies who had served in that year in the Revolutionary Army died in Hungary on May 30, at about the same hour. Dressed in the dress of their military rank they had fought several of the fiercest battles. One, under the name of Karl, had attained the rank of First Lieutenant of Hussars, when she left the army and married. The other, known as Josef, continued in the army, obtaining several decorations for valour in the field. It was several years after the campaign that she married.

LEAD poisoning from hydrant water is not an unfrequent occurrence in England. At Bradford, a tailor, aged 28, was in the habit of taking tea in the morning before leaving for work. Last summer he was ill and he attributed it to the water supply. This time he is dead from its effects, according to the medical attendant's deposition. His testimony showed that lead poisoning was increasing at the average of a fresh case a week. Not only Bradford but other places too are suffering from this contamination. Bad cases of lead poisoning occur generally from drinking water, first drawn from a tap in the morning, which has been in the pipes for a long time, and it is known that some times lead is found one-tenth or more in a gallon of such water. In Calcutta, we must not consider ourselves free from this danger. So it is advisable to let a good quantity of water flow out before using it for drinking purposes.

THERE is a move in England against patent medicines. In *Regina versus Davenport*, the proprietor of "Collis Browne's Chlorodyne" was fined for selling it without being labelled poison as the law requires. It was proved to contain two poisonous drugs, opium and chloroform, and the Treasury as a test case tried to get a conviction against the proprietor Davenport. The medicine had been for upwards of forty years without the poison label in the market. And without any casualties during that long period, notwithstanding the omission of the warning. This cry of "poison" is, for the most part, a mere bugbear to frighten people from seeking what really benefit them. At any rate, the present definition of poison requires revision.

UNDER which king, Bezonian? Is John Company still the Lord of India? In spite of the assumption of the title of Empress of India by Her Majesty the Queen, and not minding the celebration of the Jubilee of her reign, the Government of Bengal in the Judicial and Political Department still stick to the seal of the East India Company. Here is economy indeed! And how inconsistent this with the outlay of say about Rs. 1,000 on a rag and a permanent charge of at least Rs. 100 annually on the establishment to exhibit it! Before hoisting the banner on the heights of their palatial place of business, surely the Secretariat ought to have cleared the ground of the insignia of the previous Dynasty.

THE Mahomedan law of *wakf* is on its trial, so to speak. A Full Bench of the High Court, consisting of Sir Comer Petheram, and Justices Prinsep, Trevelyan, Ghose and Amir Ali, sat the whole of this week hearing counsel. Sir Griffith Evans, Mr. Bonnerjee and Mr. Hill are engaged for the Mahomedan appellant while Advocate General Woodroffe and Mr. Abdur Rahman represent the Hindu respondent. The question referred for the consideration of the Full Bench by the Division Bench (Petheram, C. J., and Hill, J.) is—Whether a document executed by the appellant constituted a valid *wakf* according to the provisions of the Mahomedan law? The argument of the counsel for the Mahomedan appellant was that the courts in British India under express legislative provisions, which had been systematically disregarded by them for a series of years, were bound to administer the Mahomedan law to Mahomedans, that the Mahomedan law should be administered according to Mahomedan notions instead of the English, and that the document in question according to the true and correct interpretation of the Mahomedan law constituted a valid *wakf*. In support of this contention authorities, both original and published, were cited in profusion. The Advocate General replied that the case being between a Mahomedan and a Hindu, the law of British India should govern the case; and that the law of British India was certainly not the Mahomedan law. Justice, equity and good conscience should form the rule of decision of the Court, contended Mr. Woodroffe. He then began to trace the history of the Mahomedan case law of *wakf* as administered by the British Indian Courts since the year 1798. Monday will be the sixth day, when Mr. Woodroffe will resume his arguments.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, July 2, 1892.

THE CHOWKIDARI BILL.

THE Chowkidari Bill which is now before the Bengal Legislative Council, deserves careful consideration of all people of Bengal who are interested in its efficient administration. Its principle has been objected to in certain quarters, and the Hon'ble mover and supporters of the Bill have cited authorities to show that it was sound in every way. There is little doubt that gradually the chowkidaris are to be brought under the control of the Police, as to all intents and purposes they now form a component part of the regular Police force. It is clear that the simple system of village watch has been contaminated to a great extent since it came in direct contact with the regular Police and was placed under the control and supervision of executive officers. The Police exercise their unwholesome influence not only upon the chowkidar but also upon the *Panchayet*. These they have come to consider their subordinates and to treat accordingly—the other they regard as little better than their slave. The prestige of the *Panchayet* as an organ of local government has long since passed away, if indeed it ever belonged to the poor creature of Anglo-Indian legislation. The chowkidar certainly does not carry the consideration of a legitimate limb of the village system. A chowkidar is no longer only a watchman of the village, but also a servant of the thanah and the humble khidmutgar, cooly, *ghorami*, and menial servant of every constable. His present duties are not those defined in the Act, being now to bring occasional presents and Bazaars, according to his means and lights, or as asked for by members of the Police force at the thanah. Of course these presents are not valuable, but they may be useful. He quietly repairs the lodging houses of the Sub-Inspectors and the Head Constables, and the Police station building. He cleans the Thana 'compound' from morning till evening, all the while reporting the important matters of his beat. He brings loads of fuel from distant Bazar for the Darogah Sahab, and from the moment a constable sets his foot in a village he carries his luggage as a cooly and acts as his private servant. If he is an intelligent man he gains the favor of his superiors by making himself useful, if he is the reverse he has his share of abuses and slaps from the Police officers. When the Sub-Inspector or the Head constable goes to a village on duty or otherwise, then the chowkidars have no rest. One would see them running in every direction and doing their best to please their masters. They who have experience of the interior can bear testimony to what we have stated. Indeed, most of the above facts have come to the notice of the magistrates judicially, in more than one district. Police officers have been punished departmentally and judicially on the complaint of chowkidars. And no wonder. Some chowkidars are more pliant and long-suffering than others, while some executive myrmidons will goad the worm to turn.

The chowkidar is no longer the old simple watchman who could have been trusted by the courts and upon whom the villagers could have relied for the protection of their life and property. He is totally demoralized and has learnt all the tricks of the civilized regular Police. He now freely perjures, intrigues, and plots to support the Police view of every

case and is utilized recklessly for spoiling true cases, when necessary, and for causing innocent people trouble. He frames the first information just as he is directed, otherwise he would be nowhere. His bread is entirely in the hands of the Police on whose *ex-parte* report he is fined, suspended and, not unfrequently, dismissed. He has learnt to give false evidence, false information and false reports. He is dreaded in the village because he can put any person and every person in trouble if he likes. He is the official agency through which blackmail is levied from such *dagis* (old offenders) as can afford to purchase their freedom for moving about unmolested. Chowkidars never inherently fear or respect the magistrates so much as they do the lower ranks of the Police. It would be better if in the Bill these new and obligatory duties of the chowkidars were clearly defined.

It goes without saying that there can be no Police case without a chowkidar. He has become the ubiquitous gentleman sure to poke his nose in every interesting inquiry. Not that he is by nature officious. He is simply forced. He must put himself in evidence. In each case he is introduced somehow or other, and he is the witness of an important fact in connection with it. If a case falls through the chowkidar is blamed, but if it succeeds the Police officer is praised. We refrain from stating the other shameful ways in which these rural flunkies are employed by their so called official superiors, the *thanah* Lalpagriwallahs. In most true cases, a false element is introduced by the Police, that of the arrest of the accused by the Police officer or the constable, in order to get credit or reward for it. After the Police takes up the case, this additional fringe is added to it and the witnesses are accordingly tutored. Before inexperienced and suspicious magistrates such cases are doomed for the mixing of this little falsehood. The chowkidar has now been taught this trick, and in most cases coming from the interior he is present at the time of the occurrence, either to arrest the burglar, or to stop his escape, or to take him into custody. The poor fellow cannot manage this business so cleverly as his superiors do, and hence sometimes, when he is severely cross-examined along with other witnesses, the prosecution is gratuitously spoiled.

This is the present state of affairs and we have good authority for our facts. Under such circumstances, may we ask if it would be advisable to invest the Police with more power and control over the village chowkidar? A village watchman with all his deficiencies is a better person for all purposes than a perjured and wicked chowkidar who has been trained in all sorts of tricks by the lower class of Police officers.

It would be much better if the chowkidars were paid through some other agency than the Police, because that would remove the demoralising idea that their bread was at the mercy of the *thanah*. Why not make some gazetted officer distribute the salaries of the chowkidars?

If only Police officers above the rank of Sub-Inspectors are allowed to deal with the chowkidars and their cases, much of the abuses pointed out may be stopped, but how far it will be practicable from an administrative point of view we are unable to say.

In most cases "punishment orders" are written by the subordinates of the District Superintendent, who recommends a particular punishment and the magistrate signs it as a matter of form, just as he signs half a dozen statements and registers daily. This is

not a satisfactory state of things, and we hope all these should be considered carefully before the Bill is passed.

A SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF THE PRESS IN INDIA.

By DR. SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE.

[Continued from page 309.]

The Government of India is sometimes ridiculed as a Government of paragraphs. All civilized Governments, however, are Governments of paragraphs. Even the autocracy of the Czar of all the Russias is such a Government. Mr. Eugene Schuyler, not many years ago, disclosed to an astonished world an administration in Russia which for partiality to the system of record almost beats the much derided Government of British India. In a community in which writing is common, the rulers easily recognize the advantage of utilising the accomplishment for purposes of administration. So it was in India. In the introduction to Akbar's *Ain* 10 Bk. II., containing regulations regarding the *Wakdnagar* or *Wakdnavis*, stress is laid on the importance of writing. "Keeping records is an excellent thing for a Government, it is even necessary for every rank of society." Such is the view of the Emperor. It is then added, "Though a trace of this office [of the *Wakdnavis*] may have existed in ancient times," by which is doubtless meant the previous period of Hindu rule—"its highest objects were but recognised in the present reign." Perhaps they were not recognized to the full by Akbar himself. At any rate, it is not clear whether he perceived the importance of making the labours of his regiment of Mewatis and the records of his *Wakdnavis*es and *Sewdnavis*es or *Sewdnavis*igars available to the administrative staff generally throughout his dominions and the subject population of the Empire. Perhaps he did. The pains taken about the matter were extraordinary. Everything down to the veriest *bagatelles* of Imperial life, such as those relating to *chausar* and *nard*, were noted down by an army of writers. This vast diary was first submitted to a confidential servant, who corrected. Then it came to His Majesty. After his approval, copies were made by the Clerk of each report and with his signature furnished to those who required them. This report was called a *Yaddasht*. An abstract called *Taliquah* was made by the *Taliquahnavis* of these and calligraphers employed to make copies of such abstracts, which were signed by the *Wakdnavis*, and other officers. What was the good of all this infinite ado? what was the purpose the great Emperor had in establishing his gigantic Statistical Department? His own very *Ain* gives the answer at the conclusion:—

"His Majesty's object is, that every duty be properly performed; that there be no undue increase, or decrease in any department; that dishonest people be removed, and trustworthy people be held in esteem; and that active servants may work without fear, and negligent and forgetful men be held in check."

That is too vague, to be sure. One thing is clear, that these private and public Diaries in their various forms were all for the Emperor, if for any man. But was it possible for the poor Emperor to do the faintest justice to all that ever increasing mass which must have accumulated upon him? Akbar had evidently a rage for statistics and information. Yet however much he might wish to master all the materials laid before him, in reality he could scarcely attend to them at all. Nor would the Emperor be comforted by the thought that some, or for that matter all, of his ministers and principal officers might see them. So enlightened an utilitarian could not but lament such a monstrous waste of the most costly efforts. The political education of the people alone would be an adequate object. From the elaborate system of record instituted by Akbar—which amounted to the keeping of not only a diary of the Emperor such as some of his predecessors and his immediate successor indulged themselves in, but also a diary of the whole Empire, in all its Provinces and parts—the step to such utilisation of the work, is, in the nature of things, easy. It is so natural that news should be known and circulated, that what has been written should be given over to be read. Yet the natural thing is not the thing that always happens. When even now, in our advanced days, we remark the jealousy of so many officials however distinguished in other respects, we may cease to wonder at the inaptitude shown by this

great monarch of the past in not following up his creation of the statistical and intelligence department and groping into the discovery of the antetypographic press. But though this press was not immediately discovered, it was near at hand. The foundations were being well laid and persevered in. It appears from the Memoirs of Jehangir that there was a *Wakanavis* in every Province. That proves that the Department was not a white elephant. Unless its utility had been experienced Akbar's successor would not think of adding to the establishment. Its utility could best be developed by the public dissemination of the reports. I think something of the kind was done. Step by step, in each successive *régime*, the Department more and more clearly assumed the character of a News Agency, until at the beginning of the British Period people could not realise that it had had any other.

In the invaluable history of Nawab Gholam Hossein who wrote as actor as well as reporter, there is an incidental enumeration of several of the chief offices at the Court of Mahammad Shah, among which mention is made of Kaem Khan, son of Jaaser Khan, head of the Post and Gazette Office. Upon this passage the Indo-French translator, who also is a reliable witness of contemporary facts, has a note, which is valuable as showing the difference between the two offices of *Waakánavis* (otherwise *Waakanagar*) and *Sewándhnigar* (otherwise *Sewánavis*.) The distinction lies only in the different uses made of the labours of the two officers. Mustapha says that these offices are the same, only the reports of the *Waakanavis* are published *ab initio*, while those of the *Sewánavis* are published in proper time, gradually. All this demonstrates the extraordinary development of an institution as near our present Press as could be in an age without print.

After a reign computed to extend over half a century, Aurungzebe, loaded with years and cares, died in 1707. The Empire was rotten to the core. His talents and energy had through a long period only prepared its doom. For intolerance and ambition neutralised the effects of the highest powers. His death was the signal for the struggle for the battered throne in the family of Timour which closed with the accession of Mahammad Shah in 1719. This was the period when the monarch declined and the minister was everything, and this inverted order remained till the final dismemberment of the Empire, with the independence of the Provinces and the rise of the Sikhs, the Mahrattas and the British. Throughout the long period of destruction and reconstruction extending through the whole of the eighteenth century down to our own, the Press was not extinct. How it was maintained, who paid for it, and who protected does not appear; these are fit subjects for historical inquiry; but traces of its existence and even vigour are discernible from time to time. In the second year of Mahammad Shah, in 1720, the Carnatic suffered from an awful visitation of Nature in the shape of an unprecedented flood which submerged a large tract of country sweeping away whole villages with their men and cattle and their habitations. We find from the *Siyarul Mutaqherin* that the Government at Delhi and presumably the people of Hindostan in general owed to their Press the best accounts of the calamity. The Imperial Gazette of Hyderabad, we are told, brought news of an extraordinary fall of rain out of season on the 7th Safer which not only overflowed the rivers and lakes but split a mountain or hill and drowned the population of the affected parts. And to emphasize the character of the court, the sly annalist reports that on learning of this disaster the Emperor went out shooting with one of his favorites to show him sport and, doubtless in reward for the plentiful crop of "*Másh Allahs*" with which the courtier acknowledged the spectacle of Imperial skill, advanced him in emoluments and rank to a surprising stretch.

Let us hasten through these troublous times. Mahammad Shah, the puppet of a *fainéant* royalty, died in April, 1748, if not singing like the Phoenix, presumably with the strains of Sadarang in his ear. His successor, Alamgir II.—as far from the first as a lamb from a lion—maintained a show of Court till death relieved him from his shame and sorrows in 1759. The Heir Apparent Mirza Ali Gouhar Bahadoor who had separated from his father to try his fortunes in the imperial name down country, assumed the nominal Empire under the style of Shah Alam. He carried on the shadow of a show under infinite troubles and actual tortures and indignities worse than torture, till his death as a British pensioner in 1806, when there was practically an end of the whole thing.

During all this period the manuscript Press continued. Thus we find British popular historians noticing that in the summer of 1792 the public newspapers of Delhi stated that the Emperor had expressed to Madhhaji Sindhia and the Peshwa his hope that they would enable him to recover the Imperial tribute from the Bengal Provinces.* This writer doubtless was thinking of a *Delhi Times* in all the glory of Persian print.

We now come to this century. Here in the neighbourhood of living memories, we trace the workings of the indigenous press.

The *Calcutta Gazette* of April 15, 1813, begins:—"The late Lahore *Ukhbars* are principally filled with details of the progress of the united Arms of Runjeet Sing and of Futtch Khan, Vizier of Cabul, in the conquest of Cashmere" &c.—*Selections*, IV., 282. The same *Gazette* of April 22, opens thus:—"The Hindoostan Newspapers received since our last publication, remove all doubts as to the occupation of Attock by the forces of Runjeet Sing." Then follow details.—p. 283. Who after that will say that there were no newspapers in India before the British brought the Press to this country? In 1813, neither typography nor lithography had been introduced into the Upper Provinces or the Panjab.

These Panjabi newspapers were of course the result of private enterprise, though liberally patronized by local governments and chiefs. It would seem that the Press had struck root sufficiently and was so appreciated as an important agency for the supply of news that on the decay and destruction of the Mogul Power, the journalists continued it on their own account. The newspapers were still written, as well as their copies multiplied, by the hand. It would be worth while to search for specimens of this primitive journalism, if any such exist in the country, and to enquire into its system of payment and the method of its circulation. The modern native newspaper of print, whether typographic or lithographic, on the British model, commenced later.

The primitive Indian newspaper was the vehicle of news only, like not only the early European newsletter but also its successor the newspaper down to the last century.

The old indigenous Press had doubtless its heroes too, if we might recover their names and exploits. Even though confined to news, there was room for the introduction of meaningful hints and innuendoes. Much depended also on the presentation of facts. Above all, the task of the journalist was one of great difficulty under a despotism and in an age in which the people had not yet come to lisp. So in times of tumult and anarchy. At the least, the Press required in its conductors great courage and firmness to withstand temptations.

I am happy to have come upon one famous man connected with journalism in the eighteenth century. This was no less than Asof Jah's minister Azimul Omrah. He was originally a gentleman of the press. If France has her Thiers who rose from an editor's room to the bureau of a minister and the sceptre of the President of the Republic, India too can boast of her Azimul Omrah.

A PROTEST.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—In the last issue of your esteemed journal occur the following passages:—

"Is it possible for men who have never controlled half a dozen servants in their life to any purpose to control properly a multitude of subordinates of different castes and grades? . . . Is it likely that men who have lived for generations in most wretched and dirty habitations with all insanitary surroundings, and many of whom notwithstanding their great boast of enlightenment and knowledge of sanitation are still living in such houses where it is difficult to stand for half an hour without inconvenience and fear of some kind to one's health, will be able to look after the sanitation of a town?"

Do not these remarks hold good with greater propriety in the case of temporary or young Deputy Magistrates who are now placed in charge of Sub-divisions, and whom "Truth"—the writer of the paragraphs would appoint to the Presidentship of municipalities so many of which are, as he is aware, situated at the head-quarters of the Sub-divisions?

* Macfarlane's *Our Indian Empire*, vol. II., p. 18. Macfarlane makes the Great Mogul speak of the "British territories." That is the usual British way of putting the thing. It is not the language of the Great Mogul of Delhi, the Emperor of India. His Majesty could not have made such a blunder. Bengal was held by the East India Company as the Imperial Dewan. Though the sovereignty had practically been surrendered to the British, it was still a Mogul Province. It was *Mogul de jure* down to our times.

A non-official chairman is almost always selected from the ranks of Zemindars, pleaders or successful members of other professions. May I ask if they are not men of better social position, more accustomed to controlling servants and living in commodious houses than the place-hunting B. L.s or other graduate Deputies in other words the ordinary run of the officers of the Subordinate Executive Service? Yours, &c.,

NO UNTRUTH.

MANUFACTURE OF CRIPPLES.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—In a note under "Weeklyana" you have noticed at some length that "in Spain, they have taken to *manufacture* of cripples for the delectation of France,"—the foremost in the race of civilization of the West! Instead of trying to help nature to make up her man and fit him to take up his share of responsibility that naturally attaches to humanity, these so called civilized people pay and receive for worse distortion of even what nature in kindness spares. Torn away from their parents' bosom these unfortunate humans are made to cause merriment to people who never think at whose cost they enjoy! And this is perpetrated in cold blood in defiance of God and man alike. O for a Wilberforce to arise and put a stop to this most opprobrious practice of dealing in human commodity, all unconscious of the sufferings it entails! If anything is clearer than another, certainly it is our duty, morally bound as we are, to know and facilitate the functions and capacities of nature for the best interests of the creation, and not make dolls of men—the boast of the creator—and thus fritter away in wanton frivolity this essence divine! Can degradation go farther?—For France a blush, for Spain a tear! Yours,

JAY KRISHNA BANERJEE.

Calcutta, the 29th June 1892.

GOVERNMENT BY PERCENTAGES.

Somewhere in that book which we are all taught to regard as the repository of the most exquisite wisdom it is said that every man shall one day be rewarded according to his works. And it is, such a commonsense maxim that praise or blame should be meted out according to a man's merits that temporal Governments have not scrupled to borrow and act upon it. Thus it is that we see some persons lavishly decorated with stars and medals, while others are left to languish in the cold shade of official neglect. Thus it is that some public servants shine like constellations, while others are never heard of throughout their official career. The explanation of it all is that even in this world men are judged according to their works. True, it is sometimes a puzzle to the uninitiated to understand the grounds upon which the official verdict is based, but it would be a dangerous task for the lay mind to attempt to explore the hidden and mysterious motives which underlie the action of a local or even of a Supreme Government. We must be content to fold our hands in all humility, and be thankful that some persons have been placed in authority to think and judge for us, and we should accept their judgment as the final decision of consummate wisdom.

As the best of Governments are not omniscient, however, certain means are necessary by which the relative merits of officials may be gauged. We speak now of the rank and file—not of those great souls who have forced themselves above their fellows and risen to be what we may term the Generals of the official order. For them, of course, no means of comparison are needed, because no comparison is possible. But as regards the rank and file, some methods would seem to be necessary in order to test their comparative claims to promotion. One of the best of such methods of comparison is no doubt afforded by frequent inspections by higher authority, and it must be admitted that in these latter days, at least in Bengal, officials of all grades are inspected to distraction. But another and perhaps a more handy means of judging its officers is made use of by Government in the periodical returns which set out faithfully the amount of work done by each officer and the success which has attended it. These returns of work are considered to offer the most complete and accurate method of gauging the comparative worth of a public servant. A Munsiff decides so many cases in the year and the average time occupied in hearing each case is so much. What more valuable test of his efficiency? Another Munsiff decides only half the number of cases and takes twice as long over them. Let him go to the wall as an unprofitable servant. One Magistrate convicts ninety per cent. of the unfortunate persons placed before him, and thus establishes his right to be promoted to the top of his class; another convicts only fifty per cent. and naturally deserves to lose his place. And so all down the line. The highest percentages win, and those who gain them are good and faithful servants.

This system of judging the merits of an officer by arithmetical results is at once easy, plausible, and smacks of being scientific. And what more edifying than a scientific Government? How easy it is to gauge a man's capabilities by the comparison of a few figures! What a lot of trouble it saves! How completely it avoids the necessity of studying an officer's real character or testing the real worth of his work! That man ought certainly to have been rewarded with the Order of the Indian Empire who discovered this method of treating human beings like so many machines and registering their work in so simple a manner. But so rarely does real merit receive its due that we should not be surprised to learn that the inventor is still drudging in some Secretariat Office. And what a stimulus to good conduct for a man to know that his work will be tested in this way. How eagerly he looks forward to the publication in the *Annual Resolution* in which he knows that the critical percentages will be faithfully chronicled! And when he reads that a copy of the said Resolution is to be forwarded to the Appointment Department, what visions rise before his mind of that terrible ledger which is believed to be kept in the archives of Government, and in which these percentages and averages no doubt are duly recorded! How such a man strives for a higher percentage, higher average year by year! How he will attempt impossibilities even, in order to bring about this result—no matter at what sacrifice, at what cost! Far be it from us to say that any but fair means are resorted to—though cases have unfortunately been known of work scamped, of returns falsified, of justice denied, even of evidence suborned, in order to increase the percentage. But these are, of course, exceptional cases. The great point is that a healthy competition is stimulated, and the question of promotion is so vastly simplified when a man's comparative official worth can thus be reduced to arithmetical proportions.

All Governments are more or less accustomed to govern by percentages, and even High Courts, it is said, have been known to employ a similar process in judging of the work of their subordinates. To judge from the recent Resolution on the Administration Report of the Calcutta Police, however, the Bengal Government would seem to be losing faith in the infallibility of this calculating machine. After contrasting the percentage of convictions and acquittals in the Courts of the Chief Presidency Magistrate, the Magistrate, Northern Division, and the Honorary Magistrates, the Resolution remarks:—"The Lieutenant-Governor has no desire to judge of the work done by these proportions; but"—and here the cloven foot seems to peep forth again—"the figures would seem to show that more care is taken in sifting complaints in the Northern Division Court than in others." And this, forsooth, because the Northern Division Court has the highest percentage of convictions and the smallest percentage of acquittals. And so the Northern Division Magistrate naturally comes in for the highest praise, "An extremely satisfactory result," "An excellent record;" but not a word for the Chief Presidency Magistrate, whose judicial record would seem to be equally successful, except in this matter of percentages. O the folly, the folly of it! Are our rulers so short-sighted, so blind, as not to know that figured statements of work done may be utterly deceptive; that no safe conclusion can be based upon a mere comparative record of averages? And why this striving after a high percentage of convictions? Is it the first object of Government to fill its prisons, or to do justice between man and man and enforce the safety of life and property? Is the cause of good government in any way benefited by the conviction of the innocent, and is not a Magistrate's first duty to acquit when he is not satisfied of the guilt of a prisoner?

Even a policeman ought not to be judged by the success of his prosecutions, which may depend on many circumstances with which he has no concern. But to a Magistrate, so long as he does his duty, the result of a prosecution ought to be as nothing. His business is to administer justice, not to secure convictions for the Government; and to judge of a Magistrate's merits by the percentages of cases in which he convicts, is really so foolish that one would think no one but a tyro in the art of governing would attempt it. But it is more than foolish. Has the Government never considered the incalculable mischief that may be done by fostering the belief, even if it is no more than a belief, that the promotion of a Magistrate or a policeman depends on his showing a high percentage of convictions? Has it never occurred to Government that such a belief may insensibly perhaps tend to interfere with the even course of justice? With men less conscientious than our Presidency Magistrates, with the rank and file of the police, such a belief may well give rise to practices which the Government itself would be the first to condemn. Never, never will be known the long list of crimes that are perpetrated in this country in order to establish a favourable record. And just because it is difficult to bring such cases to the light, the more reason why the Government should be careful to do and say nothing that may tend to encourage them. In this respect at least the time would seem to have arrived when Government by percentages should be abolished.—*The Englishman*, June 27, 1892.

NOTIFICATION.

To be peremptorily sold by the Registrar of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, in its Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction, on Saturday, the Sixteenth day of July next, at the hour of 12 o'clock noon, pursuant to a decree and order of the said Court made in Suit No. 309 of 1886 (Goorooprosunno Ghose *versus* Soorjicoomar Ghose and others), and dated respectively 15th March 1887 and 7th June 1887, the undermentioned properties belonging to the defendant Soorjicoomar Ghose.

NOTE.—The lots are herein described as in the 1st map executed by the defendant Soorjicoomar Ghose in favour of the plaintiff, but some of the charges are differently described in 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th mortgages executed by the said Soorjicoomar Ghose.

The different descriptions may be seen at the office of the Registrar, or at the office of Messieurs Swinhoe & Chunder, Attorneys for the plaintiff.

The undivided one-fourth part or share of and in the several pieces or parcels of land and premises described hereunder, and situate in Mouzah Salkea, Lot Mamoodalipore, in Zillah Hooghly, Pergunna Paikan, Thanah Golabaree, and Sub-registry Howrah, constituting lots 1 to 30, and in respect of which Rupees 385-6-7 are paid as annual rent to the ten annas and six annas Zemindars.

Lot 1.—One parcel of homestead land measuring by estimation about 10 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the West by Tar Mahomed and Nundocomar Sadkhan's danga land, on the South by Bose Zemindar's land, on the East by Ramimohun Ghosal's land, and on the North by a road.

Lot 2.—One parcel of homestead land measuring by estimation about 11 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the West and South by Ramdhonne Ghosal's doba, on the North by Gooroodoyal Bannerjee's doba, and on the East by Ramdhonne's Lane.

Lot 3.—One parcel of homestead land measuring by estimation about 19 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the West by Manick Doolal's jumma land and Ramprosad Chaprasai's jumma land, on the South by Daroga's tank, on the East by Bachoo Coiverto's jumma garden, and on the North by Kartick Hazra's dwelling house.

Lot 4.—One parcel of homestead land measuring by estimation about 8 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the East by Ramsing Chowdry's jumma land, on the South by a public road, on the West by Kedarnauth Sadkhan's Karoo tank ghaut, and on the North by the said tank and land on the West side.

Lot 5.—One parcel of homestead land measuring by estimation about 3 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the South by a public road, on the West by Ramjee Pyke's house, on the East by Kallychurun Muddock's house, and on the North by Muttylall Mistry's land.

Lot 6.—One parcel of homestead land measuring by estimation about 10 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the North by Ramcoomar Pal's Garden, on the East by Debnarain Ghose's land, on the West by a public road, and on the South by Debnarain Ghose's land.

Lot 7.—One parcel of homestead land measuring by estimation one bighah more or less, and bounded on the East by Annodamoye's dwelling house, on the South by a road and Bissanath Ghose's dwelling house, on the West by Kinoo Ghose's land and Khetter Mohun Ghose's dwelling house, and on the North by land of the 6 annas shareholder Zemindar.

Lot 8.—One parcel of land measuring by estimation 4 bighahs more or less, and bounded on the West by a road and drain, and on the North, East and South by land in the possession of Debnarain Ghose.

Lot 9.—One parcel of land measuring by estimation 15 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the South by the garden and dwelling house of Greedbur Dhoba, on the West and North by Railway lakhray land purchased by the said Soorji Coomar Ghose and Brothers, and on the East by Hurrydas Pundit's jumma land and Thakurdas Bairagi's dwelling house and garden land.

Lot 10.—One parcel of land measuring by estimation 3 bighahs and 10 chittacks more or less, and bounded on the North by Durganarain Nag's purchased land, on the West by Ramkristo Mookerjee's garden, on the South

by Madhub Ghose's land, and on the East by a public road.

Lot 11.—One parcel of land measuring by estimation 16 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the West by a public road, on the South by the dwelling house of Soorjicoomar Ghose and his brothers and a passage, on the East by the same dwelling house and passage and by Joy Kisto Mookerji's land, and on the North by Premchand Bagchee's dwelling house.

Lot 12.—One parcel of land measuring by estimation 4 bighahs and 4 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the West by a public road, on the North by a passage to Banyapooker, on the South by the land of Gobind Chuckerbutty and others, and on the East by Banyapooker.

Lot 13.—One parcel of land measuring by estimation 40 bighahs more or less, and bounded on the East by Tarruck Nath Dutt's and Kissore Bhukut's garden, on the North by Khogendra Nath Mullick's auction purchased garden which formerly belonged to Brojonath Chowdry and by Tarrack Nath Mookerjee's dwelling house and garden, on the West by a waste brimuter land and Tarrack Nath Mookerjee's garden and on the South by paddy land and by Juggunnath Mistry's Mot and Kristo Chogur's purchased land and garden.

Lot 14.—One parcel of land with dwelling house and garden and tank measuring by estimation 8 bighahs and 9 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the East by Banyapooker, on the South by a passage to Banyapooker, on the West by a public road, and on the North by a road.

Lot 15.—One parcel of land with buildings measuring by estimation 8 cottahs and 5 chittacks more or less, and bounded on the North by Basty Sahib's jote land and tank, on the East by a brick-built pucca wall and Batookey Sahib's land, on the South by a public road, and on the West by a lane.

Lot 16.—One parcel of land measuring by estimation 2 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the West by a road, on the North by a narrow lane, on the East by Madhubchunder Roy's purchased garden, and on the South by Hurry Mistry's jote land.

Lot 17.—One parcel of land measuring by estimation 5 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the South by a public road, on the North by the house of Bacharam Chowdry and others, on the East by a timber yard, on the West by a drain.

Lot 18.—One parcel of land measuring by estimation 2 bighahs more or less, and bounded on the East by Mudden Mohun Kur's tank, on the South by Rastadanga garden, on the West by Beebee's garden, and on the North by Ramesur Ghose's land.

Lot 19.—One parcel of land measuring by estimation 5 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the North and East by a public road, on the West by Debnarain Ghose's land, and on the South by Juttadharee Halder's land.

Lot 20.—One parcel of land measuring by estimation 5 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the South by a public road, on the East by Ram Chand Sircar's land, on the West by land of the 10 annas shareholder Zemindar, and on the North by Kristo Roy's dwelling house.

Lot 21.—One parcel of land with tank measuring by estimation 1 bighah and 10 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the East and South by a public road, on the North by Abdool Sary Chowdry's land and tank, and on the West by Jadub Chowdry's jote land.

Lot 22.—One parcel of land measuring by estimation 3 bighahs and 10 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the South by Kassynath Poddar's jamia land, on the East by Ramimohun Ghose's land, on the North by a public road, and on the West by land of the 6 annas shareholder Zemindar.

Lot 23.—One parcel of land measuring by estimation 3 bighahs more or less, and bounded on the North by a public road, on the West by Goho Shaik's jumma land, on the South by Sadoollal Tewary's jote land, and on the East by the jote land of Jogool Kristo Shaha and others.

Lot 24.—One parcel of land measuring by estimation 1 cottah 13 chittacks 3 gundahs and 6 cowries more or less, and bounded on the East by a road, on the North by the land of Chand Bibee and others, on the West by Koylas Chunder Mookerjee's dwelling-house, and on the South by Gollabatty Road.

Lot 25.—One parcel of land measuring by estimation 1 bighah and 5 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the West by a road, on the East by land in the possession of Deb Narain Ghose, on the North by a narrow lane, and on the South by Sattoke Bagdy's dwelling house.

Lot 26.—One parcel of land with dwelling-house and brick wall and garden and tank, measuring by estimation 2 bighahs more or less, and bounded on the East by the garden of Joykristo Mookerjee and others, on the South by Nothmon Baira Mohun Mohiney Raur's garden, and on the West and North by Khagendra Nath Mullick's garden and a passage.

Lot 27.—One parcel of homestead land with a dilapidated house measuring by estimation 7 cottahs and 2 chittaks more or less, and bounded on the West by a public road, on the South by Mudden Mohan Biswas and Roop Chand Kamar's land, on the East by land in the possession of Kedar Nath Sadhookhan and others, and on the North by Mohanund Bromoye Mohiney's house.

Lot 28.—One parcel of homestead land measuring by estimation 1 bighah more or less, and bounded on the South by a public road, on the East by Kedar Nath Bhuttacharjee's garden house, on the North by Jorab Ally Sircar's pukka house, and on the West by Ramnarain Bhukti's house.

Lot 29.—One parcel of homestead land measuring by estimation 5 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the West by Dhurumtollah Road, on the North by Nilmoney Napi's house, on the South by Bhagoban Koyal's house, and on the East by the land of Nobokisto Ghose and others.

Lot 30.—One parcel of homestead land measuring by estimation 3½ chittaks more or less, and bounded on the East partly by a road and partly by Brojo's dwelling-house, on the South partly by the land of the 10 annas shareholder Zemindar and partly by a road and partly by a dilapidated house and shop, on the North by a public road, and on the West by neej boundary and Hurry Dey's dwelling-house.

Like share in the several parcels of land and premises situate in mauza Batoolgachee, Lot Mamoodalipore, in pargana Boro, in Zillah Hooghly, thana Golabatty, sub-registry Howrah, and constituting lots 31 to 46, and in respect of which the annual revenue is Rs. 58-7-13 and is payable to the Zemindars of the 10 annas and 6 annas shareholders:—

Lot 31.—One parcel of land with tank measuring by estimation 3 bighas and 10 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the East by Kedar Nath Sadookhan's paddy land, on the South by land and tank in the possession of Koylasee Dabee and Hurro Sarfmanee Dasse and Gora Chand Mookerjee and by Monmohiney Dabee's land and house, on the West by Buddon Mundle's jumma land, and on the North by a public passage and Doorganarain Nag's land.

Lot 32.—One parcel of land with garden measuring by estimation 4 bighas and 10 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the North by the land of Baney Madhub, Kamar Gurrany and others, on the South by Apaly Sheik and Hakim Sheik's land, on the West by Joykristo Mookerjee's land, and on the East by Mohur-rer tank land.

Lot 33.—One parcel of homestead land measuring 1 bigha 15 cottahs and 15 chittaks with 11½ annas share of a tank measuring altogether 2 bighas and 10 cottahs more or less, the whole bounded on the South by Gungarnarain Sreemany's garden and tank, on the East by a road called Sittanauth Bose's road, on the North by Doorganarain Nag's waste land, and on the West by Ram Coomar Mundle's dwelling-house.

Lot 34.—One parcel of land with tank and doba including enclosure land and waste land and measuring by estimation 3 bighahs and 10 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the West by a dwelling-house and waste land and Madhub Mullah's and others' waste land and doba, on the South by Hurish Pyke and Doorganarain Nag's purchased garden and doba, on the East by Madhub Roy's jumma land and garden, and on the North by Kanyellal Seal and Nobokristo Ghose's purchased land.

Lot 35.—One parcel of land measuring by estimation 1 bighah and 6 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the South by Fakker and Tonoo Ghose's jote land, on the East by Kasy-

nauth Sadkhain's land, on the North by Tonoo Ghose's jote land and Gourangobatty's boundary, and on the West by Gooroocharan Ghose's land.

Lot 36.—One parcel of paddy land and garden measuring by estimation 2 biggahs more or less, and bounded on the South by a road, on the North and East by Kallachand Mullick's garden land and dwelling house, and on the West by Charoo Mistry's bamboo group.

Lot 37.—One parcel of homestead land measuring by estimation 8 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the East by Nafar Ghose's dwelling house and land, on the South by a road, on the North by Ramcoomar Ghose's purchased land, and on the West by Soorjee Chuckerbutty's and Bissumbhur Pakia's land and doba.

Lot 38.—One parcel of homestead land and garden measuring by estimation 1 biggah and 15 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the North by Khettermohan Ghose's pucca house and land, on the West by Ghosparah Lane, on the South by Baikanto Nath Ghose's jumma garden and tank, and on the East by Sumbhoo Chunder Ghose's potit land.

Lot 39.—One parcel of land measuring by estimation 2 biggahs and 16 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the North by the land of Purnessur Khamar's and Gopal Chunder Dass and others, on the East by Bissonauth Baug's garden and paddy land, on the South by the land of Bissonauth Baug and others, and on the East by Purnessur Khamar's land.

Lot 40.—One parcel of land measuring by estimation 16 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the West by Golam Punny Shaik's land, on the South and North by Purnessur Kamar's land, and on the East by the land of Gouba Dass and others.

Lot 41.—One parcel of homestead land measuring by estimation 1 biggah more or less, and bounded on the East by Hurish Nuskur's garden, on the North by Hurish Nuskur's and Kanye Doss's land, on the West by Kanye Doss's garden and land, and on the South by Bhattoy Sakary road.

Lot 42.—One parcel of land measuring by estimation 1 biggah and 10 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the North by Mr. Daga's land, on the East by Sackheemany Dassee's land, on the South by Modosoodan Baug's jote land, and on the West by Sumbhoo Chunder Ghose's land.

Lot 43.—One parcel of paddy land measuring by estimation 1 biggah and 15 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the South by Dasso-ruth Ghose's land and garden, on the East by the land of Gopal Doss and others, on the North by Kedarnath and Chunder Sheekhur Banerjee's land, and on the West by Gonesh Dass's land.

Lot 44.—One parcel of homestead land with garden and doba measuring 1 biggah more or less, and bounded on the South by Rajcoomar Brojocoomar Sett and Modosoodan Daw's garden and land, on the North by the Benares road, on the West by Gopalchunder Dey's dwelling house and tank, and on the East by the land of Surroopchunder Dutt.

Lots 45 to 48.—A like share in Pergunnah Baro Zillah Hooghly, Thannah Golabatee, Sub-registration District Howrah, contained within Lot Mamoodallypore:—

Lot 45.—A piece of lakraj land in Bamunghata containing 4 biggahs and 10 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the South by the Benares road, on the West by a road, on the East by Jodoonauth Bhuttacharjee's and Woomachurn Bhuttacharjee's dwelling house and tank, and on the North by the tank of Petamber Roy and others.

Lot 46.—One parcel of Paul's garden in Bamunghata containing about 8 biggahs more or less, and bounded on the North by Ramcoomar Ghose and Nafar Chunder Ghose's dwelling house and a road, on the West by the dwelling house of Luckee Bewah and others, on the East by the land of Tarrucknauth Bose and others, and on the South by Issur Ghosal and Nabo Boiragee's dwelling house.

Lot 47.—Mouza Ootnar Batra measuring 12 biggahs 3 cottahs and 8 chittacks of land more or less, the annual khazna (revenue) Rupees 58-3-10 is payable to the Zemindary Sircars of the 10 annas and 6 annas shareholders, bounded on the South by Koylash Chunder Chuckerbutty's land and Wooma Charan Sirdar and Halodhur Ghose's chakran land, on the East by Budden, Munee, Manick, Kally and Sita-

ram Dey's land, on the North by a public road and Manick Kallay's danga and tank, and on the West by Gour Dass Boiragee's and Manick Kallay's tank and doba.

Lot 48.—In Pergunnah Baro containing 1 biggah 2 cottahs and 8 chittacks, the annual khazna Rupees 8-9-3 is payable to the Zemindar of the 10 annas and 6 annas shareholders. This property is bounded on the East by Ramdhone Boiragee's jote land, on the North by Brindabun Neogy's land and Ononto Ghose's doba, on the South by Shubkristo Daw's purchased land, and on the West by Chatterjee's land and passage.

Also a like share in the undermentioned parcels of rent-free land in Mouza Salkea adjacent to the Railway in lot Mamoodallypore, in Zillah Hooghly, Thannah Golabari, and Sub-registry Howrah, constituting lots No. 49 to No. 54:—

Lot 49.—One parcel of land being Lot No. 2 measuring 3 biggahs 1 cottah and 9 chittacks, and bounded on the South by the Salkea road, on the North up to the 2nd milestone, on the East by a wire fence, and on the West by a pillar.

Lot 50.—One parcel of land being lot 4 measuring 1 cottah and 33 square feet, and bounded on the South by lot No. 3 plan, on the North up to the 2nd milestone, on the East by Nobin Dutt's garden, and on the West by a wire fence.

Lot 51.—One parcel of land being lot No. 5 measuring 2 biggahs and 14 chittacks, and bounded on the South up to the end of the 2nd milestone, on the North by the Railway Company's land, on the East by a wire fence, and on the West up to the 2nd milestone.

Lot 52.—One parcel of land being lot No. 6 measuring 3 biggahs 1 cottah and 3 chittacks, and bounded on the South up to the 2nd milestone and Greedharee dhoba's land, on the North by Thakurcharan Bagdy's jote land, and on the East and West by a wire fence.

Lot 53.—One parcel of land in Mouza Salkea being lot No. 20 measuring 2 biggahs 1 cottah and 10 chittacks, and bounded on the South by lot No. 18, on the North by the boundary of the Mouza, on the East by a wire fence, and on the West by Dean's land.

Lot 54.—One parcel of land in Mouza Bally being Lot No. 25 measuring 5 biggahs and 17 square feet, and bounded on the South up to the end of the 4th milestone, on the North by a road leading to No. 12 Bridge, on the East by a wire fence, and on the West by the land of Kristo Hazrah and others.

Lot 55.—Nos. 16 and 17 Luckheynarain Mookerjee's Lane in Pathooriaghata in Calcutta, being a three storied brick-built dwelling house together with land appertaining thereto, containing by estimation 19 cottahs more or less, and bounded on the South by the stable of Rajender Mookerjee, on the North by Buddon Shaw's tenanted land, on the East by a lane, and on the West by Luckheynarain Mookerjee's lane.

Note.—Lots 45 and 55 will be first put up for sale.

R. BELCHAMBERS,
Registrar.

SWINHOE & CHUNDER,
Plaintiff's Attorneys.
Dated this 19th November 1891.

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(PRINCE AND PEASANT)

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AND

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Office: 1, Upper Dutt's Lane, Wallington Street, Calcutta.

DROIT ET AVANT.

Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS, LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1892.

} No. 532

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

MY OWN PLACE.

A RHYME FOR ALL GOOD MEN AND TRUE.

BY MARTIN FARQUHAR TUPPER, AUTHOR OF "PROVERBIAL PHILOSOPHY," ETC.

WHOEVER I am, wherever my lot,
Whatever I happen to be,
Contentment and Duty shall hallow the spot,
That Providence orders for me ;
No covetous straining and striving to gain
One feverish step in advance,—
I know my own place, and you tempt me in vain
To hazard a change and a chance !

I care for no riches that are not my right,
No honor that is not my due ;
But stand in my station, by day or by night,
The will of my Master to do ;
He lent me my lot, be it humble or high,
And set me my business here,
And whether I live in his service, or die,
My heart shall be found in my sphere !

If wealthy, I stand as the steward of my King,
If poor, as the friend of my Lord,
If feeble, my prayers and my praises I bring,
If stalwart, my pen or my sword ;
If wisdom be mine, I will cherish His gift,
If simpleness, bask in His love,
If sorrow, His hope shall my spirit uplift,
If joy, I will throne it above !

The good that it pleases my God to bestow,
I gratefully gather and prize ;
The evil—it can be no evil, I know,
But only a good in disguise ;
And whether my station be lowly or great,
No duty can ever be mean,
The factory cripple is fixed in his fate,
As well as a King or a Queen !

For Duty's bright livery glorifies all
With brotherhood, equal and free,
Obeying, as children, the heavenly call,
That places us where we should be ;
A servant—the badge of my servitude shines
As a jewel invested by heaven ;
A monarch—remember that justice assigns
Much service, where so much is given !

Away then with "helpings" that humble and harm,
Though "bettering" trips from your tongue ;
Away ! for your folly would scatter the charm
That round my proud poverty hung ;

I felt that I stood like a man at my post,
Though peril and hardship were there,—
And all that your wisdom would counsel me most,
Is—"Leave it :—do better elsewhere."

If "better" were better indeed, and not "worse,"
I might go ahead with the rest,
But many a gain and a joy is a curse,
And many a grief for the best ;
No !—duties are all the "advantage" I use ;
I pine not for praise or for pelf,
And as to ambition, I care not to choose
My better or worse for myself !

I will not, I dare not, I cannot !—I stand
Where God has ordained me to be,
An honest mechanic—or lord in the land—
He fitted my calling for me :
Whatever my state, be it weak, be it strong,
With honor, or sweat, on my face,
This, this is my glory, my strength, and my song
I stand, like a star, in my place.

HOME SICKNESS.

FROM THE GERMAN.

THOU ask'st me why my heart is sad,
Why pensive thus I roam,
When all around are blithe and glad ?
My spirit pines for home.

'T is true the birds pour forth their songs,
'T is true this earth is fair ;
But, ah ! my aching bosom longs
For that which is not there.

At morn the flowers pour forth perfume,
At eve they fade away,
But in my Father's mansion bloom
Flowers that can ne'er decay.

Those fairy blossoms will not grow,
Save in their place of birth ;
They fade, they wither here below—
They were not made for earth.

Where is that mansion ? Far above
The sun, the stars, the skies ;
In realms of endless light and love,
My Father's mansion lies.

Then ask not why my heart is sad,
Why pensive thus I roam,
When all around are blithe and glad ?
My spirit pines for home.

Subscribers in this country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

WEEKLYANA.

BY order of Her Majesty in Council, the Besses and Minicoy Light dues have, from this month, been reduced by half.

A COMMITTEE for Privileges of the House of Lords decided the place for the Duke of York in the House immediately after the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn and before the Duke of Cambridge and the Primate.

HER Majesty has approved the appointment of Mr. Charles Henry Hill, as a Judge of the Bengal High Court in place of Mr. A. Wilson resigned.

MR. G. R. Elsmie, Barrister-at-Law, Financial Commissioner of the Punjab, has been appointed an Additional Member of the Governor-General's Council for making Laws and Regulations.

COLONEL P. D. Henderson, C.S.I., has been granted privilege leave for three months from the 12th July, Colonel H. P. Peacock, Political Resident in Turkish Arabia and officiating Resident at Jeypore, acting as Resident in Mysore and Chief Commissioner of Coorg. He will also officiate as Judicial Commissioner of Coorg.

MR. Justice Ameel Ali goes on one months' privilege leave from the 7th August.

IN the Mathematics Tripos list, among the male Wranglers, Cambridge, occurs a Bengali name. Mallik, Peterhouse, is the 23rd in order. Another Bengali—Datta, Emmanuel—is a Senior Optime, being 52nd in the list. There are two women Wranglers, and 5 Senior and 5 Junior Optimises.

ONE of the most interesting exhibits at the Conversazione of the Royal Society was the skeleton of a new Theriodont reptile from Cape Colony. It has some remarkable resemblances to a mammal—the molar teeth, among other features, being like those of a dog.

AT a meeting, on the 11th June, of the Congress of Surgeons then sitting in Berlin, Professor Wolff introduced a case of successful extirpation of the larynx. The operation was done eight months back on a Berlin dentist. It is so successful that, by an artificial larynx invented by Professor Bruns, the patient can speak and even sing. He gave proofs by reciting a monologue from Schiller's "William Tell" and singing the wellknown "Gaudeamus igitur."

DR. Vaughan, the new Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, believes that England will become Catholic, for she is already half that way. Not that half the population has become so, but that half a revolution has been made towards Catholicism. In proof, he instances the High Church movement, which, according to him, is of a great service in that behalf, for "though it is true they arrest some who would otherwise have come over, yet on the whole they are doing our work, and nearly all the old controversies have died out. England herself will never, I think, be Catholic throughout, but her main religion will be so without a doubt." So expressed the Doctor to a representative of *Black and White*.

AT Rawalpindi on June 28, a rich money-lender was attacked by some of his infuriated debtors armed with heavy axes. It is doubtful whether he will survive the attack. No great matter for any body out of the family circle. One Jew will be the less.

A TWO-STOREYED observatory is being built at Paris for the top of Mont Blanc. It is of wood, has two floors of two rooms each, and can be taken to pieces. No foundation of rock being available among the frozen snow, it will be imbedded in the snow itself.

THE useful men who keep watch for the denizens of our planet over the doings of her sister globes in the far distance, have lately reported the inroad of a new intruder in the shape of a comet. We are all ac-

quainted with this kind of visitors which no longer terrifies us as it used to frighten our ancestors. But the present comet is a regular monster. It has not only more tails than one but sports any number of them—a whole system, very complicated, of appendages. According to Professor Barnard, of San Francisco, as many as half a dozen distinct branches can be counted proceeding from the head, some of them being curiously curved. Photographs have been taken showing that in less than 24 hours the third tail had extended to a length of ten million miles, while the northern tail had completely vanished. Portions of the tail were seen to make abrupt angles from their original source.

We wonder our astrologers who know all the past, the present, and the future, have no news of this multitailed apparition.

TALKING of our astrologers reminds us that the late proud predictions about the weather of these far from Delphic oracles have been woefully belied by the event. There has been no cyclone and no loss of life therefrom on the 27th June.

THE *Madras Standard* says:—

"The *Reis and Rayyet* confesses to have had a sneaking fondness for the *Hindoo Patriot*, as it was the first worthy national journal whose greatness has not yet been exceeded."

and asks the pertinent question:—

"Why sneaking fondness?"

In kindness for our benighted friend, we will tell the secret. It was a "goak" and nothing more.

SIR Sarvanand is to the fore again. Having saved the Native Press, the *Bangabasi* in especial, and the Bengal Government above all, and having reduced the historic *Hindoo Patriot* to a daily, the middle-aged Hercules has had leisure for other labours. He is now engaged on a reform of the etiquette of correspondence. He is evidently dissatisfied with the epistolary forms in vogue and has inaugurated a change. He regards the mode of subscribing letters wrong in principle, thinking that the description qualifying the signature should come after it. According to him, the present custom is faulty: In the natural order the qualifying clause should follow, not precede, the name of the writer. Nor is he without warrant in custom itself, seeing that the titles to consideration of the writer are never given before. Even now under the irrational system in vogue, nobody subscribes himself B. A., Sarvanand, or Engineer, Fatik Chand, or Lieutenant Colonel, Brown Jones, or Magistrate, 24-Parganas, John Robinson. So, in reliance upon the logic of precedents, he has boldly introduced Nature into his own written communications, in the full belief, doubtless, that his example will be followed and an absurd practice be rooted out of the world. In Thursday's issue of his own paper, the *Hindoo Patriot*, he publishes in full the British Indian Association's letter to Government on the Chowkidari Act Amendment Bill. Whoever wrote that letter, it was sent with the signature of the Secretary of the Association, which is himself. Had it appeared in any other journal its authenticity might be doubted. A rival journalist might possibly have been tempted to tamper with the text. The wag of the *Anrita Bazar Patrika* might have been suspected of perpetrating a hoax. But there is no room for any of these or other like suggestions. Was it possible that any body on his own establishment would dare to play a trick on Sir Sarvanand Bahadur? We dismiss the thought as absurd.

What, then, do we find in the *Hindoo Patriot* of the 7th instant? It is this. The letter of the British Indian Association in question "To H. C. Streatfield Esq. Under-Secretary, Government of Bengal," is subscribed in the following original way:—

"I have the honor to be,

Sir,

RAJKUMAR SARVADHIKARI,

Your most obedient servant,

Secretary, British Indian Association."

The world, we dare say, will note and mend its way.

DR. Wiederhold, of Kassel in Germany, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for chastising a lady with sticks and blows to get rid of her hysteria. The treatment is indeed a novel one in these days. It reminds us of the old tale of a highway robber being transformed into a doctor by the grace of god Siva. Does Dr. Wiederhold, like

the ignorant masses of India, hold hysteria to be a symptom of demoniac possession? According to the Indian maxim, devils depart at blows.

ARTS. All, the hanging instrument that is called after the name of Dr. Guillotin, was not invented by him, though he approved of it. According to a recent writer in the *Saturday Review*, the real inventor was Dr. Louis, Secretary to the Academie de Medicine, Paris. It was designed by him in 1785 as an improvement on an Italian instrument and resembled in principle the Scotch "maiden" and the Halifax "gibbet." It was exhibited to a select assembly of deputies on March 1792 and recommended by the Assembly three weeks after. During this period Dr. Guillotin spoke many a time in its favour, condemning the old instrument with rack and wheel, instead of which the new one was now introduced. It was first called "Louisson" but the public were for calling it after its chief advocate in the chamber, guillotine. On April 25 1792, it was first used for beheading a highwayman. Dr. Guillotin died in 1814. Is it possible that he acted under a vague instinct of personal selfishness? The new instrument might have been tried on the worthy doctor himself.

•••
 IN Congr s d'Hygi ne, Ouvri re, M. Napias states that 18 per cent. of the cutters of silex, 70 per cent. of the needle sharpners, 65 of the file cutters, 45 of the lithographers, 40 of the grindstone cutters, 7 of the cement workers and 5 per cent. of the tinfoil workers die of phthisis. The harder the dust, the more it is injurious.

NOTES & LEADERETTES

with
 OUR OWN NEWS.

THE lame mule ends with catching the hare, says the Arab proverb. The Black Man, like the dark horse of the turf, has, after all, reached the winning post. Lord Salisbury's doubt—"I doubt if we have yet got to that point where a British constituency will elect a black man to represent them," has been dispelled. Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji has been returned a Member of Parliament. It is an agreeable surprise to us Indians. Mr. Dadabhai's patience has been rewarded. He had courted and been jilted. He again wooed and won Central Finsbury. Until the eleventh hour he had no hopes when a lady stepped in and succeeded in retiring his rival in the same Liberal interest in which he had been working. He has been returned by a majority of three. In the previous election of 1886, the majority was five.

In honor of the event, meetings are being held in different parts of the country. Our Congress friends of this city have arranged to close the private schools and colleges, themselves being owners of most of the institutions, on Monday next, to be followed up by a public demonstration. Vigorous attempts are being made to get up a general illumination. Bombay will celebrate her Naoroji's success with genuine enthusiasm and all the honours.

OF the three Anglo-Indians recently retired from service in this country, who contested the elections, the late Military Member and the Law Member have been returned, and Mr. Douglas Straight, of the Allahabad High Court, been defeated.

THE General Election shows a distinct Liberal reaction. The fickle Metropolis has turned her back on the Ministry, and at other centres the same change is observable. England is too jealous of power to leave it long in the same hands.

So far as we can guess at this stage, the two forces of Government and the Opposition will be too equally balanced for administration. We trust there will be no necessity for another dissolution, which may dash to the ground the hopes of India at the election of Dadabhai Naoroji.

THE elections are not yet ended. The latest returns are:—

Conservatives...	...	...	165
Liberals ...	...	...	135
Unionists ...	...	...	25
Anti-Parnellites ...	...	...	15
Parnellites ...	...	...	4

showing that the Liberals have gained forty-three seats, the Conservatives thirteen, and the Unionists six.

WE learn—for we are not favoured with the daily—that the *Amrita Basar Patrika* has issued a black border issue by way of mourning for the Parliamentary death of Mr. J. M. Maclean, who has not been re-elected by Oldham. This is the very *reductio ad absurdum* of irony. It is a pity that such a feeble and pointless practical joke should have been perpetrated on a serious subject by men who are not deficient in native wit. We regret it because it shows a bad spirit in our countrymen. Is it generous—is it honourable—is it even decent—to chuckle over the misfortunes of even enemies?

Surely our countrymen would not wish to see Mr. Maclean's income reduced, his uninsured house and effects on fire, his children die of the influenza! A slight ripple of satisfaction at his failure in the election, as it is natural, is the utmost stretch of ill-nature permissible to enemies. Thus far shall it go and no farther. Generous minded opponents will not humiliate themselves by even this degree of evil thought. Righteous men of course will never countenance it. Brave minds do not care to see the field cleared of enemies by accidents—they are ready to fight all comers. This indecent jubilation only enhances the importance of Mr. Maclean and is a confession of our imbecility. Is Mr. Maclean so formidable that we should so anxiously desire to see him out of the House? For our part, we should wish to see him in all the more now that our Naoroji will be there to meet him. Although inferior in brilliancy, our Black Man is a man of superior calibre and a politician of greater grasp as well as information and better grounded in principles.

THE chuckle over Mr. Maclean's parliamentary demise is premature. He may yet come in, after all. If this chuckle should be telegraphed, he would almost surely get in. He would try his best and Englishmen would have more sympathy with him than ever. This chuckle is bad in tactics as in morals and manners.

Apart from this incident, Mr. Maclean has displayed so much ability in debate that it will be worth the while of the Conservative leaders to find him a seat.

IN 1890, Congress passed an Act for celebrating the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus. Among other things it provides that the discovery be commemorated by an exhibition of the resources of the United States of America, their development, and of the progress of civilization in the New World, and that such an exhibition should be of a national and international character, so that not only the people of the Union and the American Continent, but those of all nations as well, can participate. Such is to be the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, United States, America. It will be held on the lovely shore of Lake Michigan, in the great City of Chicago. It will be opened on the 1st May 1893 and closed on the 30th October following.

India will not be officially represented in the World's Exposition. In answer to General Goldsworthy, Mr. Curzon informed the House of Commons on the 13th June that

"After very careful consideration the Government of India have come to the conclusion, in which they have the support of all the Indian Chambers of Commerce, that it is not necessary that India should be officially represented at Chicago, either directly or through the British Commission; or that any grant in aid should be made. The Government is, however, supporting the Calcutta Tea Association in the establishment of an Indian section at the Exhibition."

Notwithstanding the decision of the Secretary of State, the Government of India have ordered the issue of a circular incorporating the general regulations for foreign exhibitors and the United States Government regulations governing the free importation of articles for exhibition at the show to the Local Governments and Administrations and to the Foreign Department for such circulation to Political officers in Native States as may be considered necessary.

The Government of India have sanctioned Rs. 40,000 for the Indian tea section of the Exposition.

A MOST brilliant operation has been just performed in America which revolutionises at once the mental and the medical sciences. It is reported by Dr. Hugo Engel of Philadelphia in the *Medical News*. It was an operation of trephining followed by mental improvement. A boy of fourteen who had been in a good mental and physical condition until his sixth year, was attacked with severe epileptic fits which gradually transformed him into a savage animal as it were. The boy

now behaved more like an idiot with maniacal symptoms coming on at times. There was a peculiar conformation of the skull which suggested to the surgeon the premature closing of the fontanelles by the junction of parietal and frontal bones. Two operations were performed by removing portions of the right frontal and parietal bones immediately contiguous to the coronal suture. There was a marked lessening of the fits in number as well as intensity, with an admirable improvement of the mental conditions. He regained his bright lively nature, and there was a complete change in his habits. Cases are found where mental lesions have supervened after injuries and have been remedied after trephining, but idiocy due to rapid closing of the fontanelles cured by an operation is extremely rare. Dr. Engel's case is a most important success in surgery which, while it utterly discredits the old psychology, opens a long vista to the applicability of trephining in the most obscure and desperate mental disorders due to malformation, congenital or post congenital.

THE late Professor Freeman's friends probably affected to regard him as a mere *doctrinaire* in affairs. In truth he was little better than a schoolmaster. He set great store by his own epigram, History is past politics; politics are present history, speaking with charming simplicity of his success with this grand organ for discovery of truth. He boasted, that in most of the political matters to which he had given any thought at all he had come to his own conclusions first, and had the pleasure of seeing the practical men come to the same conclusions later. That is unmistakably like the man of the ferule.

THE Report of the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board of London for 1890 contains many interesting features. In a case of food-poisoning at Portsmouth, Dr. Klein was offered an opportunity for experiment with the poisonous materials. He found that "these matters had, when he received them, definitely poisonous properties upon mice; and that with lapse of time this poisonous action was lost. At the time when the materials were poisonous, they exhibited in great abundance two forms of bacillus, the one mobile, and the other non-mobile. After the materials had lost their poisonous quality they continued to exhibit bacteria in great abundance, especially the mobile bacillus above mentioned, but the non-mobile was now no longer to be found." This proves how one species of bacteria is poisonous while the other is not only innocuous but plays an important part in maintaining the economy of nature and as such in destroying the morbid influence of the other. Dr. Dupré has illustrated these facts in deep-well waters—how the harmless ones have the superiority over the others. So even in bacterial life there is a continuous struggle for existence.

IN the same report there are fourteen instances of food-poisoning from 1880 to 1888. Of these ten are due to pig meat of one kind or another, veal, beef, butcher's meat (kind unstated) and tinned salmon, each forming one instance respectively. After all, there is more danger in the pig meat than in other kinds of flesh. The Hindus and Mahomedans have done well to forsake it.

THERE is an order to all port sanitary authorities signed by the President Charles T. Richie, dated August 28, 1890. The power of the Local Government Board extends over seas, rivers and waters of the United Kingdom and the high seas within three miles of the coasts. These regulations contrast with the laws of quarantine accepted by the continental nations of Europe, and are intended more to facilitate commerce than to enforce isolation.

A NOTE by Dr. H. Hamer, on certain conditions determining insusceptibility of the human system to poisonous materials, is appended to the Report. Therein he examines Metschnikoff's theory of the power of leucocytes to destroy the bacteria. Buchner's theory of the germicidal action of animal fluids apart from cells has too been noticed. Following certain experiments, Dr. Hamer is of opinion that the doctrine of phagocytosis is not in accordance with but in direct opposition to Ruffer's theory of diphtheria where "the diphtheritic membrane is a battle-field for amœboid cells and the pathogenic microbes of diphtheria."

DR. Barry, on an epidemic of enteric fever in Tees valley, reports that "I have personally no hesitation in attributing the epidemic of enteric fever in the Lower Tees Valley to the water pumped from the River Tees during the fortnight ending August 23rd, at a time, namely, when the river was in flood and when it must have contained abundance of excremental matter." The water was supplied by the Stockton and Middlesbrough Water Works. Unless the condition of the river or the water supply is improved, no good is expected. Persons residing in the locality were advised to boil their drinking water.

It is reported from Kurachi that for Rs. 10,000 paid by the Nawab of Junagadh for the Medressah building at Kurachi, at a large gathering of Mahomedans at the Medressah Hall, special prayers were offered for His Highness Nawab Rasool Khanji Bahadur and for Her Majesty. This is overdoing a good thing—to silliness and indecency. What is the *rationale* of the prayer for the Empress? Was it an acknowledgment of her graciousness as sovereign in not robbing the Nawab of his throne and property and effects so that he was able to pay Rs. 10,000 to a charity? Or was it a mere compliment like the toast at public dinners? In that case, Her Majesty should have been allowed the precedence in the prayers. Again, supposing the black Nawab had paid a lac, what would have been the proper form of acknowledgment? Would Kurachi have voted a Day of General Fast and Thanksgiving?

THE Panjab is in a fair way of being independent of Bengal in her coal supply. Her own coal-fields are being worked with success. According to official reports, the Dandot Colliery nearly doubled its output during last year. It was over 72,000 tons, the profits realised being nearly 15 per cent. on the capital outlay. The Bhaganwala coal-field on the Salt Range, seventeen miles from Dandot, also seems very promising, with coal slightly better than that produced at Dandot.

THE Southern Mahratta Railway Company have, in supersession of their previous order for caps, prescribed the national turban for their upper native staff. The black uniform cap was at first an abomination to the latter. As we are told in a paragraph which appears in the *Pioneer*, "at first they did not take to it kindly. A few stoutly refused to relinquish their kinkobs and turbans of voluminous folds, and some only donned the black cap when they knew their Inspecting Officers were about. The rule was, however, applied with greater and less severity, and at length a factitious taste for black caps was actually created, so much so that clerks and others who were not required to wear black caps as a uniform took to wearing them. Some were bordered with gold lace and others with floral designs richly executed in coloured silk and gold and silver thread. The Company, becoming alarmed, has now ordered a return to the turban and the coquettish cap has been prescribed" (*sic*). The last word should, of course, be "proscribed," and it shows how our leading contemporary's great establishment is not above the typographic lapses to which minor offices and the Indian Press in general are liable. That correction, however, does not remove the inherent weakness of the sentence. That "coquettish cap" is an eye-sore and no mistake—in the text as well as in point of fact. A bold epithet indeed is "coquettish" for the infernal black cap prescribed! If the adjective is meant for the sumptuous lace cap decorated with flowery gold and silver thread worked in colored silk, the fancy for it was simply silly. Its adoption by any railway servant was not only against rule but an obvious impropriety also—a sin against the decencies of business life. But as it had never been prescribed, there was no occasion for its proscription. It is also amusing to see how, notwithstanding the admitted repugnance to the innovation of the hideous black cap, the growth of a taste for it is predicated, apparently as the result of not the steady pressure of the Company in enforcing their command but the greater and less severity with which the rule to wear the black cap was enforced. The writer perceives the weakness of his statement which he tries to bolster up by qualifying the taste said to be created by the word "factitious." But that word does not really alter the matter. Is it to be supposed that a taste, factitious or real, was created by the less severity with which a repugnant rule was enforced? The adoption of caps "some bordered with gold lace and others with floral designs richly executed in colored silk and gold and silver thread," was a strange proof of the creation of a taste—say "a factitious taste—for black caps."

The whole is a curious attempt to keep the Railway Company in countenance and gloss over their discomfiture. The black business did not go down with the natives and the sumptuary regulation had to be withdrawn. That is plain. But the defeat from the natives has gone to the heart of the railway authorities and their friends in the press. Let them not lose heart, however. They will yet obtain their heart's wish. Of course there can be no question about the repugnance of Orientals to the European's choice color, black. This side the country too there was great dismay on the E. I. R. when that black cap was introduced, and several men threw up their appointments rather than appear in that ridiculous head-gear. Others only donned it at train time when Europeans were about. This was the thin end of the wedge. Gradually the repugnance wore off, and we now see Brahmans, Vaidyas and Kayasthas wearing the undertaker's badge without fret or a conscious sense of humiliation.

Mr. Lambert's appointment to the Lieutenant-Governor's Council for making Laws, which we quietly and dubiously brought to public notice, has been warily attacked. Two of our European morning contemporaries of this city have condemned it in no uncertain terms. The *Indian Daily News*, after quoting our paragraph, gives expression to the general complaint of the inordinate predominance of the official element in the local Legislature. As regards the appointment of Mr. Lambert to help to pass the Fire Brigade, the mercantile community is said to regard it as a tactical mistake, if not worse. The objection is not of course to Mr. Lambert as Mr. Lambert. But, says our contemporary,

"it is held to be a departure from the correct principles of legislation that an officer who is in charge of the working of the Act should be the one to make it. That Mr. Lambert can give valuable information on the working of the Act may be admitted. But that does not qualify him as a legislator. And further, the Act may outlast Mr. Lambert, and he may be succeeded by an officer of less discretion and knowledge. Moreover, it is pointed out that the 'other side' has now no representative on the Council, or is very inadequately represented. The merchants have a great interest in the Fire Brigade question, and they have hitherto been chiefly taxed for the support of the Brigade. They not unreasonably say that they have as good a claim to be represented in the Council as the executive who will have the working of the Act. It may have been for want of consideration that this arrangement has been made. But it is felt, rightly or wrongly, that it is another step in a too apparent tendency to subordinate all other influences, including the judicial, to executive authority, a course which bodes no good to the general public."

Soon after the *Statesman* followed up with great spirit. It perfectly agrees with the *Indian Daily News* in regarding the appointment of the Commissioner of Police as a "departure from the true principles of legislation that an officer who is to have charge of the working of an Act should take part in making and passing it." The writer goes on:—

"The opinion of such an officer as to what is required of the Legislature is, no doubt, entitled to the fullest consideration. But that furnishes no argument for associating him with the Legislature in the making or passing of the law; for there is nothing to prevent the Council having all the benefit of his advice without his actually occupying a seat in it."

"There is, moreover, a strong objection to Mr. Lambert's elevation to the Council, quite independently of the pendency of this particular Bill, in the mere fact of his being the Commissioner of Police. The same grounds on which it is considered necessary that executive and judicial functions should be kept apart, apply in an almost equal degree to the separation of executive and legislative functions. The Legislature should be in a position to judge with absolute impartiality between the interests of the executive and those of the public, and, in order that it may be in such a position, it should consist of men who are not actively engaged in the performance of executive duties. It is all the more necessary that this principle should be observed in a country like India, where the legislature consists of members in whose appointment the public has no voice, and over whose acts consequently it possesses no control. As we have had occasion to remark more than once, the executive in India, in recent years, have shown a strong tendency not merely to arrogate to themselves an undue control over the judiciary of the country, but to legislate themselves out of the jurisdiction of the courts, as regards their official acts. The tendency is one which strikes at the very roots of justice and liberty, and it should be promptly resisted whenever and wherever it displays itself. The appointment of an official in Mr. Lambert's position to a seat in the Legislative Council of the Province will, not unnaturally, be regarded as making a further development of this policy, which is wholly opposed to the spirit of British rule, and has only to be exposed to be condemned by the voice of British public opinion. We are strongly of opinion that the appointment under comment ought never to have been made, and should be cancelled."

In all the noble sentiments expressed above, we entirely concur. If

the Constitution is in danger, we hope our other contemporaries will see the necessity of their coming forward in its defence. Will the *Englishman* do its duty on the occasion as befits its position and the traditions of its constituents?

AN enormous aerolite fell into the Caspian Sea not far from Apscheron. It came down with a loud noise and greatly disturbed the Sea for a long distance. It looks like an ordinary rock projecting over 12 feet over water 25 feet deep.

YESTERDAY, Mr. Jackson moved the Criminal Bench of the High Court in the matter of Raja Surya Kunt Acharjee of Muktagacha, against the proceedings, by himself and through his Assistant, of Mr. Phillips, District Magistrate, Maimensing. Mr. Jackson made two separate applications, one to set aside the order of the Assistant Magistrate under section 432 of the Penal Code, fining the Raja Rs. 500 with the alternative of twenty days' simple imprisonment, and the other to quash the order of the District Magistrate under section 143 of the Criminal Procedure Code on the Raja not to repeat or continue the nuisance of the wall the Raja had built and the District Magistrate had pulled down.

The proper course would have been to file an appeal to the District Judge, but this was not done in order that the Judges of the High Court might be given an immediate opportunity of expressing themselves on the extraordinary proceedings of the District Magistrate.

The Judges, though competent, would not depart from the usual practice of the Court in favor of a rich Raja appearing by an eminent counsel. One of them, in anticipation of the attack on the softness of the bench as though he expected a Tiger's spring, had fortified himself by putting himself in the same mood in which Sterne prepared himself at the sight of the monk to receive his clerical visitor with a predetermination not to give a sou. For once he would not let his tongue carry away his head. And he spoke to the same effect. So novel was his attitude that he was vain of his newly acquired prudence. After all, the court granted a rule on the District Magistrate. We quote the orders.

"Norris, J.—We think that sufficient material has been put before us by learned counsel to make it incumbent upon us to grant a rule calling upon the district magistrate of Mymensingh to show cause why an order of the 22nd June should not be set aside. With regard to the other application, that we should call for the records of the proceedings before the Assistant Magistrate with the view of revising them, we consider that no sufficient ground has been made out. If an application had been made by the humblest pleader in this court on behalf of the poorest of Her Majesty's subject in this country, we should have arrived at the same conclusion as we have arrived at in this case. The fact that the defendant, who has been fined an inconsiderable sum, is a gentleman of wealth and standing cannot make any possible difference to us in the discharge of purely judicial duty, whether or not the action taken by the district magistrate was right, or the steps he has taken were right. Whether he has wantonly, viciously, or maliciously put the Raja to shame is a matter which is not before us, and upon which we decline to express any opinion. The Raja has his remedy by a regular appeal, and when that regular appeal has been decided one way or another, he then can come forward before this court for revision."

O'Knealy, J.—It is right I should say that I entirely concur in the judgment which has just been delivered. No doubt from the number of letters read by Mr. Jackson there are many points which may be put forward in appeal, but the offence of which he has been convicted is one which carries no social stigma or stain with it, and he has his ordinary remedy. It is only a fine, and I venture to say that if we were to admit such cases to revision, we should not be in a position to refuse any possible case which may be applied for by any one. I think therefore that it would not be advisable for us to abandon the usual practice of the court where a man has his ordinary remedy. In the other case I also concur in thinking that Mr. Jackson has shown good cause for the rule which has been granted."

If the Judges would not admit the appeal, and would not be tempted to express any opinion on the proceedings of the District magistracy, one of them made certain remarks which must be noted.

"Norris, J.—The putting of the Raja into the dock is purely an executive matter, with which we are not called upon to deal judicially whatever opinion we may hold with regard to it."

Mr. Jackson.—Surely your lordships are competent to deal with a matter of this kind.

Norris, J.—Suppose that it was done in bad faith, maliciously, wantonly, recklessly; assume that all that had been done by Mr. Phillips against the Raja was done in this spirit: what has that to do with the question why we should abandon the practice and allow this case to be revised before the appeal is heard? What has the fact that this gentleman has been wantonly, recklessly, maliciously put into the

dock at the instigation of the magistrate got to do with the question of revising judicial proceedings? All we can do is to set aside the sentence passed upon this gentleman, and order the fine of Rs. 500 to be refunded.

Mr. Jackson.—Nothing more? That's all!

Norris, J.—I am not going to be tempted into making any comments in this matter at this stage of the proceedings, directly or indirectly.

Mr. Jackson said that his lordship's remark staggered him. The proceedings were monstrous, and yet their lordships would not express an opinion on the extraordinary nature of the case. He again urged that the court should express an opinion on the case, apart from dealing with it under the revisional section.

Later on,

Norris, J.—Despite the signs of the times, which are easily read, I am sorry to say I trust the day is yet very distant when any judicial officer will fail to do what he considers to be right according to the dictates of his conscience, because the executive are parties to any proceedings before him. I am glad to have an opportunity of saying this publicly.

A fine way of keeping the predetermination not to give a *sous*!

Jesting apart, the last remark of Mr. Justice Norris is a valuable one and worthy of a British Judge. Whatever his faults of temper or tongue, he is always Englishman to the backbone.

ERRATUM.—Page 320, column 1, last paragraph, after the second sentence supply the following sentence which was accidentally omitted:—

His son who inherited with his father's crown of thorns all his worthlessness, after a few short years, was blinded and shelved.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, July 9, 1892.

THE CADASTRAL SURVEY.

THE Cadastral Survey in Mozufferpore came into operation with the Bengal Tenancy Act towards the latter end of 1885. It was at the beginning an experimental measure, the object of which was to give effect to the provisions of the Tenancy Act and also to benefit all classes of occupiers and fix their rights and liabilities, a measure which if proved successful might be extended to all the territories under the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. It was, however, abandoned under the orders of the Secretary of State in 1886. Later on, it was repeatedly represented to the Government of India that the preparation of a record of rights was absolutely necessary for the sake of good government, as the condition of the peasantry of Behar was most deplorable, while the conduct of the Zemindars was unparalleled in oppression and the provisions of the Tenancy Act were inefficient either to remove or alleviate the evils that had been existing for a long time. Stress was laid on the Behar famine of 1874 which showed how utterly incapable were the rayyets to help themselves on the failure of a year's crop. A searching inquiry ended with the suggestion for a change in the rent law of Behar. When the present law came into operation it was soon found out that the mere introduction of a law more favorable to the rayyets would be of no use when they were perfectly helpless and ignorant as a class to assert their rights out of court or to go to court to enforce their claims. The Famine Commission had pointed out that in Behar the relations of landlord and tenant were those of a high-handed proprietary habitually disregarding the law on the one hand, and on the other a peasantry ignorant, utterly helpless and sunk in abject poverty, and that it was the first duty of Government to guard jealously against the infringements of the law by the rich, and to put them down, as if they were offences

against the public peace. It was urged that in Behar active measures should be adopted to enable the rayyets to resist illegal distraint, illegal enhancement and illegal cesses and to prove and maintain occupancy rights. The helplessness of the rayyets was attributed to loose Zemindari accounts, to the entire absence of leases and counterparts, and to other evils which placed the tenantry at the mercy of the Zemindars. In the discussion which led to the Tenancy Act, it was reiterated that without a record of rights the rayyets had no safeguard in spite of the various Rent laws. In submitting the proposal of Survey to the Government of India, the late Sir Rivers Thompson remarked that "no matter how excellent and liberal the rights provided for by the law may be for such a population as we have to deal with, it cannot be doubted that until a record of right shall have been completed the peasantry will, to use Sir John Strachey's words, remain the victims of chicanery and oppression and our Courts will be systematically made use of for the perpetration of injustice." It was also pointed out how the richest and biggest Zemindars of Behar attempted to induce the rayyets to execute agreements to pay enhanced rents and how on one occasion a number of them were dragged to the criminal court on the pretence of slaughtering a bullock and how the case was dismissed as false. This and other delinquencies of a leading Zemindar were largely availed of in giving point to the proposition of the Local Government. With him too other Zemindars were dragged through the mire and branded as criminals. All this at the back of the Zemindars who are still in blissful ignorance of the same and without any explanation or protest from them.

There was considerable anxiety in the mind of Government when the Survey was commenced, that there would be great and organised agitation under the advice of competent and experienced men acquainted with the land questions of the country. But the anxiety was soon removed when the success of the Survey was attained without friction and opposition as the following minute recorded by an eminent officer of Government who watched the proceedings shews.

"The Survey operations under the Bengal Tenancy Act are progressing as smoothly as possible, disputes as to boundaries and possessions are few and are chiefly connected with pieces of waste land and roads. Organised opposition there is none and it is now clear that apprehensions as to relations between landlords and tenants being embittered by Survey is groundless. Among the Zemindars, the Survey seems on the whole not unpopular, inasmuch as they see that it will produce facilities for identifying the whole of their lands and for realising their dues on account of every portion of their estates. The rayyets are quite indifferent in the matter and see no cause for resistance or opposition to the proceedings. The criminal cases connected with the demarcation and survey proceedings have been extremely few and have mostly on investigation turned out to be false and exaggerated. Nothing in the shape of a riot has been proved in any instance. The Survey will effect much good in the way of determining rights and facilitating the identification of land. It is probable that the Survey record will be looked upon as a charter of rights by all classes interested in land and no transfer will be negotiated without reference to it."

Accordingly, we find the Government of India, in recommending the adoption of the Survey, write, "We have heard of no opposition to the Survey." Later on, further assurance was given that the work of survey and record of rights was on the most satisfactory footing in Mozufferpore, on account of the tact and judgment displayed by those charged with it. The success of it was represented to be beyond doubt and all parties concerned in the land had, so it was said, received it as their Magna Charta. It was this unfaltering assurance that led the Home Government to accord its sanction to the proposition of the Bengal Government, supported by the Government of India, for the extension of the survey all over the country. The survey is now in full swing and preparations are making to introduce it to all and every district under the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

It behoves therefore those interested in the survey and the record of rights to lose no time in studying the history of the measure to enable them intelligently to watch the operations already commenced, and to devise means to stop it, if possible. The present is but the thin end of the wedge. Omission to take immediate steps will be fatal. The accusations must be met, the conclusions arrived at must be proved fallacious, if the arm raised is to be averted. The Government of India and the Secretary of State, in their breadth of views and their freedom from local bias, are yet open to proper and reasonable representation. At any rate, the Zemindars will also do well to take note of the measure which will soon be on the legislative anvil to saddle them with a new taxation.

Much as the landed interests of the country have suffered by default, they are always sure of a hearing. The situation, though difficult, is not desperate. Surely an *ex parte* judgment behind the back of those interested, on which this measure is founded, ought not to be difficult of arrest. Let the landlords recall the circumstances under which they submitted to the original settlement of the last century and the conditions, expressed and understood, under which they undertook it. Nor will it be so difficult to show up the later misrepresentations which have compromised them. A study of the N.-W. Provinces Revenue system, from which this Cadastral Survey fad is borrowed, would be a great help in opposing the new efforts to impose the peculiarities of that system on the devoted heads of the people of these Lower Provinces. Ignorant as the present opposition to the Cadastral Survey in Behar seems of the complete history of the land question, we give some extracts from the minutes of two Governors-General which will show how they would have discountenanced the present survey. Lord Hastings wrote:—

"The regulation of the rents of rayyets is properly a transaction between the Zemindar or landlord and his tenants and not of the Government, and the detail attending it is so minute as to baffle the skill of any man well versed in it."

Lord Teignmouth, unrivalled for his familiarity with the landed system of these Provinces, said:—

"It may be urged that, unless Government intends to raise the revenues of the lands in future, any further knowledge of the value of them beyond what we at present possess is unnecessary, and to demand the accounts of it would only tend to excite suspicions in the Zemindars that the present assessment would not be permanent. The Court of Directors are

themselves satisfied upon this point and discourage the idea of local investigation into the value of the land, directing that when the tribute of each Zemindar is fixed, he shall remain undisturbed in the administration and enjoyment of his estate and be assured that as long as he pays stipulated revenue he shall be subject to no scrutinies or interposition of the officers of Government, unless where a judicial process may become necessary to adjust claims between him and tenant or talukdars or partners of the same Zemindari."

THE GREAT MAHOMEDAN CASE.

THE LAW OF *Wakf*.

After the extraordinary case of Raja Surja Kant Acharjee, decided last week at Mymensingh by the Assistant Magistrate Mr. Halifax as the District Magistrate Mr. H. A. D. Phillips' humble servant, which was brought to the notice of the High Court in its criminal bench, by Mr. Jackson, the legal interest of the week has centred in the great Mahomedan case which has occupied a Full Bench of the High Court for a full fortnight without coming to an end. We call it a Mahomedan case though only one side is Mahomedan and the other Hindu, because it intimately affects the interests of the Mahomedan community only, and, indeed, the point referred by the Divisional Bench consisting of the Chief Justice and Justice Hill to the Full Bench (Petheram C. J., and Prinsep, Trevelyan, Ghose and Ali, J. J.) is a question in Mahomedan Law. The case arose out of a Mahomedan's relations with a Hindu creditor. The Believer borrowed as the owner of certain property and the son of Brahma freely supplied the means for the Moslem's extravagance on the strength of the latter's property. At length the difficulty came in the hour of repayment. The debt was not denied by the honest follower of the Prophet, only there were no assets for the *interested* lender of an infidel. If the creditor tried to recoup himself by the sale of the debtor's real property, he was sternly warned against laying violent hands on God's own. A pretty dilemma for a Jew who was very far from a Rothschild, to be in! The creditor could not soon abandon all his hopes. In fact, he considered the whole thing an imposition and a plot to defraud him. He had the sympathy of all classes except the Mussulmans. To the unsophisticated public it was monstrous that a man should not pay his creditor and yet enjoy a property on the credit or security of which he had borrowed. So, in full reliance on the justice of his case, he laid siege to the property. He was met by the plea that that property was a religious trust and could not be touched, he having created it *Wakf*. The Hindu won in the first court, and the Mussulman appealed. The case coming before Chief Justice Petheram and Justice Hill, they referred the following issue to the Full Bench, *viz.*, Whether the document executed by the appellant constituted a valid *Wakf* according to Mahomedan Law?

This is the question the arguments on which have occupied the Full Bench all these two weeks. Five barristers are engaged, of whom four are leading men, Sir Griffith Evans and Messrs. Bonnerjea and Hill for the appellant and Mr. Advocate-General Woodroffe and Mr. Abdur Rahman for the respondent. If the one side has the advantage of a Mahomedan barrister, the other side also enjoys the assistance of a learned Mahomedan senior Vakil, Moulvi Mahammad Yusoof. The argument for the appellant was opened by Mr. Hill. The other barristers on that side were to follow. Instead, they allowed Mr. Yusoof, who was understood to have paid much attention to the original sources, to argue. We have procured an outline of his argument, and as the case has excited great interest in Mahomedan society and the community in general while the question affects all classes more or less, we have much pleasure in laying it before our readers.

Mr. Yusoof said:—

He was indebted to Mr. Bonnerjea and Sir Griffith Evans for the honor of addressing the Court after Mr. Hill. The adverse contention was that *Wakf* was not valid unless it was for the benefit of the poor; the appropriation to be good in law must be solely for charitable purposes and it was therefore contended by the other side that there could

be no Wakf on one's self and his children. This contention was based on a misunderstanding of the law of Wakf and Mr. Hamilton's translation of the Hedaya had only served to encourage and perpetuate that mistake. The European mind was apt to take that mistaken view of the law of Wakf, because that view accorded with the European notion of the law against perpetuities. But in the first place it was altogether a mistake to suppose that the law of Wakf should be controlled by the law of perpetuities, because the law of perpetuities was a branch of the law of gift, and when a disposition was said to be void because it was against the law of perpetuities as in the case of *Tagore vs. Tagore*, what was meant was that the law of gift must be subject to the rule of perpetuities: but the Mahomedan law of gifts did not violate the rule of perpetuities because it was not his contention that a gift could be made so as to involve perpetuity.

His contention was that Wakf was not a branch of the law of gift: gift was a disposition of the corpus or substance (or the *ain*) of a thing in favor of an individual, but Wakf was the gift of the corpus or substance of a thing to God. Again, gift was always without consideration and therefore it could, under certain circumstances, be resumed: but Wakf or Sadka was for consideration and that consideration was Suwab or religious merit in the eye of God: it was therefore incapable of being resumed: the difference between Wakf and Sadka was that the latter consisted of gifts of moveables or immoveables whereas a Wakf was a gift of immoveables only, as explained above.

Wakf, therefore, being a disposition, for a consideration, in favor of God, it was perfectly competent to the Wakif to indicate whatever purpose he thought best on which the profits could be bestowed: he might bestow them on his children or on himself or on strangers or on the poor: the only limit was that the purpose should be one which was not prohibited to a Moslem. To suppose that the purpose of Wakf must be solely charitable, according to Western ideas, is to misconceive the very nature of Wakf.

There was an institution known to the Mahomedans called Zakat or poor rate, and every Mahomedan was bound to observe the rules of Zakat. There were four things obligatory on a Moslem—Numaz, Roza, Zakat, Huj. The objects of Zakat were the poor only, so that the man's father and children or other near relatives were prevented from sharing in the Zakat.

But Wakf was not a thing which was *furs* or obligatory, according to Mahomedan Law: It was merely *taburroi* or discretionary, and the purpose to which the profits of Wakf might be directed is not the same as in Zakat. In the former, those that are nearest should come in first. The traditions of the Prophet contained in the Saheeh Mooslim and the Saheeh Bokhary and also in the Mishkat, which latter had been translated by Captain Mathews, shewed that a man's own children and his wife should be the first object of concern.

He then read from the original Hedaya in Arabic and showed how Mr. Hamilton was in error in rendering Wakf to mean a disposition the object of which was wholly charitable. He also read from the Commentaries on the Hedaya and quoted and explained various passages from the Kafiya, the Inaya and the Fatuhool Kudeer and the Ainy. He also referred to the Shurah Wikaya and its commentary the Chuluky and to the Futawai Kazy Khan and Futawai Alumgiri and the Doorool Mookhtar and the Kudool Mukhtar. He showed how some of the cases decided by the Bombay High Court and the Calcutta High Court had misconceived the very elements of the Mahomedan Law of Wakf.

Whatever the ruling of the Full Bench may be, Mr. Yusoof's argument will not go for nothing. He shows the unsatisfactory materials on which the Mahomedan law has been administered during near a century. For one thing, his argument will seal the fate of Hamilton's *Hedaya* as an authoritative text. The circumstances under which the version was made ought to have discredited it *ab initio*. It was not Englished from the original Arabic but from a Persian translation of the Arabic, just as its fellow work of the same period and the same régime, Halhead's *Code of Gentoo Law*, was Englished not directly from the Sanskrit but through the interpretation of the Moulvies. Thirty-four years ago Mr. Morley, lawyer and Orientalist, uttered his warning against the English *Hedaya*, but still it

continued to reign for want of a better. Mr. Yusoof has given it the *quidus*, let us hope.

HOMŒOPATHY IN BENGALI.*

This book is another of the many signs abroad which he who runs may read that Homœopathy has taken root in the land. Surely nobody in his senses would think of launching a good-looking, well-papered and close-printed thick octavo of some 400 pages of a scientific treatise devoted to the Homœopathic treatment of Fever only, unless this latest system of European medicine had acquired a considerable popularity in the land—a popularity which must cause a demand or at least the likelihood of a demand for a high class literature of the science. Such a publication presupposes the existence of a large body of respectable practitioners of superior intelligence, who are acquainted with only the Bengali language, or who may know a little English but are not sufficiently learned in it to master science in it. Nor is this the first large Bengali book in Homœopathy. It is now twenty years since Messrs. Berigny & Co., the great Homœopathic Chemists and Book-sellers, commenced their Bengali Homœopathic Series with the late lamented Harikrishna Mallik's *Homœopathic Practice* of several hundred pages. Since then many works of considerable size and more or less usefulness have appeared, not the least being the writings of the no less lamented Kali Krishna Mitra of Baraset, the last of which we reviewed some three years back. There must be a market for these productions, otherwise the supply would not have been kept up.

The work before us is not only considerable in bulk but also noteworthy for its contents. These are varied. For though professing to treat only of the Homœopathic Therapeutics of Fever, the book goes over much larger and more interesting ground. The long Introduction commences with a string of valuable opinions from Hippocrates downwards on the vanity and worthlessness of the art of healing—the absence of any science of cure and the need of one. All was uncertainty and chaos. It was reserved for one European thinker and inquirer of the Continent towards the close of the eighteenth century to end the confusion—to introduce order where all was disorder—to essay certitude in a department which had been given up to fable and “fads,” idle conjecture and wild reasoning from uncertain premises and imperfect analogies. This was the illustrious Hahnemann, of whom we have a biographical outline in this book, with special reference to his great medical reform. This sketch naturally spreads out into a long disquisition on Homœopathy and its *rationalis*. Thus is one-fifth of the book profitably occupied.

Then the author enters upon his main subject—the treatment of Fever according to the Homœopathic system. This is exhibited on an extensive scale with a precision and an eye to practical usefulness which will commend themselves to all practitioners and gentlemen and lady amateurs. All kinds of fever are embraced, from the every-day simple fever to such difficult complaints as brain fever and malignant malarious fever.

The arrangement might be improved, still as it is the book will prove welcome to Bengali readers, the more so to those who are tolerably acquainted with English. It specially recommends itself by its marks of authenticity. In fortifying himself with the opinions of eminent men of science, the author not only gives translations of those opinions but also adds the original English. This is a new feature in the book and a good feature.

The book is, of course, a compilation, but it is not a mere manufacture, having cost real study and much reflection. It is based on the latest authorities. The Bengali author is a loyal subject even in science. He renders allegiance to the British masters. He does not

* *Homœopathi Chikitsa-Bigayân, Jwarāngsha*, (Homœopathic Therapeutics of Fever). By Amrita Kristo Bose. Calcutta, Manomohan Library, 1298 B. E. (1891.) [Though bearing date of last year, the book has just been published. It has been issued to the press not more than five or six weeks.]

go in for the mysteries of high dilution affected in the New World beyond the Atlantic. He does not blindly accept any guidance, for he is familiar with the pretensions of the rival Schools. His Gooroo is Richard Hughes. It is an excellent choice. During a quarter century, Licentiate Hughes had been steadily advancing in repute as in merit and power until he is now the virtual king of British homœopaths. In rejecting infinitesimal posology, or at least its higher flights, he only obeys his British instinct for the positive, the practical and the substantial. Yet the seeker after the truth ought to be reminded that Nature is not all a solid or a collection of blocks.

This book is to us particularly interesting from its personal history. The author has a hereditary love of science. His father, the late Nobin Kristo Bose, who died rather suddenly a few years ago as a member of the Central Provinces Commission, was one of the lights of the elder generation of Young Bengal. He was a remarkable man. In youth he was an enthusiastic enquirer. He had a passion for science long before the subject attracted general attention, with a turn for applying it to practical use. He was an ethnologist before the word ethnology had been coined in Europe—certainly before it had been heard in this country. A graduate of the Calcutta Medical College he was a medical man by profession. But he soon abandoned practice from finding there was little of science in it. He would not be a party to a delusion which was almost a fraud upon the public. So he gave up pretending to heal, to devote himself to letters and sciences other than therapeutics, trying to make a living by making soap, &c., until his neighbour Dr. Duff recommended him to Sir Richard Temple, who gave him office in the Central Provinces. His son, the author, showed an early predilection for science and wished to enter the Medical College. The father naturally dissuaded the son from a barren pursuit, as he had found medicine. He at length gave way, saying that he had no objection to his boy learning anatomy and physiology, chemistry and botany, but he must not think of practising what, according to Nobin Kristo Bose, was taking money under false pretences. On this understanding Amrita Kristo Bose went to the Medical College. His conversion from the Old School of Medicine to the New was, therefore, anticipated. When the father became a doctor, Homœopathy had not been heard of at all in India. Or else, he would probably have been one of its earliest followers and preachers in Bengal. The father's debt to medical truth has now been paid by the son.

The book is appropriately dedicated to the memory of the author's accomplished and righteous father.

LAYING DOWN THE LAW TO THE JUDGES.

There is one point in the Resolution of the Bengal Government upon the Police administration report for Calcutta and the suburbs which is deserving of the most serious attention. The Bengal Government has here seriously attacked a tribunal before which criminal charges were brought against certain persons by the Police, who however were unable to satisfy that tribunal, by the evidence adduced, of the guilt of the accused. The Lieutenant-Governor, doubtless following on the lines of the Police report, says:—"The prisoners were almost exclusively men who were wounded in the mêlée, and sent direct from the spot to the hospital, and never lost sight of, and as to the guilt of the great majority of whom no unprejudiced person could entertain a doubt. The Jury returned a verdict of acquittal, which the Judge, to the Lieutenant-Governor's great regret, accepted not thinking it advisable to refer the case to the High Court." Thus the Resolution adopts and declares to be well founded the view of the Police as to a trial in which they failed to secure a conviction, and upon the statement of these unsuccessful prosecutors the Government does not hesitate to condemn the action of the tribunal. It is impossible that it can have had as good an opportunity as the Judge of studying the case; nor does it claim to be possessed of any special knowledge upon which to form an independent judgment.

It is not, however, the mere absence of any special knowledge or competence in the Government to deal with such matters that renders the act of its publishing this Resolution a matter of such

gravity. If His Honor and the Secretaries to Government were trained lawyers,—which, of course, they do not profess to be,—the publication of the Resolution would be equally indefensible. The facts stand thus: The Government is the prosecutor; the Police are, in part, the instruments or managers of the prosecution, and in part the witnesses by whose evidence it is supported. The tribunal appointed by law to try the accused, acquits them. That tribunal is the Jury, instructed by the Judge, who charges them. But although the tribunal is the Jury, there is a special power given by the Indian law to the Judge,—a power of a kind unknown in England,—of refusing to accept the verdict and submitting the case to the High Court if—(mark the careful words of the Code) "if he disagrees with the verdict so completely that he considers it necessary for the ends of justice" to do so. Then and only then, can he exercise this power. It is one of the most onerous duties which a Sessions Judge can be called upon to discharge. In the discharge of it, he withdraws the accused from the protection of the verdict of the Jury, which, in Jury districts, is the lawful tribunal to determine questions of guilt or innocence. But before he can do this, the law casts upon him the onus of carefully weighing the merits of the case, and it warns him that he must first, using his best judgment, disagree with the verdict. And it must not be a doubtful or hesitating disagreement, but so complete that he considers it necessary for the ends of justice to submit the case. It is plain that a Sessions Judge who should use his powers under this section hastily, or without strong conviction would wrong his character as a Judge and his honour as a gentleman. On him alone is this great responsibility cast by the law. On his conscience, and on his judgment the law, as is well-known, relies for the right exercise of this most formidable power.

Yet, as it would appear, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, proceeding solely upon the narrative of an unsuccessful and dissatisfied prosecution in this important case, not only lays down the law but sharply rebukes the Judge. He expresses his "great regret" that the Judge should have accepted the verdict of acquittal, and no Court of Revision could condemn an error of judgment in terms of greater severity. Unfortunately the present is by no means a solitary incident of the kind. At one time, as was shown the other day, the Government, under the guise of a Resolution on a Police report, criticised the work of a Judge as appearing to show an unduly low average of convictions. Last year, the verdict of a Jury in Calcutta, unanimously given and expressly approved by the presiding Judge, was questioned upon the facts as stated by the Police; while in Mr. Risley's famous Resolution on the Income-Tax the officer-hearing appeals as to assessments were sternly directed to show more firmness in dealing with such appeals. That is, they were told by the Head of the Executive how they ought to perform purely judicial duties. Needless to say, this course of procedure is wholly unconstitutional; indeed, it threatens the gravest mischief in the near future. The Income-Tax Resolution is a plain attempt to dictate to the Criminal Courts in the mofussil; the dictation is clear. Moreover, criticism of this kind has but one meaning when it comes from the Lieutenant-Governor, who promotes or removes the Civilian Judges. Now putting aside the question whether or not such interference could in the end affect the conduct of a body of men such as our Sessions Judges, what effect must it not have upon the minds of the population among whom they administer justice? Is it possible that an ignorant and suspicious people should not be led by such acts as these to doubt the independence of the Courts? Is it possible, if such dictation and fault-finding be allowed, that the Courts outside the Presidencies can maintain their independent character? And if these things are done in criminal cases, and at the seat of Government, can there be a doubt that in the mofussil and in the wider and perhaps equally important region of Civil Justice the same spirit will have full play, and the Executive will intrude there as elsewhere at its pleasure? In these days, and particularly in India, Government influence, in one form or another is felt almost everywhere. It is no reflection upon the Administration if we say that, from one place, its influence should be jealously excluded. The tide of encroachment is rising high; no person who observes the course of events can fail to see it. It is plainly, we suggest, the duty of all educated and thinking subjects of Her Majesty to whom a wise and prudent administration of affairs in this Empire is a matter of deep concern, to take note of these things, to protest against them, and, if need be when the time comes, to go to Parliament for a remedy.—*The Englishman*, July 4, 1892.

HIGH COURT: ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

SOLOMON v. SOLOMON.

Mr. Garth applied yesterday (June 20) to Mr. Justice Trevelyan under section 375 of the Civil Procedure Code on behalf of the plaintiffs in this case to have a compromise entered into between the parties to the suit recorded and to have a decree passed in accordance with that compromise. Mr. Sale, instructed by Messrs. Dignam, Robin,

son and Sparkes, opposed the application on behalf of the first defendant, Seraphim Solomon, and Mr. Zorab, instructed by Mr. Camell, on behalf of the second defendant, Teresa Mower.

Mr. Garth.—This is a case in which the parties have made a compromise, from which the defendants are now anxious to resile.

Trevelyan, J.—With reference to any questions of law that may be raised under section 375, I may as well say at once that I have recently gone into all the cases on the subject in my judgment in exceptions to the report in the suit of Gonesh Chandra Das v. Troiluckya Nath Biswas. I do not intend to depart from my decision in that case.

Mr. Sale.—That case is not reported yet.

Trevelyan, J.—No. It is not, because, I suppose, there was an appeal from my decision which has since been dropped. The only reported case in this Court is that of Hara Sundari Debi v. Kumar Dukhinessur Malia, I. L. R., 11 Cal., 250, decided by Pigot, J.

Mr. Garth.—Which has been dissented from in the High Court of Madras. The learned judge's remarks on this point were not necessary to the decision of the case.

Trevelyan, J.—That was a reason why I did not follow it. I followed the decision of the Bombay High Court reported in I. L. R., Bombay. I could find no answer to the arguments of Scott, J., in that case.

Mr. Garth.—The facts of the case are shortly these. The suit is for the construction of the will of Dr. Solomon, who was the father of the parties to this suit. The trusts of that will are admittedly void to some extent. The real questions in the case relate to what has happened since Dr. Solomon's death. After his death in January 1886 no probate was obtained of his will, but an agreement was entered into between his two eldest sons, the plaintiff, Valentine Solomon, and the defendant, Seraphim Solomon, who were then of the respective ages of 27 and 24 years, that the former, who alone of the children of Dr. Solomon's, the plaintiff Edmond Solomon excepted, was earning any money, should pay his salary monthly to Seraphim Solomon, and that the latter should expend it for the household expenses and maintenance of the family, and that, so soon as he and the other members of the family should be in a position to do so, they should repay to their brother Valentine the sums so advanced for their benefit. Valentine accordingly paid over his salary monthly to Seraphim till the latter left India for Scotland in September, 1888, and during that time the family had no other means of support except certain sums of money obtained by Seraphim from time to time by the gradual sale of shares, furniture and books which had belonged to their father. Seraphim did not return to India till last July. In his absence Valentine Solomon continued to spend his salary in maintaining, educating and clothing the family and repairing, and paying the taxes on, their house. With the exception of some small payments made by Seraphim Solomon, these family expenses were borne entirely by the plaintiff Valentine alone. After giving credit for the sums received from Seraphim and some small sums received from the other plaintiffs, the plaintiff Valentine said that the sums he had spent or become liable for, for the benefit of the family, amounted to some Rs. 5,893.

On his return to India, Seraphim claimed to be absolutely entitled to his father's house in which the plaintiffs were residing and to other property belonging formerly to his father, and he threatened to eject the plaintiffs who, thereupon, brought the present suit for the construction of their father's will, for an account of Seraphim's dealings with his estate, and for the administration of the estate. Shortly afterwards, Mr. J. F. Solomon, a brother of the late Dr. Solomon, persuaded his nephews to call a meeting of the family for the purpose of arriving at a settlement of the matters in dispute. A meeting was accordingly held on the 2nd November last at the uncle's house, and after much discussion the terms of a settlement were agreed upon and reduced to writing. The document containing these terms was signed by all the parties in their uncle's presence and left in his custody. The plaintiffs' attorney thereupon sent the defendants' attorney a draft petition for consent decree embodying the terms of this settlement, but the defendants' attorneys returned the draft with new terms substituted for those agreed upon. The plaintiffs' attorneys then wrote to point out that the terms sent by them had been agreed upon by the parties, but the defendants' attorneys replied that unless their alterations were agreed to the suit must proceed, and that their clients would in such case hold the plaintiffs liable for the whole of the costs of the litigation.

Trevelyan, J.—What is the meaning of this threat?

Mr. Garth.—I cannot say my Lord.

Mr. Sale.—I think the meaning of it will appear from the correspondence between the attorneys.

Trevelyan, J.—I find that so many attorneys' letters nowadays contain threats of sorts, which is not a satisfactory state of things. Cannot this suit be arranged in some way? It is not right for the children to be quarrelling like this over a small property of their father's. Cannot counsel settle the matter between them?

Mr. Sale expressed his readiness to attempt it, but Mr. Garth doubted whether under the circumstances the matter could be advanced materially by counsel acting on his lordship's suggestion.

Mr. Garth then continued: About the 16th November Valentine Solomon drew up a petition of a consent decree in the terms of the compromise, and all the parties together with their uncle went to Mr. Dover, the attorney, and asked him to make the application to the Court. On that occasion the defendant Seraphim admitted that those terms had been agreed to. Mr. Dover, however, refused to interfere, as the parties already had attorneys acting for them in the suit, and the case is still proceeding. Section 375 clearly applies to this case. It has been decided in the Calcutta case that the section does not cover cases in which the parties or some of them have declined to carry out the agreement before the judgment has been recorded. If this is the right view, the section is useless for, where the parties are agreed at the moment when the application is made, a consent decree may be made without resorting to this section. The correct view is that taken by the High Court of Bombay, Ruttonsey Lalji v. Pooribal, I. L. R., 7 Bom., 304.

Trevelyan, J.—To the best of my recollection I said in my late decision that I could not see any answer to the reasoning of Scott, J., in that case.

Mr. Garth.—The same reasoning is to be found in Appaswami v. Manikam, I. L. R., 9 Madras., 103, in which case Muttasmi Ayer and Hutchins., J. J., dissented from the Calcutta decision and followed the Bombay one.

Trevelyan, J.—I find that the decision here was not by Pigot, J., but by Tottenham and O'Kinealy, J. J., Pigot, J. spoke about it at the time and asked people to have their reports corrected.

Mr. Garth.—Yes, I ought not to have fallen into that error as our copies have been corrected as Mr. Justice Pigot requested.

Trevelyan, J.—I may add that I have discussed the matter with one of the judges who decided the case in I. L. R., 11. Cal., as I very much dislike differing from previous decisions of this Court. That decision, however, is not binding on this side of the Court, and the remarks on this point were not necessary for the decision of the case.

Mr. Garth then read the correspondence between the attorneys, and said that, as the case was not on his lordship's board yet, he thought it his duty to call his lordship's attention to the case of Pell v. Valetta, in which, Wilson, J. ruled that a consent decree under a compromise should not be granted unless the suit was entered in the cause list of the Court.

Trevelyan, J.—That was a very different case from the present one. It was the case of an ordinary consent decree and not a case under section 375.

Mr. Garth.—That was my opinion also, but I thought it my duty to bring the case to the notice of the Court.

Mr. Sale.—I do not intend to argue the point under section 375 as your Lordship has already decided it. The parties entered into this agreement without reference to their attorneys, my client afterwards consulted his attorneys and now acting on their advice desires to retire from the agreement.

Trevelyan, J.—Has your client himself sworn or stated anywhere that he is not still willing to enter into this compromise? Is there anything before me to show that the attorneys are not opposing the settlement on their own account?

Mr. Sale.—I submit that on the correspondence between the attorneys it appears that the defendant's attorneys are acting under his instructions in this matter. Under section 375 the Court can only deal with this agreement so far as it relates to the subject-matter of the suit, and this agreement goes beyond it.

Trevelyan, J.—It seems to me that this does not go beyond the subject-matter of the suit. As soon as the parties are out of their attorneys' hands they are ready enough to come to an arrangement.

Mr. Sale.—We are quite prepared to pay this gentleman the amount of his advances, but Mr. Garth, I understand, wants all the terms of the compromise recorded.

Mr. Garth.—We are quite willing to relinquish the conduct of the rule.

Trevelyan, J.—That only affects the question which attorney is to get the costs. Why don't you refer it to Dr. Solomon's brother, Mr. J. F. Solomon, again? He is a relation of all the parties.

Mr. Garth.—We have no objection to that.

Mr. Sale.—The difficulty is that he has intervened and put in an affidavit.

Trevelyan, J.—He had the original agreement and has verified it. All he swears to in his affidavit is admitted by both sides. He seems to have acted very properly.

Mr. Sale.—The parties may think he has got a bias.

Trevelyan, J.—How can they? He is their uncle and has stated nothing that is not admitted.

It was finally arranged that the application should stand over till next motion day, to enable Mr. Sale and Mr. Zorab to consult their clients as to whether they would assent to an order that the matter of the agreement and the other matters in suit be referred to the arbitration of Mr. J. F. Solomon and costs come out of the estate.—*The Englishman*, June 21, 1892.

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OFFICE: 1, Uchoor Dutt's Lane, Wellington Street, Calcutta.

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JULY 16, 1892.

No. 533

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

MOONLIGHT ON THE MOUNTAINS.

WHEN evening, stealing o'er our northern sky,
Has furled the streaming glories of the west ;
And night's fair queen, in beauty mounted high,
Pours down her silvery light on nature's breast ;
How sweet to linger on the mountain's crest,
And gaze enraptured o'er the midnight scene !
Where all looks mild, and beautiful, and blest,
And heaven itself seems, through the deep serene,
Watching the slumbering earth with eyes of tender sheen.

Soft hour when Fancy, in her playful dreams,
Flings o'er the human soul her magic power ;
While yet the moonlight down the valley streams,
And lights the steps of Youth to Beauty's bower.
How soft the hush of that delightful hour,
When slumber deepens on the hearts of men !
And silence wraps cliff, cairn, and ruined tower,
Unbroken save by torrent of the glen,
And maddening Passion sleeps as ne'er to wake again.

Then blending with the tranquil mountain scene,
The soul forgets her earth-born grief and tears—
Smiles o'er the world with heaven's unclouded queen,
Soothed by the calm that nature's aspect wears ;
Then glance her thoughts along a thousand years,
All grasped within that lucid moment's span,
Tracing the light that Glory's pinion bears
On high, to gild the noblest deeds of man ;
Alas ! how brief the blaze—how flickering, faint, and wan !

For time's close shadows ever wait around
The paths which Glory's children dare to climb,
Lured by the glittering pomp, and maddening sound
Of trumps, inspiring to heroic crime.
Still earth exults in many a soul sublime,
Whose light hath passed not all with life away ;
But shines unchanging o'er the mists of time,
And guides young Genius, with benignant ray,
Through all the blighting storms that mar life's opening day.

Immortal spirits, who have walked the world !
Bards, sages, patriots, born to bless mankind,
Still sweep ye o'er the earth with wings unfurled,
To fan congenial bosoms left behind ?
Pouring the sunbeams of the eternal mind
O'er breathing man rejoicing in your lore ;
Till springs the soul, unprisoned, unconfined,
Through fields of light o'er earth's wide bounds to soar,
Where the vast universe unfolds her mighty store.

O ! let me oft, when falls this lovely hour,
A moment feel the fire such spirits shed !
Monarchs of nature ! who alone have power
To send your deep-toned voices from the dead ;
Frown on, ye darkening shadows, o'er my head—
Come, stern Adversity, to fix my fate—
Still nature's glories on my path are spread,
Still gleams of sunshine gild this dark estate,
O'er which my spirit bounds unbroken and elate.

Shall cold disdain from the misjudging proud
One hour the child of thought and feeling wrong ;
Shall earthly ills, which daunt the sordid crowd,
Beat down this bosom to the servile throng
Who crouch to glide in Wealth's proud train along,
And bend at Mammon's shrine the pliant knee ?
No—from this mountain whence I pour my song,
Still let me mingle with the great—the free,
Who taught my ardent soul to feel, to hear, to see.

To feel the bliss that fair creation yields,
When light and beauty clothe the earth and sky ;
To roam in joy through glens, and groves, and fields,
Or climb the mountain when the night winds sigh ;
Whate'er delights the heart or charms the eye
Throughout the volume vast by God unrolled,
These are thy birthright, Genius ; these thy high
Prerogatives, oh Fancy ! Count thy gold,
Son of the clay ; our stars are boundless and untold !

I LOVE NOT NOW !

TAKE from me all thou once didst give—
Thy smiles and tears—thy sighs—that vow—
Nor longer in my bosom live ;
I loved thee once—I love not now ;
'T is better, in this wretched hour,
To fling from memory every trace—
Each shadow of thy broken power,
And all memorials fond erase !

Haply, in after times, the wrong
Thy fickle speech hath done to me
May strike thy soul, as borne along,
Thou gaily sailest o'er life's sea ;—
And then, amidst the wreck of love,
That will thy sinking hope surround,
Some long-forgotten thought may move
Thy fluttering heart with grief profound !

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

WEEKLYANA.

THE fickleness of fortune is proverbial. Yet this fickleness is not often so surprisingly illustrated as it has lately been in connection with a recent testamentary devolution in France. The facts briefly are these.

A Frenchman named Adolphe de-la Boussiniere, a country gentleman who was a staunch supporter of Church and State, died a few years ago. He had made a will by which he left two millions of francs to his wife's nephew and to one of his own cousins, passing over his own brother, an ardent Republican—by way of penalty for the latter's political faith. The legatees came into possession without opposition, but were soon ousted by a new will which, revoking the old testament, made the discarded brother, a poor man and now an old man of eighty, the sole heir. The later dispensation was accepted by every one as genuine and given effect to. The poor man came into possession, hoping to end his life—the remaining spell of it—in peace and comfort. But Fate, alas! had ordained otherwise. The poor fellow—doubly poor—was cruelly tantalised. The new will was a forgery.

"A notary named Guyard, who had known the family, was the arch criminal, and he was aided by a lithographer named Charpentier. Guyard sought out the needy brother, at Geneva, and after obtaining from him the promise of an equal division, produced the will. The new legatee was no party to the fraud, but was simply deceived by the forgery, like everybody else. It had been effected in this way: Guyard, who must have possessed a great number of the testator's letters, had simply made tracings from them of all the words required for the new will. The tracings were transferred to the lithographic stone in their proper order with the aid of Charpentier, and the document was then produced from the stone. There was no contesting it, the new heir came into possession and the notary received his share. The lithographer began writing mysterious letters to the fortunate legatee. The latter showed them to the police; Charpentier was arrested; and then the whole matter came out. He declared that for his own part, he was quite innocent of any intention to commit forgery. The notary had simply asked him to aid in restoring the text of a genuine will in the brother's favour, which had been unaccountably lost. This was Guyard's own defence. He declared that the testator had given him such a will to keep, but that he had mislaid it. The Court acquitted the lithographer of the charge of forgery, but condemned him in damages, and sentenced the notary to imprisonment for ten years. The good faith of the poor brother was never in question. He leaves his chateau, and goes back to commercial travelling in Switzerland."

THE Lieutenant-Governor returned from his tour in the Sonthal Perganas on Thursday evening. He goes touring again in the Dacca country shortly after, leaving Calcutta on the 4th August and returning to it on the 18th. The places to be visited are Goalundo, Serajganj, Bogra, Daudkhanda, and Comilla.

THE next Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University will begin on Monday, the 6th February 1893 and the F. A. and B. A. Examinations on Monday, the 20th February following.

BABOO Sottish Chaudra Choudhri, Zemindar of Bhowanipur in Maimensing, has earned the thanks of Government by an offer of Rs. 5,000 towards the cost of constructing the proposed bridge over the river Brahmaputra at Naisirabad.

LALA Ram Charan Das, of Allahabad, has undertaken to build at that capital an eye hospital at a cost of Rs. 30,000.

OFFICERS in Bengal to whom the 55 years' rule applies, must, if so minded, apply for extension, whether for the first time or on any subsequent occasion, within six months of the expiry of the term.

FOLLOWING the *Pioneer*, the morning papers of this city announced that it is decided that Sir Auckland Colvin as Lieutenant-Governor of the N.-W. Provinces and Chief Commissioner of Oudh makes over charge in November next to Sir Charles Crosthwaite.

THE Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879, (Bombay Act V of 1879), with the exception of section 104, has been extended to the Thar and Parkar district in the Province of Sind.

HER Majesty has approved of the grant of the India medal of 1854, with a clasp inscribed "North-East Frontier, 1891" to all the troops and followers who were employed in the late expedition to Manipur, and

who came on the field service scale of rations between the dates of the advance of the columns from Tamu, Silchar, and Kohima on the 28th March, the 15th April, and the 20th April 1891, respectively, and the 7th May 1891.

ARTICLE 714 of the Civil Service Regulations prescribes additional pensions of Rs. 2,000 per annum to those who have served three years as (i) Chief Engineers, or officers who may have been graded as such, (ii) Director General or Deputy Director General of Telegraphs. A further concession has now been made. If an officer to whom the article applies is compelled to retire under the 55 years' rule or on medical certificate before he has served the full period of three years, he may, with the special sanction of the Government of India, receive a special pension reduced in proportion to the time short of three years which he has served in the grades referred to in Article 714 (a).

THE heroes in the Muktagacha raid on Respectability have, after their arduous labors, well earned their repose or promotion. Mr. H. A. D. Phillips has taken leave, to recruit himself for a fresh attack—which may now come from the other side. At the same time, his post office and conduit pipe in the Maimensing magistracy, Mr. A. G. Hallifax, Assistant Magistrate, has been rewarded with a subdivision, having been transferred to Dacca in temporary charge of the Narainganj jurisdiction.

THE Nawab Magistrate of Calcutta does not, however, go on leave. His privilege leave of one month gazetted has been cancelled.

MR. F. B. Hebbert has been confirmed as Under-Secretary to the Government of India in the Public Works Department and Deputy Director General of Railways, with permanent rank in Class I, Grade 3, of the Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railways.

THE *Gazette* announces the following changes in the political Department. On the retirement of Colonel Parry Nisbet, Colonel Prideaux is confirmed as Resident in Cashmere, Colonel Peacock at Jeypore, Colonel Mockler in Turkish Arabia. Lieutenant-Colonel Robertson and Mr. Martindale are promoted to the 1st class of Political Agents, Lieutenant-Colonel Loch and Major Temple to the 2nd class, and Captain De Laessoe to the 3rd class, without prejudice to the higher appointments which the officers may now be holding.

THE election of Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji to the House of Commons has naturally stirred our friends of Bombay most, specially the Parsees. A correspondent of the *Advocate of India* signing himself "R," sings a long prose dithyrambic Iopæan in honour of the occasion. The singing is of the amateur kind, and not the best even of that, but the singer makes ample amends by a contribution of Rs. 50 which he sends with it with a suggestion that it form the nucleus of a Purse to be sent to Mr. Naoroji. An excellent idea. We hope it will be taken up in right earnest. Our people on this side ought to come forward to contribute. We shall be glad to forward any sums for the purpose.

THE Ice Factory at No. 3, Gas Street, belonging to the Bengal Ice Manufacturing Company, Limited, has been exempted from the operation of sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Indian Factories Act, 1881, rendering it free to work on Sundays.

THE *Advocate of India* quotes the following queer story from the *Kathiawar Times* :—

"It is reported that on Thursday last the wife of a Bhatia residing in the Rajkote city all of a sudden became unconscious and shortly after began swaying her head from side to side as if possessed by a spirit and said to the family members who were present: 'I am Govindjee [the name of her father-in-law.] About 48 years ago I had removed to Nusseerabad. Afterwards I sent for my family, I resided there for eighteen years and then died. After my death my family returned to Rajkot. My soul has been restless ever since owing to *Avanti*; and I adjure you to perform *Narani Bal* [certain ceremonies performed according to the Hindu religion.]' Whilst this happened a serpent came out of a small hole near the threshold of the room. It was a large one and of black colour. Seeing the serpent the woman went to it swaying her head as mentioned above and cleaned the floor and gave it some milk to drink; and pointing to it said that 'I [mean—

ing Govindjee] am wandering in this wise, my funeral ceremony not having been properly performed.' For three days—that is Thursday, Friday and Saturday—the woman was in the same state and had partaken of no food, only giving milk twice a day to the serpent. A lot of people including some of the State officials, had also, I hear, visited the place. On Sunday morning the woman told the family members that [meaning Govindjee] am going'; and gave two cups of milk to the serpent which it drank. The woman then went out of the room, evidently dispossessed by the spirit of her father-in-law, and after that the serpent died. This happened at 10 o'clock, A.M. The serpent was then cremated with all human funeral ceremonies."

There is nothing inherently improbable in the eccentricities of a woman, the appearance of the black serpent and its taking milk and afterwards dying. The remarkable thing in the narrative is the supernatural element introduced—the Hindu theological connection sought to be given to the facts. Be that as it may, if the account comes from any respectable source, the facts are curious enough to merit particular inquiry. The account is too meagre, and the facts ought to be vouched for by known persons. At this demand we shall probably no more hear of the wonderful apparition of Govindji speaking through his daughter-in-law with a great black serpent by way of witness to his mission. When the facts are ascertained, it will be time enough to find their meaning.

AT the instance of the Chief Commissioner of Burma, the rules for the grant of advances to officers in the Civil Department who desire to build houses at places where none are available or where house rent is high, have been modified. The revised rules are:—

I.—Advances may be made, under the sanction of Local Governments and Administrations, to officers who desire to build houses, for occupation by themselves, at places where no houses are available, or where house-rent is exceptionally high.

II.—All such advances must be *bond fide* required for the purpose of building suitable houses for the personal residence of the officers concerned; and if more is advanced than shall be actually expended for the purpose, the surplus shall be refunded to Government.

III.—The advances may be made in instalments when considered desirable, and when so made, repayment shall commence from the fourth issue of pay after first instalment is taken; but when the advance is taken in one instalment, repayment shall commence with the second issue of pay. The repayment of the whole advance shall in both cases be completed in two years.

IV.—No advance shall exceed six months' salary of the officer to whom it is made.

V.—Recovery will be made by the Treasury Officer, or other disbursing officer, deducting monthly instalments equal to one-twenty-fourth part of the advance from the salary bills of the officer concerned.

VI.—In order to secure Government from loss consequent on an officer dying or quitting the service before complete repayment of the advance, the house so built, together with the land it stands upon, must be mortgaged to Government by whom the mortgage will be released on liquidation of the full amount of the advance.

VII.—The officer must satisfy Government regarding his title to the land upon which the house is or is proposed to be built.

VIII.—An officer quitting or removed from the station where he has built a house, before the whole amount of the advance has been liquidated, will continue liable to the deduction of his monthly instalment until the advance has been repaid; but, with the special sanction of the Local Government, he may be allowed to dispose of the house, provided he is thereby enabled to clear off at once the whole amount due; or to transfer it to any officer of his own or higher rank, the future deductions being made from the salary of such officer.

IX.—An officer will not, under any circumstances, be allowed a second advance whilst any amount remains due on a previous advance.

X.—Applications for advances must be made through the applicant's departmental superior, who will record his opinion as to the necessity for the assistance solicited. The applicant must certify that the sum is to be expended in building only, and pledge himself that, should there be any surplus funds after the house is completed, they will be at once refunded to Government.

XI.—The last pay certificate granted to officers under advances must specify the original amount of such advance, the amount repaid, and the balance remaining due.

A form of mortgage bond will be issued to officers who may wish to avail themselves of the advance."

The bond secures to the Secretary of State the power, on failure of full repayment of the sums advanced or on the death or retirement of the officer, to sell the premises or any part thereof either together or in parcels, by public auction or by private contract with power to buy in, or rescind any contract for sale, to resell without being responsible for any loss, which sale shall effectually discharge the purchaser, and to apply the sale proceeds first to payment of all expenses of the sale, then towards satisfaction of the debt, the balance if any being made over to the officer, his executors, administrators or assigns.

THE following may be read in many papers:—

"Captain Duncan Ross, the world's Champion wrestler, has had another defeat, though in the technical phraseology of wrestling it

cannot be called a defeat. The field-day was in Ceylon and the opponent was a native of India in the person of Kader Mohideen. Captain Ross, to cover a possible defeat, with his elbow-lift under the opponent's chin, made his jaws rattle, and though that hurt sufficiently Kader, did not enfeeble him to give Ross a second defeat. Thus Ross was downed to the ground, and his brag was once more put an end to."

So here is a new verb in the poor dear English tongue—*down*.

NOTES & LEADERETTES

with
OUR OWN NEWS.

THE elections are nearing the end. The returns up to the night of the 15th are:—

Conservatives	253	} 301
Unionists	...	...	...	44
Liberals	250	} 317
Parnellites	...	...	...	8
Anti-Parnellites	...	...	...	59

Up to this, the Conservatives have gained sixteen, the Unionists eight and the Liberals seventy-three seats. At this rate, it is expected that the close of the poll will leave the Liberals a majority of fifty in the new House. The Conservative idea seems to be to continue in power until defeated in the House of Commons. Mr. Gladstone closed his Midlothian Campaign at Pennicuik on the 11th and was re-elected with 5,845 votes against 5,145 of Colonel Wauchape, the Unionist candidate.

THE Liberal programme as announced by Mr. Gladstone was first the general situation, next Ireland and then the labour question. He advocated the adoption of the principle of local option in limiting the hours of labour. He did not forget the East. England's action towards China as exemplified in the opium traffic was a disgrace and a shame. There was a considerable desire in England to get rid of the connection between the revenue of the Government of India and the growth of opium, and he himself would be prepared, subject to obligations of good faith, to forward any measure within the bounds of reason for limiting that connection or ending it altogether if possible—a desire which the present Government may equally claim with the G. O. M.

MR. Dadabhai Naoroji's opponent Captain Penton has demanded a scrutiny of the Black Man's ballot. There is therefore a risk of the majority of three turning against the Indian.

A GREAT visitation has overtaken St. John's, Newfoundland. Two-thirds of the town has been destroyed. For sixteen hours the place was a perfect sea of fire. The business portion, the valuable warehouses and the English cathedral all are in ashes. The provisions spared will last the inhabitants ten days. The distress is great without food and home for thousands. The loss is estimated at four millions sterling.

IN the Province of Upper Savoy, an enormous glacier became detached from Mont Blanc, and, in its descent, carried all before it, sweeping the bathing resort of St. Gervais and the neighbouring hamlet into the river Arve. Upwards of one hundred and fifty persons are believed to have perished.

MOUNT Etna is in flames. With three fresh craters, the eruption threatens to be formidable.

THE Argentine ironclad *Almirante Brown* is reported to have foundered in a storm off Uruguay with loss of seventy lives. As this was about the only ironclad belonging to the Argentine Republic, this loss means the extinction of its navy.

FAMINE has scarcely raised her siege before another foe no less dreadful, the Cholera, has invaded Russia. It is spreading and has now overtaken Kazan and Moscow.

THERE is an epidemic in Paris and its suburbs. It is declared by the Spanish Medical Commission to be Asiatic cholera.

It is reported from Tonquin that a French convoy having fallen into a Chinese ambush, two officers and ten men have been killed and seventeen wounded.

THE Shah had a narrow escape. His favorite, the little boy who accompanied him in his European travels, and who is always by his side as a buffer against all evils, almost proved a grave evil himself. He was playing with a revolver in the Royal camp in South Burujird, when the weapon accidentally went off close to his Majesty. The poor boy has been sent away.

THIS year the great Mahomedan Festival of the Eed-oz-Zoha popularly known as the Backreed, passed off peaceably. Grown wiser by their experiences of recent years, the authorities everywhere took ample precautions, with the happiest results. Not that there were anywhere any disputes between Hindu and Mussulman or any threats of collision. Still less can it be pretended that there was entire absence of friction between Government and the people. But All's well that ends well, and happily the end everywhere was merry as a marriage bell.

An auspicious occasion which is usually disgraced by bitterness and hate between man and man and even bloodshed, went off tranquilly. For once a festival of rejoicing passed without savage shouting and mad yelling followed by groaning and weeping and wailing. The Backreed of 1309 of the Blessed Flight was Peace.

The incidents at some of the principal centres are worth noting.

THE festive Buckreed at Benares, Bhelupura Police Circle, was celebrated without the usual sacrifice. Of late, the feelings between the Mahomedans and Hindus of Mohulla Bajardiha had ceased to be friendly, and the Mahomedans were prepared to annoy the Hindus and openly announced their intention of performing the *Quarbani* at the mohulla. This the Hindus would not allow. The matter began to assume a serious aspect. The Magistrate interfered and advised the Mahomedans to perform the sacrifice at the usual place at Shivala, reserving the question for future solution of the eligibility of the sacrifice at Bajardiha. This decision of the Magistrate failed to appease the Mahomedans. They went up to the Commissioner who upheld the order of the Magistrate as just and proper under the circumstances. To mark their disapproval of the two successive orders against themselves, the Mahomedans without further ado decided to go without the customary sacrifice. This was going without a dinner-service or any other to spite the thieves, as the Bengali proverb has it. But on the present occasion it was a welcome resolve. We only trust that no feelings of discontent are harboured under that peaceful attitude. It would not be worth while to purchase a year's quiet at the cost of offending the Mussalmans of Benares. Efforts ought to be made, not only by officials but by all good citizens, of whatever creed or race, to remove any irritation that may have been caused.

IN Bengal, riots were apprehended at Gya and at Jehanabad in the same district over the sacrificial animal. But for the special precautions taken, the Hindus and Mahomedans would have come to blows. The Hindus were told that they could not reasonably object to their Mahomedan brethren doing their religious duty without their sight and without their hearing, though in their midst, at dead of night when the Hindus might be supposed to be asleep and dead to all external surroundings. The Hindu could not allow himself to make terms on such a subject. Not all the persuasion of the sub-divisional officer of Jehanabad, an officer of uncommon address, could dissuade the Hindus from their fixed resolve of resistance to the sacrifice. His stern attitude and preparedness to meet any emergency, however, kept the Hindus straight, and saved them from compromising themselves. Thus the riots were averted and the sacrifices held at the sub-divisional head-quarters. In the town of Gya itself, it was found necessary to import armed Police from Bhagalpur and troops were warned to be ready at Dinapore. At Jehanabad, the Police were strengthened. The Banias to mark their abhorrence of the slaughter and in apprehension of *loot* had closed their shops. Some arrests were made on suspicion.

THE Jeypore news writer in the *Indian Daily News* complains of intense heat, the monsoon not having reached Rajputana, and not more than 3 inches rain having fallen in all to date—5th July. As usual, the dry heat keeps the health of the victims who can stand it.

The Durbar has taken a step for the preservation of the health of the people, which it were to be wished the Hindus of Calcutta, with their boast of advancement, might, of their own instance, follow, before their sworn enemy of a ferocious Health Officer or an irrational Government were on them. Many marriages take place in Jeypore during these hot months. The Maharaja's Government does not forbid them, but it forbids the feasting of large parties on the occasion. This observance of the rule has visibly decreased cholera and other diseases.

A FRIEND writes from Bhurtpore under date the 10th July says:—

"We have had no rain to speak of yet, the actual monsoon is holding off not only in Bhurtpore territory but at Agra, Muttra, Jeypore, &c. If there be no rains in Sraban and Bhadro, there will be a dreadful famine. There have been small showers at long intervals, the heat consequently is intolerable. I am not fit for much. The enclosed was obtained 10 days ago, without my being able to write a covering letter yet—a feat I accomplished last evening, which was a little cool on account of east winds and a small shower somewhere at a distance from us."

HAPPY is the land that has no history, is a profound remark which is verified every day in all ages in all parts of the globe. It must be quiet in the City of the Nizam when the *Indian Daily News* correspondent at that place has nothing more stirring to engage him than Quacks and Lotteries.

By an Order in Council dated the 9th May 1892, Her Majesty doth order, direct and declare that, on and after the 1st July 1892, the second Part of "The Medical Act, 1886," shall be deemed to apply to India. The Act with the Order in Council is reproduced in the *Gazette of India*, Part I, of July 9, 1892.

IN his presidential address at the annual meeting of the Eastern Counties branch of the British Dental Association, Sir James Crichton Borwne spoke of the alarming increase of decay of the teeth in that country, especially among the young. He gave as the result of a recent investigation, that among 1,861 children under twelve years of age there were only 104 with normal or perfect teeth and only 26 per cent. of infants at five years of age who had teeth free from decay. In Leeds, 90 per cent. of the teeth of the population were bad. The number of artificial teeth used annually in England was 10,000,000. Sir James attributed the dental decay to the pulpiness and softness of the food in modern times, which obviated the necessity of mastication, which promoted the flow of saliva and scrubbed the teeth, so keeping them clean; to the removal from all breadstuffs of the outer husks of the grains, which were the chief source of a chemical element called Fluorine, which is essential to the formation of the enamel of the teeth; to the nervous tension of modern existence interfering with the growth and nutrition of the teeth; and to the growth of large towns, in which the atmosphere was loaded with bacteria injurious to the teeth.

THERE is another new medicine for nervous diseases of the heart. Cornilla Varia in five to fifteen drop doses may prove efficacious, though not in all, at least in some cases.

MR. Arthur Macdonald, in the *New Englander and Yale Review*, in his essay on "criminology" enumerates the following peculiarities in the skull as characteristic of criminals:—

1. Frequent persistence of the frontal median suture.
2. Partial effacement of the parietal or parieto-occipital sutures.
3. Frequency of the wormian bones in the regions of the median and lateral posterior fontanelles.
4. Development of the superciliary ridges, with the defacement or even frequent depression, of the intermediary protuberance.

TINCTURE Gelsemium in large doses has cured two cases of traumatic tetanus. Surely it ought to have a trial at least in very severe cases.

M. ADRIAN, at a meeting of the Societe de Therapeutique, mentioned the great variation in amount of the alkaloids in commercial opium. In thirty-eight samples taken at random from the drug shops, morphine ranged from 7 to 12 per cent. and narcotine from 0.10 to 3.975 per cent.

The cause of this striking variation lies, we think, in the fact that the supply comes from various countries. There is great difference between the produce of India and that of Smyrna. The late Dr. Waldie, who was an enthusiastic chemist, told us so, after subjecting both kinds to analysis. There must be difference in the several Indian varieties too. The Government must be in possession of the precise facts. These should be published for general information. A large quantity of the drug is consumed throughout the world as medicine, and the knowledge would be useful to druggists and apothecaries as well as the more intelligent class of patients. In this country, the commercial opium retailed by licensed vendors being adulterated by them, necessarily varies in strength. Not only is there difference between different Provinces but also between different localities of the same Province or District. There might be difference between different bazars of the same city. In Calcutta, for instance, unless the retail business were in the same hands, we should not be surprised to find the bazar opium different in different bazars. This is an anomaly which ought to be prevented. The Government might inquire. Perhaps the matter is within the province of the Health Officer.

A CURIOUS letter with an editorial note appended thereto appears in the European journal of East Bengal. In it we are reminded that sometime back, in the last half-year, there occurred in *Reis and Rayyet* the following passage, or words to the same effect, namely:—

"So long as there are orators like Mr. Maclean and writers like Colonel Malleon, and, we may add, newspapers like the *Bengal Times*, the people of India need not be in doubt as to what opinion of them is harboured by their British fellow-subjects. There is one consolation, however. Their sanity will scarcely be questioned by the most prejudiced."

The correspondent who, if he did not know too much of newspapers, would on his own showing be the leading physician of Dacca, with his "various professional engagements," seems a rather dubious character. "I am at a loss," writes he, "I am at a loss to understand your contemporary's [meaning *Reis and Rayyet's*] meaning." If that transparent piece of English, in which clear thought gives point to the expression, has really exercised M. B. as he signs himself, he is truly an object of pity. But there is much reason to suspect that this is not so. He is not quite the simpleton that he pretends to be. In fact, the whole business is an imposition. His presumption certainly is amusing. Safe in his obscurity he passes the press in review, dealing praise and scorn to the pigmies who conduct it. We are surprised that the *Bengal Times* has allowed an anonymous scribbler to speak with impertinent familiarity and derision of its contemporaries. It is one thing for newspapers to fight among themselves and another to invoke the aid of correspondents in their differences. The *Bengal Times* is quite competent—in both senses—to attack the *Indian Daily News* or ourselves, but not to open its columns to every unlicensed quill-driver in the land. By this time both our personal character and our literary characteristics are too well-established to be affected by any wild calumny or irrational criticism. This impudent person has dared to say that *Reis and Rayyet* "lubricates profuse, even servile praise" apparently on purpose to provoke us to tweak the audacious libeller's nose. Surely this M. B. must be a mad doctor. At any rate, if his diagnosis is equal to his perception of character, his patients are to be pitied. Servility is a thing of which its worst enemies have not yet accused this paper. As for "lubricating," &c., &c., its conductor never flattered his own father.

IN speaking on the Bill to amend the Bombay Abkari Act, the Governor thus spoke of the Press in India:—

"Now the opposition the Bill has met with has come from three quarters. It has come from the Press, several associations, and in a modified form from one or two talukas in the affected districts, but it is remarkable that the main opposition has not been from the districts affected, but from the city of Bombay and the city of Poona. Now as regards the opposition from the Press, I shall be very sorry if it was thought that I put any depreciatory value upon the criticism based on the Bill, but I do not think that that Press criticism is exactly of the same character that it would have been in a country, or in those countries, in which legislation is proceeded with on somewhat similar lines to that in which legislation is proceeded with here. I mean in this way. This Council legislation in India is proceeded with upon the lines which after centuries of struggle has been won by the people of western countries, and in course of time it has resulted

that in those countries two parties, or more, as the case may be, have grown up and attached to each of those parties there is Press representation, and the consequence is that a question of an interesting character is invariably discussed from all points of view at considerable length in each section of the Press before a Bill becomes law. Now the same opportunity hardly exists in this country. Government is without any party Press behind it. There is a Press which I am glad to have the opportunity of saying, is upon many questions thoroughly impartial, and is certainly in the majority of cases, so far as I can see, extremely well conducted. But it is a fact that the proposals of Government are when opposed by the Press without that consistent support which a party Press gives to the proposals of Government in those western countries to which I have alluded. I am not only thinking of the Press support given in leading articles, I am thinking far more of that independent discussion which takes place upon legislative proposals, and which I think every one will admit produces a careful and critical discussion on the merits, or even the detail of measures that may be proposed by Government. In this country Government itself is so fully occupied—the Executive Part,—that its officers have not the opportunity of ventilating its side of the question in the Press in the way that the supporters of the Government do ventilate the views of Governments in those other countries I have mentioned. That is what I mean when I say in India when a measure is opposed by the Press there is not that full discussion from both points of view we find elsewhere, and consequently the public has not that opportunity of scanning the arguments of both sides which it has elsewhere. I am not, of course, challenging the right of any paper to take an independent opinion, but I do say under other conditions; those conditions being that parties have grown up—a measure of this kind would have received from the party supporting the Government an amount of ventilation which would have shown the reasons Government had for introducing it, in a far more able form than this Executive Council has, and, therefore, I do not attach so much importance to the unanimous opposition, and I must admit it was unanimous of the Press that we have met with that I should do in a country where there are separate parties, and where it is obvious, that the opposition of the Press would have at once killed a Bill."

At a subsequent meeting of the Legislative Council Lord Harris thus explained himself:—

"I must take this, the only opportunity I shall have, of correcting a false impression which my remarks last Saturday on press opposition appear to have led to. It has been inferred from them that I was advocating for India a system under which the Government would be consistently supported by a section of the press. I don't think my remarks warrant any such construction. I was drawing a comparison between the effect of unanimous press opposition in this Presidency on the legislative proposals of this Council, with what might be expected from unanimous press opposition in some country where a section of the press ordinarily supports the Government consistently. I offered no opinion as to the respective merits or demerits of the two systems, except on one point. The establishment of a Government press in a country which is already packed with sectional and sub-sectional divisions of race or creed, and which is more party-bound than any other portion of Her Majesty's dominions, might appear to some as not likely to worse confound the confusion; but whilst an interesting academical question, it is not within the domain of practical politics, and I did not discuss the point, or express a preference for a system under which there would be a Government press, except on one point, and that was, that I think the public are better informed of the Government proposals where the press is not all of one mind. Certainly, we consider, rightly or wrongly, that the arguments in favour of this legislation, and against the *laissez faire* proposals of our critics, would have been more clearly laid before the public if there had been something approaching equilibrium instead of unanimity in the press opinion. I fancy too, that I detected a note of surprise that I should have raised the point at all, but it seemed to me I was in duty bound to take notice, in defending our position, of a notorious fact. To have omitted to do so would have been a display of disrespect for the press and of contemptuous indifference to its criticisms and feelings, which I don't entertain. For that reason I raised the point, and gave my reason for declining to yield to opposition which would probably, under such other circumstances as I selected for the purpose of comparison, have enforced acquiescence."

ON Tuesday, at Baidyanath, the Lieutenant-Governor laid the foundation stone of the local Rajkumari Leper Asylum—the gift of the Hon'ble Dr. Mahendralal Sircar in the name of his good lady.

ON the 2nd July, the Hon'ble Mr. Risley obtained leave to introduce his Bill to amend the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884. At today's sitting of the Bengal Legislative Council, he introduced the Bill. The Bill being read in Council, the member in charge applied for suspension of rules for the conduct of business, which being done, the Bill was referred to a Select Committee, without any discussion. So the principle of the Bill is admitted and accepted. All the previous agitation against the proposed change in the mofussil municipal law and any subsequent protests against the Government resumption of power go for nothing and are virtually suppressed by mere silence in Council.

Next week, the Chowkidari Bill will be taken up.

SIR Charles Dilke has fully expiated the scandal coupled with his name. After six years of retirement, if not of absolute obscurity, he

returns to politics. At the general elections now holding he has been returned in the Liberal interest for the Forest of Dean by a majority of 2,000 votes over Colchester Wemyss, the Conservative candidate.

WE do not know Mr. Hubert Smith of No. 13, Theatre Road, who figured on Wednesday as a defendant in the Police Court, but he is no doubt a respectable gentleman. As an Assistant Superintendent of the Geological Survey, he is by profession a Dryasdust caring for neither man nor beast nor plant. He would pore for months over a bit of rock to guess its chronology and know to what era of the Cycle of Brahma (whose one year is equal to a million of mortal years) it belongs. Although not

One that would peep and botanize

Upon his mother's grave,

he might go into fits over the find of a fossil vegetable. The decayed tooth of a hideous brute which has in God's Providence been extinct three million years, has presumably more interest for him than the tooth-ache tortures of a living creature in the precincts of his house. What cares such a philosopher for a poor cat, even though it be a fine tabby, and the pet of a respected neighbour? The tabby of stone and mortar might have more interest in the eyes of a man of science than the tabby of flesh and blood. At any rate, he saw no beauty or interest in the brindled pet of his neighbour.

A brindled cat in Theatre Road,

A tabby only was to him,

And it was nothing more.

And not only that, the tabby-cat in question was an objectionable neighbour. It was an unprincipled cat. It had not been well-grounded in Christian doctrine or civilized morals. Its master had entirely neglected its proper education, so that it had grown in vice. Accordingly, the Paleontologist who knows all about the creation in general and the origin of the earth in particular, who knows the insignificant function of the cat in the economy of Nature, had no scruple in shooting Mr. Justice Norris' pet. In fact, he thought it his duty to rid the world of such a pest. Such was the tenour of the defence taken by Mr. Smith in the prosecution against him. It may be a good defence in law, but whether it will be a good defence before the Creator of both the cat and the man, may be doubted. The recklessness with which we men take the life of our humbler fellow creatures, must some day recoil upon us.

Mr. Smith was fortunate in his Magistrate. Babu Ashutosh Dhur, who was the trying officer on the Honorary Bench, is an old solicitor and an able as well as strong man. It is not every magistrate, whether honorary or stipendiary, who could have given the accused the benefit of the technical grounds in his favour.

At the same time, Mr. Norris was right in allowing the matter to go to Court, on the circumstances of the death of his cat as they had been reported to him. If the facts turned out otherwise in court that was no fault of his. Apart from legal considerations, his love of the lower animals is an amiable trait in the man of law. It was no small courage in him in the face of a hard and cynical world to do his last duty by his dumb lowly dependant.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, July 16, 1892.

THE CURRENCY AGITATION.

THE cry of the hour is the currency cry. It might seem a far cry from Simla to Calcutta, but as the City of the Hills and the City of the Plains are merely counterparts of the same capital of British India, dominated and peopled by not simply the same race of gods, more or less acknowledged, but also, to a great extent, by the very same divinities, there is little cause for wonder that the cry also is the same—that the voice at the South-East End is but an echo of the voice at the North-West End. The Mountain looks on the Plain and the Plain looks up to the Peak. The Commercial Capital of the English in Hindostan, as Lord Hardinge was wont to describe the City of Palaces, appropriately follows the lead of the Hill retreat of wisdom and Authority.

It is not often, to be sure, that such a spectacle of unison is presented. The British in India are not always a happy family. Even in the mother-country, this free, independent, and self-reliant people are habitually and perhaps normally divided into parties which distrust and abuse each other and fight each other tooth and nail. Just now at Home they are passing through a Saturnalia of mutual crimination and recrimination and calling of names in which their best and highest men are not spared. In India, although the same causes of contention do not exist, there is even less ground for sympathy, inasmuch as the foreign camp labours under class differences and antagonism of interests far more powerful for repelling than is ethnic or national unity for drawing and combining. Nor is the element of racial and national diversity wholly wanting to set the handful of Whites by the ears. European society in India is divided between the official and the unofficial sections. The officials are English, Welsh, Scotch, Irish—all, in common parlance, British. Not so the non-officials. These are drawn from all the nations of the earth wearing European costume—French, Germans, Italians, Russians, Spaniards, Portuguese, Canadians, United Statesmen, Mexicans, Brazilians, Turks, Armenians, Syrians, Arabs, besides British Islanders, and mostly engaged in trade and commerce. The interests of these representatives of so many nationalities cannot well be the same, while the common interests of them all as non-officials are necessarily different from those of the officials. It would be the same everywhere. In every country the independent pursuit of gain by commerce forms of the pursuers a class by themselves which has little in common with the *employés* of the state. But in this country there is a peculiar cause which separates the mercantile and trading community from the officials. Here the officials are all members of a ruling body who being wholly independent of the rest of the community, including the European merchants and traders, have even less ground for sympathy than the Bureaucracy in other states for the other sections of society. The British mercantile community forms no exception. Indeed, there is a particular historical reason against that community's claim to sympathy from the dominant class of their own countrymen. This country was won by a Company of merchants, armed with a monopoly, who from the first excluded all others from it, a policy which was continued long after they had acquired sovereignty. The independent British merchant who sought a field of enterprise in the East, stigmatised as an Interloper and regarded as a criminal, was hunted down as though he were a vagabond fled from justice. When the agents of the East India Company—who were not regarded by their employers as gentlemen—were converted into the officers of a great Government, they could not all of a sudden drop their nature. They still carried, and they were encouraged to maintain, the ideas and feelings in which they had been brought up. The Company persisted as long as they could in holding the rod of empire and the balance of commerce, and in keeping out all comers. Thus some of the finest men were sat upon and suppressed as pestilential adventurers. Hence the independent mercantile community, which grew up with and upon the decay of the Company's trade, has had a long struggle with the aristocracy of office for social recognition. Nature and economic causes have no doubt favoured the merchants, and enabled them, in

a great measure, to overcome their social ostracism, but still the struggle cannot be said to be all over. In society as two distinct castes, in politics, the two sections have always been in mutual opposition. The Ilbert Bill controversy was an exceptional event—a sporadic madness—and the *entente cordiale* on that occasion is not to be taken as a normal phenomenon. The bonds then forged were not maintained. Therefore, the present union is no continuation. Besides, the Ilbert Bill went against the very grain of the exiled Briton and evoked a union of hearts. We have to-day no such romantic question at issue, and the present phenomenon must be explained on more prosaic lines. The truth is, it is a question of pence. The pocket is as great a factor in affairs as the heart. It is confessed that the Briton specially feels at the pocket. What wonder at all this halloobaloo!

The pocket has shrivelled! That is a calamity more serious than the attenuation of the liver. The Europeans all came to the East on the same pilgrimage—the quest of the golden pagodas. In course of time, with the advance of the Iron Age, the pagodas became scarce; they were not to be had for every shake. At length, the pagoda itself disappeared, leaving a poor silver coin for substitute. In another cycle that silver coin showed signs of illness and lost flesh. There it remained the best part of a century. From pagoda to sicca was the descent from gold to silver. From siccas to the ordinary Rupee was a plunge into a lower deep. But now the poor lesser Rupee itself has been attacked with consumption; it is wasting apace, small by degrees and beautifully less. All the Europeans of every degree, in Government employ or out of it, merchants, tradesmen, men of different occupations, have gathered together in a common cause to save the endangered Rupee. Hence, for the first time, under the eye of the Viceroy, have great officers of state, without rebuke, fraternised with outsiders in a common cause. The agitation brewed on the heights of Simla has spread in all directions. The well-known machinery has been set in motion, and meetings are being held wherever a few men do congregate, followed by telegrams to that effect to the centre of the agitation.

On Wednesday a public meeting was held at the Town Hall to memorialize Parliament on the subject. The Hon'ble Mr. Mackay, Chairman of the Indian Currency Association, presided, and many officers of Government were present to lend weight to the occasion. Representative natives, both Hindu and Mahomedan, assisted by their presence and by taking part in the proceedings. The Chairman's address was as long as a pamphlet. He attempted a reply to the several criticisms against a gold standard which he advocates. Consequently, it was a very late hour when the meeting dispersed. Over 200 persons attended.

Even native merchants seem affected. The National Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, has joined the movement. The leading merchants in Karachi, under the lead of the President of the local Chamber of Commerce, waited in deputation on the Commissioner in Sind and "begged him to be graciously pleased to make a representation to Government urging the essential need of some steps being taken to put a stop to the intolerable uncertainty as to the value of the rupee." The Karachi natives, though evidently under European guidance, certainly understand their own interests. They would not on such a subject lend a nominal

swell to others' grievances. They are as intense as any Anglo-Indian. As their memorial is brief and to the point, we quote it entire:—

"The Humble Memorial of the native Traders of Karachi—

Showeth,—We Native Traders of Karachi, born and bred to trade exclusively, and having no other calling, are now in process of discovering that our occupation is likely to vanish altogether unless something can be done to make the value of the money by which our trade is carried on permanent, or at least to free it from the violent and unintelligible fluctuations to which it is now apparently always subject.

You are aware that for the last three months we have in self-defence been compelled to combine to cease purchasing European commodities in our customary way. For this reason; that the moderate profit which we look to make, we have found altogether inadequate to cover the risks and losses to which we are subjected by the constant change in the value of the rupee.

When we bought Manchester Grey Cloth two years ago on a basis of $1/4\frac{1}{2}$ exchange, we could have no idea that a loss of about 15 per cent. by the sudden rise in exchange would be inflicted upon us by causes altogether outside the normal fluctuations of our local market, and over which we had no control; nor could we have anticipated the causes which brought ruin to us through contracts we had entered into with exporting firms for wheat and seeds, when the rupee was valued as $1/8$ in English money. Then, as we say, the value of the rupee stood at $1s. 8d.$, but when we came to carry out these contracts its value had fallen to $1s. 6d.$, and we found that in consequence we had to provide more rupees with which to buy the produce to fulfil our contracts than we had agreed to take from the exporting firms.

To illustrate the risk we are subjected to we have only to draw your attention to the fluctuations of the present month.

On the 2nd, Exchange was $1/3\ 7-16th$.

On the 9th, Exchange was $1/3\ 14\frac{1}{2}-16th$, giving a rise of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

On the 16th, Exchange was $1/3\ 11-16th$, giving a fall of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

On the 23rd, Exchange was $1/3\ 7-16th$, giving a further fall of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

What it will be to-morrow, and whether for loss or profit to us, we cannot say.

The hardship of our position is intensified by the fact that we can in no way protect ourselves from these losses, because, while we may sell with the knowledge we have of up-country supplies to exporting firms, it is impossible for us to buy against our contracts till the produce collected in small quantities in the districts is brought to market, and it is in this interval that the constant changing in the value of the rupee turns our legitimate trading transactions from safe business to purely speculative gambling. It is this which makes us fear that unless some means can be found to give steadiness of value to the rupee, let it be high for low but steady, which will enable us, as in days gone by, to calculate with some certainty the result of our transactions, an absolute destruction of our trade must sooner or later overtake us.

We therefore beg that you will be graciously pleased to make a representation to Government urging the essential need of some steps being taken to put a stop to the intolerable uncertainty as to the value of the rupee."

That is unquestionably a genuine production, in both matter and manner. The concluding prayer to his Serene Highness the Commissioner in Sind Bahadur that he will be graciously pleased to make a representation to Government to rectify the situation, is a downright native touch. The writer could not be more loyal in speech to Her Majesty the Empress.

For the rest, that memorial is the expression of a panic. The memorialists are evidently alarmed. Indians are not easily ruffled, being long suffering. They have already suffered much, as they show in black and white and by figures, and they are threatened with more loss. That is the worst of it. There is no end to this descent. Such a situation is well calculated to raise alarm.

Much as we sympathise with these honest merchants and tradesmen in their genuine losses, we confess we cannot second their memorial. All that they say about the vanishing rupee and its effects on their business, is true. Yet it is not shown that all the business of the country has suffered. They speak as importers only. We should like to hear the Karachi exporters' view. What is loss to the importers, must be gain to the exporters. That is the point. On the memorialists' showing the variation in exchange has affected the import of European goods to a point which threatens to end in zero. Therefore, export being the countertraffic to import, the export of Indian merchandise to Europe ought to expand from the same cause. And people have seen or think they have seen certain indications of

that, though of course they are nothing before the doctors who explain away the figures of the Custom-house returns. There is, however, another point for the consideration of all Indians, including those foreigners who have cast in their lot in this country. If this exchange difficulty has pressed so heavily upon the import trade, here is a fine opportunity for our countrymen to rouse themselves into setting up their own manufactures so as to be independent, as far as practicable, of outside help. This is, indeed, the opportunity for Indian manufactures. Let our capitalists and our speculative and energetic men be up and doing. If the opportunity could be utilised, it would be some compensation for the undoubted hardships of many worthy people.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSPECTION.

FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE SUBS.

SOME months ago I had to pay an official visit to a town in Bengal. When I was making preparations to go, my friends got some information that small-pox was raging there. As I had some time in hand I postponed my visit for about 10 or 12 days, but as the epidemic continued I was obliged to start for that place though under the strongest protest from my friends. I could not help risking my life. Reputation was more valuable than life to an honorable person. I thought that if I neglected or delayed the visit, I would be held out to public scorn next year and that my credit would be wrecked. Prompted by a keen sense of honor I proceeded to that hotbed of small-pox where some 200 or more cases had occurred. The whole town was panic-stricken. I could see on my way to the Dak Bungalow half a dozen children with fresh marks of pox on their body in most of the streets that I passed through. The poor things were like flayed animals. Their look was ghastly and repulsive and it filled my mind with all those dangers that my friends had predicted. On arriving at the Bungalow I had to wait for the Khansaman who came and informed me of the state of affairs in the neighbourhood and expressed his surprise at my being there at that time. I commenced my business in a half-hearted manner and was obliged to drive in a very dirty and rickety hackney carriage to my place of business. I perceived a very bad smell in the carriage and who knows that a few minutes or hours before some small-pox patient was not driven in it? In the course of business an orderly class of officer had to attend me daily. On the second or third day of my arrival he came to me with folded hands and asked my permission to say something. Permission being granted, he said with tears in his eyes that he wanted leave for the day. On being asked what was the business for which he wanted the leave, he said that his sister or cousin had died of smallpox and he wanted to go and arrange for her burial. On further questioning, to my great horror I learnt that there were two more smallpox patients in his house besides the deceased and that they were suffering from a very bad type of the disease and that he had to attend them constantly. Here, then, was a very messenger of death in attendance upon me for nearly eight hours or more! I gave him leave *instantly* and forbade him to come again. You can well imagine my feeling at that time.

At another very out of the way hilly station while staying in a Dak Bungalow I got dysenterical

diarrhœa. I got much alarmed as the disease seemed to take a bad turn. The evacuations were dirty and full of offensive matter and as I passed them I did not feel weak but rather relieved. At this stage I sent for the Civil Surgeon not knowing that to my misfortune there was a raw apothecary there. He came and in good faith I received him as a Civil Surgeon, explained my case to him fully and asked him to prescribe. He at once wrote out a prescription and handed it over to me. From his looks and the manner in which he diagnosed my disease I at least suspected that he was very inexperienced and more of a veterinary surgeon than a Civil Surgeon. I sent for the medicine and took one dose when I felt that there was a very large quantity of chlorodyne. Within half an hour I felt severe pain in my stomach with heaviness. The bowels were nearly stopped making me very restless. I also felt the symptoms of vomiting. I at once stopped the medicine, and after closely examining the prescription found that a large dose of chlorodyne had been ordered evidently to check the evacuation. Learning that there was a Hospital assistant of some standing I quietly sent for him, explained to him my case and without showing him the prescription asked him if I could take chlorodyne. He said "no, it would do much harm as it would at once stop the stools." I then showed him the prescription which he disapproved totally and suggested some ordinary medicine which cured me in two days.

Officers ought to take a lesson from my case and never place themselves under such treatment. If a Civil Surgeon is not available, send at once for the Assistant Surgeon in charge of the Hospital or in his absence for the best Assistant Surgeon who has a large private practice and is considered to be the most experienced Doctor. I have always seen the best European doctors—the most experienced Civil Surgeons—consulting experienced Assistant Surgeons in difficult cases. In every town now-a-days there are Assistant Surgeons who practise independently.

These lines will show Sir Charles Elliott to what dangers and discomforts inspecting officers are exposed and under what difficulties they have to carry out his orders. No option or discretion of any kind is left even to the high European officials. Every one cannot be expected to move with the ease, comforts, and precautions of a Lieutenant-Governor, stopping on the Rhotas in mid-stream and driving in the best carriage available. In most cases, officers cannot get correct information about the health of the places where they go before arriving there, and have to take most unwholesome food and water and to sleep in very exposed and dangerous houses. Let the head of the Government travel once in some out-of-the-way place in a malarial and epidemic tract, under the conditions that his poor subordinates are compelled to travel in and he will then be able to realize correctly their dangers and difficulties. It is a pity that he does not know what trouble is taken by a whole city and by the local authorities as well as non-official magnates—how all available means in their power in the district are employed to protect him and his party from all possible dangers and exposures, and how every creek and corner of a town is cleared before his visit, and what amount is spent in such work.

ONE OF THEM.

ANSWER TO ENQUIRY.

THE inquiry of our correspondent "One Interested" in *Reis & Rayyet* of the 11th June has not, we regret to say, borne fruit. Up to this we have received only one communication touching it, and that is of a flippant kind. We think we better lay it before our readers for what it may be worth. It is as follows:

"Hutwa, 13th July 1892.

In response to "One Interested," in your issue of the 11th ultimo, I beg to say that strictly speaking the proper feminine of 'Rai Bahadur' ought to be *Rāte Banduri*. This is the correct word according to Grammar and Philology. Allow me to show how this is. The feminine of *Rāya* would be *Rāyāi*, which by the method of phonetic decay and by Panini's rule I. I. 45 and VI. I. 108, becomes *Rāi*, and that of *Bābadur* would be *Bābaduri*; but as no *Pardanasheen* ladies of our country would prefer that Amazonian title it is satisfactory to know that the same great philological law of phonetic decay, like a knight-errant of the Middle Ages, will rescue them from this danger, by eliminating the letter *b*, expressive of *Bīrarasa* (Heroic Emotions) and introducing in its place the dotted crescent mark producing jingling music in response to their anklets, (c. f. English pronunciation of *Maharaja* being *Mārājā*.) I hope the term will be acceptable to One Interested, though I cannot answer for the fair ones. But they are notoriously fickle and difficult to please. I may well be credited with having added something to the vocabulary of the age and aided Government in making a nice selection of a new honor to be bestowed on the next occasion, of course not on my better-half, as she is determined to die a simple Devi. But will the wives of the Mahamahopadhyas weep in the wilderness? I see no body asking about them.

/MAXMULLARIAN PANINI,
G. K. BANNERJI."

LORD DUFFERIN AND THE LORD WARDEN-SHIP OF THE CINQUE PORTS.

LORD DUFFERIN INSTALLED.

On June 22, in beautiful weather, the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava was installed at Dover as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, the imposing ceremony being witnessed by a large concourse of spectators. The Marquess, accompanied by the Marchioness and their family, Earl Stanhope, Lord-Lieutenant of Kent, and Countess Stanhope, Sir Arthur and Lady Nicolson, &c., drove over from Walmer Castle to Dover Castle. Here the party was received by Major-General Lord William Seymour, commanding the South-Eastern District, and his staff. At eleven o'clock the mayors of the Cinque Ports and their liberties met in the ancient banqueting hall of the castle for the purpose of electing the Speaker, who at the Court of Shipway should request Lord Dufferin to take upon himself the duties of the office of Lord Warden. The Court having been formally opened by the seneschal, the Mayor of Hastings was chosen. From the banqueting hall a procession was formed to proceed to the Church of St. Mary-in-the-Castle. As the procession was entering the church the Lord Warden and party drove up. The service was conducted by the Bishop of Dover, assisted by the Rev. Canon Puckle, rural dean, and the Rev. F. Sadleir, senior chaplain to the garrison. The Bishop of Dover delivered a short but eloquent address with special reference to the occasion. During the service the first portion of a procession was in course of formation. This included representatives of the various friendly societies, the Dover and Hastings fire brigades, the lifeboat men with their boat, which was gaily decorated, the Coastguards' Shipwrights' Society, &c., with a number of bands. When the official party came from the church they joined an imposing procession, which altogether extended to nearly a mile in length. This included the dignitaries already mentioned, in carriages, the mayors being attended by their mace-bearers, some of whom were in quaint costumes, various officials, &c. The new Lord Warden wore his uniform of blue with a cocked hat, and Lord Herschell, Captain of Deal Castle, was also present, and there were detachments of cavalry and mounted infantry. Proceeding to the Drop Redoubt at the Western Heights, the installation ceremony took place. Three tents had been erected, in close proximity to the Bredenstone, at which the installations have taken place during the past two or three centuries. The quaint ceremony was begun by the seneschal making a proclamation and reading the precept of the Lord Warden summoning the Court. After this the returns of the barons elected by the various ports and members were handed in, and the seneschal announced the Court to be formed. In token of his nomination, the Lord Warden then requested the seneschal to read his patent of office, which was done. The Speaker of the Court next requested his lordship to undertake the duties of the office, and upon Lord Dufferin announcing his acceptance the Court did reverence, and, upon a signal, the gun of the adjoining fort thundered forth the Lord Warden's salute of nineteen guns. The Judge of the Court

of Admiralty of the Cinque Ports (Mr. Arthur Cohen, Q. C.) then delivered a congratulatory address to his lordship, which Lord Dufferin suitably acknowledged, and the Court was dissolved. After the ceremony Lord and Lady Dufferin and a distinguished bevy of guests attended a luncheon given by the officers of the Highland Light Infantry. In the evening a grand banquet in the Lord Warden's honour took place at the Town Hall.—*The Overland Mail*, June 24, 1892.

BELUCHISTAN.

Report by AHMAD ALI KHAN, Sub-Surveyor, on his exploration of Sarhad (Persian Baluchistan) and Sistan (Eastern Persia) during season 1890-91, with a brief description of the country.

I was directed by the officer in charge of the Baluchistan Survey to join the Agent to the Governor-General, Baluchistan, at Panjgur, who would instruct me as to the scope and extent of my exploration in Sarhad of Persian Baluchistan, and Sistan of Persia. I accordingly left Quetta on the 27th December 1890, and reached Panjgur 20th January 1891. Here I reported my arrival to Sir Robert Sandeman, who then made arrangements for me to proceed northwards.

On the 27th January a large Durbar was held for the Baluch Chiefs, and the Agent to the Governor-General was gracious enough to present me with a *khilat* in recognition of my previous work. On the following day I left Panjgur for Jalk *via* Kuhak, Isfandak, and Kallagan. From Jalk I started plane-tableing *en route* to Ladis, leaving the road now and then, and reached the latter place on the 24th February. Continuing my work northwards *via* Duzdap and Malik Siah Koh, I reached Sekoha on the 9th March. Here different arrangements had to be made, as I was not permitted to proceed to Nasirabad until permission was obtained from the Sarhang in command there. After a delay of nine days the welcome permission arrived.

On the 19th March I started, leaving my camp equipment behind and most of my escort. My following consisted of four mounted men and one *khilasi*. The latter was utilised for pacing to check my timing on horseback, for I could take nothing in the shape of surveying instruments. Thus the position of Nasirabad and also of the eleven villages north of Sekoha should be considered approximate, as I had even to judge my direction to the best of my ability. After a stay of two days at Nasirabad, during which time I collected as much information as possible, I retraced my steps to Sekoha. Here I was again detained, as the inhabitants refused to sell me supplies, and it was only after much difficulty and persuasion that I obtained what was wanted at three times the local rates. From Sekoha I struck across country, taking the direction of the Taraku fort. Then, marching and working along the northern edge of the Hamun-i-Zirreh, I traversed its whole length and caught up the Nasirabad-Kharan route at the Orak springs. This route I now adhered to, and crossing the Amir Chah Kotal I made my way to Kharan *via* Paniham and Kondi. On the 14th May I reached Kharan, after having completed the $\frac{1}{4}$ inch reconnaissance of nearly 22,000 square miles of ground, and compiling route reports not only from authentic information, but from personal observations also, of nearly 1,000 miles in length.

I should not omit to note that the whole of the reconnaissance, with the exception of the bit north of Sekoha, is based on trigonometrically fixed points furnished by the Afghan Boundary Commission, and also by Mr. G. P. Tate, Assistant Surveyor.

Sarhad comprises an area, roughly speaking, of about 11,000 square miles, and is confined between the parallels of 28° and 30° North Latitude, and 60° 45' to about 62° 45' East Longitude. The average height of ground level is about 4,500 feet. Continuous chains of hills traverse the country in a N. W. and S. E. direction, with broad intervening valleys along which pass the principal routes. The whole of Sarhad is considered Persian Baluchistan, and is supposed to be directly under the authority of the Governor of Kirmán, the present incumbent being Mirza Abdul Majid Khan, Farman Farma-i-Daulat. The authority, however, is almost nominal, for the inhabitants are a wild, turbulent race, and lead a very independent life. Not a *tabdil* or *ibana* exists throughout the land, and no man who has any vested powers from Persia resides in Sarhad.

The most important place is Ladis, which comprises seven villages and a fort, situated close together, the population of which at present may be estimated at about 1,200. The fort is built on the right bank of the Ladis river and is 150 feet above the bed: its dimensions are approximately 600 feet square, and it is surrounded by a wall 20 feet high, with bastions at the corners. Altogether the fort is a very inferior one. In the interior there are 100 houses, which are inhabited during the summer months only by Rekis. Surrounding Ladis there are about 1,400 acres of cultivated land, the cereals grown being wheat and barley. The produce suffices simply for home consumption, and *ghi* is the only commodity exported. There is a perennial flow of water in the Ladis river and numerous springs, all of which are utilised to a great extent in irrigating the land. I was informed that the Governor of Kirmán

intends shortly to build a fort at Ladis capable of accommodating 200 sowars, and has levied a tax on the inhabitants of one-sixth of the annual crop: this they have refused to pay, and have signified their intention of bodily migrating to Khárán if any attempt is made to enforce the tax. The total number of houses in Ladis is about 300. South and west of the volcanic mountain of Koh-i-Taftán there are numerous villages.

The cultivated land, both in Persian and Afghan Sistan, amounts to about 3,000 square miles, which large tract is irrigated chiefly by canals fed from the Helmand river. The soil is so fertile that the sowing of one season is sufficient to yield crops for the following two. Afghan Sistan possesses 70 villages: the Persian side 100. During the period of Timur's (Tamarlane's) invasion of the country, nearly 800 years ago, numerous strong forts were erected between Puzai Margo and the Helmand. These are still in a state of preservation, though never looked after or occupied. The name of the tract where these forts stand is Sar-u-tar, signifying deserted.

The great Hamun or Gaud-i-Zirreh is 85 miles long, about 30 miles broad, and has an average depth of 10 feet. In dry seasons, however, this is greatly reduced and *khablus* easily cross. The water is utterly undrinkable, and animals even refuse to touch it. On the north, running the whole length of the Hamun, is a bank 40 feet high, forming the southern limit of the Dasht-i-Taráku. Herds of wild asses abound in the neighbourhood. The soil all round the Hamun is covered with a white efflorescence. The *camarisk* is found in small clumps scattered about, and grazing for camels is very plentiful. When the Helmand river receives an unusual supply of water, either from the melting of the snows or an abnormal rainfall, the reservoirs which receive its waters, such as the Hamun-i-Sistan and the Hamun-i-Sowaran, overflow; the volume of water takes a southerly course, and after inundating a tract of land 130 miles long, with an average width of 30 miles, empties itself into the Hamun or Gaud-i-Zirreh.

The place second in importance to Nasirabad in Sistan is Sekoha; it is 23 miles south of it. A rectangular wall, 1,200 feet x 900 feet and 20 feet high, encloses all the buildings. In the centre, on a knoll 200 feet high, a small pukka fort is built, which contains a company of infantry. The population of Sekoha is equal to that of Nasirabad. The present Sirdar is Pasánd Khan, who has friendly feelings towards the British. The water-supply from a canal is very good. Supplies, such as wheat, barley, *bhusa*, etc., can be procured in large quantities. No pasturage for animals exists nearer than 15 miles from the town, and wood is almost as scarce. The camping ground is on the west side of Sekoha. Every European travelling northwards is stopped here until permission is received from Brijand for a safe conduct. In the case of Native foreigners travelling in the same direction, permission or otherwise from Nasirabad is sufficient. In ancient times Sekoha was the capital or chief town of Sistan, but on account of the constant depredations of the tribes from Sarhad, Nasirabad was brought into existence and gradually took the first place.

There are other forts of minor importance about 30 miles south, such as Hauzdár, Machi, Kunder, Ramród, etc. There are traces still visible that the whole tract of ground where these forts stand, was once well populated, and that in fact it was in a flourishing condition. Twenty-five miles east of Ramród, on a hillock 200 feet above ground level, there stands a very strongly fortified post, called Taráku, which, although unoccupied, is in perfect order. Inside of the surrounding wall there are very good specimens of architecture, the walls of which are all ornamented with paintings. The tradition is that 1,500 years ago this was the birthplace of Rustam Pailwán, the Persian Palladin, whose life is shrouded with romance and mystery. The fort is called Taráku, derived from Tarkiden, which signifies 'bursting,' as the mother of Rustam Pailwán had to undergo the operation called the Cæsarcan section before she could give birth to her son. Taráku was then the most important town in Sistan.

There are two canals worthy of note. The first and longest is that called Nair-i-Sistan; it is 60 miles long, with an average width of 30 feet and depth of 10 feet. The main branch with its numerous outlets irrigates about 3,000 square miles of land. The second largest is called the Nair-i-Taráku, which passes the fort of Taráku half a mile to the south. It is about 50 miles in length and of variable breadth, and used, in times gone by, to irrigate about 1,000 square miles. At present it is not worked on account of the deserted state of the land. Both these canals are fed from the Helmand. In 1885, when the river overflowed, a large volume of water found its way into the Nair-i-Taráku, burst its banks and inundated the country westwards for miles.

About 22 miles due west of Nasirabad there is a flat hill called Koh-i-Khwaja. It is about 500 feet above ground level. A fort stands at the southern base. The remains of numerous houses are still visible, all more or less fortified, on the summit, and huge caves exist on the slopes. The area of the level ground on top would be about one square mile.

The men of Sistan are on the whole a pacific lot. Very few are to be seen armed, and then only with the antique matchlock.

Koh-i-Taftán is the most remarkable mountain in Sarhad. There are two peaks a mile apart on the crest lying north-west and south-east, which are about equally high. To the north-west peak an approximate height was obtained giving a result of 14,000 feet above sea-level. The south-east peak is volcanic; there are two distinct craters on it which, when witnessed from any distance, appear to be only one. The whole of the higher crest of this range is covered with snow throughout the year, and the volcano lies dormant during the winter months. The streams which take their source from the range have a continual supply of good drinkable water. Skirting the bases on both sides there are numerous villages possessing large orchards and vineyards. Pomegranates, apples, apricots and peaches are to be had in abundance, the first two especially being of excellent quality.

The physical features of Sarhad present no difficulty whatever to any enterprise that may be undertaken either in the construction of railways or roads. The valleys are all broad and fairly level, with an average height of about 4,500 feet above sea-level. The *kotal*s or saddles over which the principal routes pass are all accessible even in their present state for laden animals and mountain batteries. The main ranges which take a north-westerly direction are all more or less continuous and skirted on both sides by rather rugged ground, sparsely covered over with stunted trees. There is, however, an abundance of pasturage in the valleys during the summer months. Sarhad is actually the hot-weather resort for the inhabitants of Sistan and the Helmand valley.

The soil is unfit for cultivation, even when irrigated, as there is an admixture of sand combined with stones: this is particularly the case in the valleys. The ranges are all of sandstone formation totally devoid of any vegetation. The majority of the water-courses have always a good supply of running water. The best springs are to be found at the base of the Koh-i-Taftán range.

As a very small proportion of the inhabitants are agriculturists, large quantities of wheat and barley are imported into the country from Sistan, which are bartered for *ghi* in the proportion of 7 maunds of wheat for one of *ghi*. The maund is equivalent to about 6½ seers Indian weight. With the exception of woollen *numdabs* nothing whatever is manufactured in the country, and all muzzle-loading guns, matchlocks and swords are imported from parts of Persia.

Sistan comprises an area of about 20,000 square miles. The Helmand river from Chahar Burjak takes a northerly course and flows through it, dividing it into two parts. From the east or right bank of the Helmand up to the great Dasht-i-Margo plain is Afghan Sistan; that on the left bank up to the lofty Paláng Koh range is Persian Sistan. From north to south it extends from Lash Juwain down to the Lar Koh and Kach Koh hills.

The tri-junction boundary pillar of Persia, Afghanistan, and Baluchistan stands on the summit of Malik Siah Koh, and was erected by General Sir F. Goldschmidt in 1872, south of Sistan; the pillar was found destroyed. A fresh pile of stones 8 feet high and 5 feet broad at the base was erected. Afghan Sistan, comprising Chakansur, Kali-Kang, Kalifat, etc., is subject to the authority of the Governor of Farrah: Western Sistan, comprising the important town of Nasirabad, and others of less importance, such as Sekoha, Dowlatabad, etc., is under the direct authority of the Governor of Brijand in Persia.

The town of Nasirabad is about half a mile long and a quarter broad. Before the Husseinabad fort came into existence, twenty years ago, the fort of Nasirabad was attacked and destroyed by the Baluchis under Sher Muhammad Khan, Sanjaram of the Helmand valley. The population of the town now is about 4,000, inhabiting 700 houses. The majority of the people are agriculturists. Woollen *numdabs* and carpets of inferior quality are manufactured. There are no bazaars or shops, and even the ubiquitous *bania* does not find an abode here. The reason of this is that the religious teaching of the Persians, who are *Shiabs*, precludes them from buying or receiving anything for consumption from a Hindu. *Atta*, *dbal*, *ghi*, fowls, eggs, sheep, and *bhusa* are to be obtained in large quantities and very cheap. The imports are sugar, tea, indigo, and ingredients for cooking. The following are the rates obtainable:—

Wheat	6 maunds for 1 karan.
Barley	10 maunds „ 1 „
Ghi	1 maund „ 7 „
Fowls	4 or 5 „ 1 „
Eggs	120 „ 1 „
Wood	1 maund „ 2 „

The maund is equivalent to about 7 seers Indian weight. The karan equals 6½ annas.

The exports are sheep's wool, goats' hair, and *ghi*. One-third of all the produce of the country is taken as revenue by Government. The Persian Sistanis are not migratory, while the Baluchi Sistanis on the other hand are never stationary. The latter being a pastoral race move about with their cattle wherever grazing grounds are most favourable. The animals are taxed at the rate of 1 karan for every bullock or cow, and 1 karan per annum for every seven heads of sheep or goats. The whole amount of taxes thus imposed amounted during the past year to 40,000 karan.

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Babu Jagannathan Bhattacharyya, Deputy Magistrate, Burdwan,
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Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JULY 23, 1892.

No. 534

A LAY OF LACHEN.

[BY THE LATE MR. COLMAN MACAULAY.]

THE purple shadows upward crept
On Sikkim's mountains blue,
The snows their solemn vigil kept
Those stately watchers true.
The frosted peaks of Chola gleamed,
Broken and bare and bold.
On the glittering crest of Kinchin streamed
The sun-light clear and cold.
The fleeting clouds brief shadows flung
On mighty Junnu's brow, or hung
On Pindim's forehead near ;
And Dongia's beetling bastions frowned
A silent warning far around
No foot may venture here.

II.

The light air bore the sullen roar
Of Rungit rushing by,
And Bengal's Lord in thought was deep
As he gazed across the mountains steep,
And he spake his counsel high :—
"No travellers come from far Thibet,
From the mystic land no tidings yet
For many a month are sent ;
No more the tinkling bells ring clear
On Lingtu's heights, by Bedden's mere ;
On Jelep's path no step resounds,
No smoke at even upward bounds
From weary trader's tent.
Do thou, Macaulay, ready make.
To Sikkim's Chief my greeting take
And see his father's solemn pact
Is true fulfilled in word and act.
And hie thee to the frontier far,
Journey towards the Northern Star,
Speak fair the Lord of Kambajong
And seek his friendship new.
The path is steep, the road is long,
But the purpose high and true.
Say that you cross the snow drifts sad
But to seek the grasp of friendship's hand,
We wish but the welfare of the land
To make both peoples glad."

III.

Macaulay took his Chief's commands,
And, for that the city was long and steep,
And the ice was thick and the snow was deep,
And the wind that blows across the sands
Of Tartary is biting keen,
He called companions three
To go with him across the sheen
Of the snow fields wild and free.

IV.

First genial Evans—wisest he
Of all wise lawyers, and his place
At Bar and Board is ever high,—
Sage in council, for a space
Fled from the wiles of Doson's race
And Rent Bill papers dry,
To breathe the air of Sikkim free,
To wander by her purling rills,
And seek the beauty of her hills,
The blueness of her sky.

V.

And Paul who Sikkim loves so well
That still the Native chieftains tell,
With kindly smile and grasp of hand,
That of the *Sahib log** who cross
The Rungit's silver fall,
None know the story of their land,
None can its meaning understand,
As does that *Sahib* tall.

VI.

And cheery Gordon, blithe and gay,
Sang as they toiled along the way
To Thibet's frontier far ;
That soldier minstrel whose guitar
By Lachen's stream or Lushai hill
Has often cheered the camp, and still
Is heard in Cuch Behar.

VII.

And in the vales of Sikkim lone,
As gay he bought her brooch or zone,
Did many a maiden fair
Sigh, as she brushed a tear away,
"He will not buy what eke he may ;
He buys all things throughout the land,
Oh, would he only buy my hand,
That soldier debonnaire !"

VIII.

And Sarat Chandra, hardy son
Of soft Bengal, whose wondrous store
Of Buddhist and Thibetan lore
A place in fame's bright page has won,
Friend of the Tashu Lama's line,
Whose eyes have seen the gleaming shrine
Of holy Lhasa, came to show
The wonders of the land of snow.

* European gentlemen.

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IX.

They journeyed over steep Tendong,
And through the vale of Tista fair,
By Shilling's slopes and Yeung's Mendong,
And Kubbi's smiling pastures rare
And Ryott's roaring falls,
To where, high perched on Mafi's breast
With banners gay and brazen crest,
Shone Sikkimpati's halls.

X.

Right royal welcome Sikkim gave*
With high carouse and banquets brave,
And many a pledge of right good-will,
And many a promise new
His compact ever to fulfil
And prove his fealty true.
And to the Lord of Kambajong
Swift messengers he sent :
" Lo, o'er the hills to Giagong,
By Lachen's vale and Phallung's snows,
From great Bengal an envoy goes
To greet thee in his tent."

XI.

And leaving Sikkim's halls, the four
O'er Mafi's hill, by Ringun's rill
'Neath stately Gnarim's summit hoar,
By Nanga's shades and Chakung's glades,
And rapid Tista's rocky shore,
And Chungtam's marshes low,
And fairy Lachen's forests green,
And boiling Zemu's silver sheen,
And cherished still of Hooker's name,
Travelled till they the torrent crossed
At Tullam Samdong hard in frost
And Tungu deep in snow.

XII.

The moon to nearly full had grown
Ere they the frontier cold and lone
Did reach, where winds swept Giagong,
Near twice six thousand cubits sheer
O'er India's plains and people's throng,
Lies white and chill and drear,
'Twixt Kinchinjow and Chomiom.
No man or beast may make his home
That barren snow-field near.

XIII.

The day was waning, and the crest
Of Chomiomo paler grew,
As sank the sun into the west
And ever lengthening shadows threw
The giants hoar between.
The north wind sharp and sharper blew,
The frost was piercing keen ;
Night followed day, but still no sound
Was heard the silent snow drift round
Of coming footsteps, and no light
Of lantern or of torch did peer
Across the waste of gleaming white
To say that help was near.

XIV.

No light had they, nor drink, nor meat,
Nor could they forward go or back ;
The drifts were deep around the track,
The snow was thick around the feet ;
And night like a funeral pall lay black
On a snow-winding sheet.

XV.

The moon rose slow, and pale, and sad
O'er the royal crest of Kinchinjow,
And Chomiomo's peak was clad
In the light that bathed his icy brow ;
And a shimmering moonbeam sad caressed
Her white still face and summit proud,
As they laid their weary limbs to rest
On her silent spreading shroud.

XVI.

At length that awful night was past.
No more they shuddered 'neath the blast ;
The morning smiled across the wild,
And the tentsmen followed fast.
Down Kongralamo's snowy waste
The yaks with stately movement paced,
And five score swordsmen's weapons glanced
As Kamba's chieftain grave advanced
The mystic *chorton** past.

XVII.

And in Macaulay's tent that day,
In high Durbar and bright array,
With welcome glad and presents fair,
Was Bengal's greeting told,
And Kamba's Lord did oft declare
That Thibet's people fain would dare
The dangers of the road, to see
Victoria's Empire, rich and rare,
Of mighty Tarat regent she,
And with her happy people free,
Would friendly converse hold.

XVIII.

Next day with many a greeting kind
And many a pledge of friendship true,
They parted ; and the wondrous blue
Of Thibet's sky was left behind.

XIX.

And the Yule-tide far away,
As sweet young faces wondering gaze,
When downward fall the ashes grey
And upward leaps the yellow blaze,
Those comrades four may tell the tale
Of how they trod fair Lachen's vale,
So lovely and so long,
And how they braved the withering gale
And lay beneath the snowpeaks pale,
At lonely Giagong.

WEEKLYANA.

MR. F. C. Barnes has obtained leave for one month and ten days from the 16th August. We are glad to find that Khan Bahadur Abdul Jubbar will be allowed to officiate for that period as Superintendent of Stamps and Stationery.

THE Lieutenant-Governor has ruled that when an exchange rowana has to be taken out in consequence of the quantity delivered on the original rowana being less than the quantity covered by it owing to no fault of the holder, such exchange rowana shall be granted free of cost.

MR. Justice Prinsep goes on privilege leave for one month and five days from the 3rd August next, that is, as many days immediately before the Long Vacation.

* Sacred pyramidal buildings, originally tombs of departed saints.

+ The Goddess of Divine Wisdom, adored by the Northern Buddhists.

* The present Maharajah.

MR. W. J. CUNNINGHAM is on privilege leave for two months and twenty days from the 19th July last. Mr. J. A. Crawford, the Under-Secretary, acts the Deputy-Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Mr. A. Williams, Under-Secretary to the Government of the Punjab and officiating Deputy Commissioner, Lahore, officiating as Under-Secretary in the Foreign Office.

THE Secretary of State has sanctioned the estimate amounting to Rs. 18,71,294 of the cost of constructing the Hyderabad-Umarkot State Railway, 77½ miles in length.

THE wife of a timber-cutter in New York has brought to litter three girls and one boy. They are expected to live. The boy has been named, after the American President, Benjamin Harrison, the girls being christened Faith, Hope and Charity.

CALIGRAPHY is not only neglected in the Indian Universities, but illegible handwriting seems to be the boast of modern India. The other day the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal issued instructions for distinct and full signatures of native officers. The Bombay High Court has just now made an order to that effect. The proceedings of the First-class Magistrate of Sattara (Mr. Panse) having come up in review, the court called on the District Magistrate to certify a legible copy of Mr. Panse's English record. He was also asked to inform that Magistrate that it is the duty of every judicial officer to record his proceedings in legible handwriting.

THE Allahabad High Court goes into Long Vacation on the 13th August.

HERE is the full text of the Queen's Speech dissolving Parliament:—

"My Lords and Gentlemen,—

The time has arrived at which it is expedient that the electoral body of this country should be consulted by the assemblage of a new Parliament. I have therefore summoned you for the prorogation of Parliament at an earlier period than usual.

I am glad to record that the friendly relations I have maintained with foreign Powers remain unaltered.

The treaties have been duly ratified which refer our differences with the United States in respect to Behring's Sea to arbitration.

The ratification also of the final Act of the Brussels Conference for the suppression of the slave trade has, after many delays, been completed. The Government of France, however, has made reservations in regard to some of the provisions which affect operations against the maritime slave trade.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,—

I recognise with satisfaction that, before separating, you have made full provision for the requirements of the public service.

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

I have gladly given my consent to several Bills which you have been able to consider and to sanction, notwithstanding that the duration of the Session has been exceptionally short. The arrangements you have made for enabling labouring men to become purchasers of small agricultural holdings will increase the class of cultivating owners, which is of great importance to the State. The application to Ireland of those educational measures which have been recently adopted in Great Britain will confer great benefits upon the poorer classes of that country. You have sanctioned valuable provisions for reforming the police administration in Scottish burghs and for extending to Scotland the facilities for the hire of allotments which were given to the people of England and Wales a few years ago. At the same time, you have done much to lighten the burden of local taxation in that country, and to foster the interests of secondary and of University education. The Act for strengthening the discipline of the Church of England in regard to moral offences accomplishes a necessary reform which has too long been delayed.

I have willingly accepted a measure for improving the constitution and proceedings of the Legislative Councils in India which will, I trust, enable my Government in that country more fully to ascertain the opinions and wishes of various races and classes of my subjects, and to secure the co-operation of those best qualified to give advice and assistance in the conduct of affairs.

I have assented gladly to the measures which you have wisely and generously adopted for the relief of my subjects in the island of Mauritius under the unexampled calamity which has overtaken them.

In closing this Parliament, which has been unusually laborious, and has also been highly fruitful in beneficent legislation, I thank you for the assiduous performance of your momentous duties during the last six years, and I heartily commend you to the favour of Almighty God."

This was the Seventh Session of the Twelfth Parliament of Queen Victoria. It met first on August 5, 1886 and was dissolved on June 28, 1892, after a life of 5 years and 328 days. The whole Parliament lasted 7,146½ hours. The days of the last Session numbered 88, and of the whole Parliament 827. The number of questions for the session is given at 2,889 and for the whole Parliament at 26,104, the time occupied in answering them being 435 hours.

NOTES & LEADERETTES

with

OUR OWN NEWS.

WITH the exception of two returns from Orkney and Shetland, the elections are over. There are in all 670 members of the House of Commons. Of these England returns 465, Ireland 103, Scotland 72, and Wales 30. Of 670 again only 645 elections are held, for in twenty-four boroughs and three universities the constituents elect two members each upon one poll.

The latest returns of the present elections by Reuter are

Conservatives	...	...	...	262	} 314
Unionists	...	...	...	52	
Liberals	...	...	...	274	} 354
Parnellites	...	...	...	9	
Anti-Parnellites	...	...	...	71	

showing the Conservative gain of sixteen, Unionist gain of nine and Liberal gain of seventy-six seats.

Thus, the Liberals with all their ramifications have a majority of only 40 over the Conservatives. It is not yet definitely announced how Lord Salisbury will act on the final return. He had two conferences with Her Majesty. It is stated, that the Queen and Lord Salisbury have agreed that ministers shall meet the new Parliament, when it is probable that Mr. Gladstone will move an amendment to the Address to force the Government to resign. The *Morning Post* (London) suggests that even if defeated on a division, Lord Salisbury should merely prorogue Parliament until February, retaining office till then.

MR. LABOUCHERE, in his *Truth*, thus announces the programme of the Liberal House of Commons. He advises the new Government to deal with the following subjects before touching Home Rule, namely: one man one vote, reform of registration, the payment of members, local option, and the constitution of the parish councils. The *Daily News*, however, is positive that Home Rule remains the first imperative engagement of the Liberals, though it may be necessary to combine urgent Liberal measures therewith.

HOME Rule has been the Liberal war cry in the elections. Mr. Gladstone is prepared to extinguish the Lords if they reject a Home Rule Bill. Addressing an open-air meeting, while passing through Chester from London to Hawarden, in favour of the candidature of Baron Halkett, a Separatist, he said:—"Three forces are being used by the supporters of the Government in the present elections, namely, intimidation, invention, and religious bigotry. Lord Salisbury was a great intimidator. For the first time in our history the Prime Minister was the chief political firebrand in the land. Mr. Gladstone ridiculed the invention that there must be another dissolution if the House of Lords rejected a Home Rule Bill. That might be a reason for dealing with the Lords, but not for dissolution."

It is not a little amusing to hear Mr. Gladstone call the Conservative Premier a firebrand and the rest of it. But the G. O. M. is not blessed with the faculty of humour, otherwise he might have remembered the story of the pot and the kettle. With equal unconsciousness he accuses Lord Salisbury of intimidation in the same breath that he threatens the Upper Chamber.

A STRANGE rumour is prevalent in some circles in connection with the Premier's frequent conference with Her Majesty. It is said that Lord Salisbury will take the wind out of the sails of the enemy by himself granting Home Rule. We refuse to believe it. Our Cecil is not a Disraeli. He has character as well as convictions—which are genuine Conservative. He who quarrelled with Disraeli rather than be a party to a Conservative Reform Bill, is the last person to attempt a Conservative Home Rule measure.

THERE is uneasiness in Anglo-Indian circles at the prospect of Lord Ripon being the Indian Minister of the next Gladstone ministry. We believe after all, the Marquis will elect not to hamper a new administration not over-strong in the House by his visible apparition at the India-house.

A WHOLESALE destruction of the island of Sangir near the Celebes group with a population of twelve thousand, is telegraphed from London on the 18th. The visitation took the form of a volcanic eruption.

DROUGHT has been followed by flood. Excessive rains destroying bridges and committing other mischiefs are reported from several parts of the empire.

WHILE Sir Charles Dilke re-enters Parliament, Mrs. Crawford of the Dilke scandal has gone to a nunnery—with the vows that she owes no money and has made her will. She is a Tertiary sister of St. Mary's Franciscan convent, Mill Hill. As a divorced wife she cannot take the veil. She was introduced by Mr. W. T. Stead to Cardinal Manning who converted her to Roman Catholicism.

The Catholic priesthood seem to have one function in common with the Chaitanyaites Goswamis of Bengal—that of offering a way of salvation to the fallen.

As a development of the Salt monopoly, in 1876, a trader residing in any town having direct railway communication with Sambhar was permitted, on payment of the duty and price at the nearest treasury, to indent for salt direct from the lake, the Salt Department undertaking to book the consignment to the station named in the indent. The system proving successful, it was extended to Pachbadra and the Khewra mines. A further concession was made in April 1890. To afford equal facilities to traders as are not always resident at district or tahsil head-quarters, permission was given them—as an experimental measure—to indent for salt direct from the salt sources on payment of the price and duty into the nearest post office. This plan was at first restricted to the salt sources at Sambhar, Pachbadra and Khewra, the receipt of indents and advance payments being limited to head offices and sub-offices within the tahsil stations or on the railway or mail cart lines. The trial proved highly satisfactory. The system “has been largely used by traders in preference to the system of payments into treasuries, has created a class of small dealers dealing direct with the salt sources, stimulated greatly the through-traffic sales, and has also been effective in breaking up combinations of middlemen at the salt sources, and in keeping down the price of salt in places where it would have otherwise risen.” It has therefore been permanently sanctioned not only for the salt sources to which it tentatively applied, but also for that of Kharaghora. To avoid the risk of large payments at sub-post offices, post offices where, owing to the proximity of a treasury or sub-treasury, the public already possesses facilities for payment are not to receive payments for salt. For this convenience the Post office is authorized to charge eight annas per cent. of the money paid in.

UNDER the head of “News and Gleanings” in the *Tribune* of July 13, we read :—

“Uncle Tom's Cabin has been translated and published in twenty-one different languages. Here is the list :—Armenian, Bengali, Bohemian, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, Flemish, French, German, Hungarian, Illyrian, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Romic, Russian, Servian, Spanish, Swedish, Wallachian, Welsh.”

This translation business seems like the attainments of the prodigies in a dozen or two dozen languages, which provoked the famous retort from Wordsworth. We think it a mistake to render such a book as Mrs. Stowe's in an Asiatic tongue. There has been these ten years or so at least a Bengali story called *Tom Kdkar Kutir*. But we have not heard a single man having read it. Perhaps it is well that nobody attempts it. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is a great book which nobody can forget who has once read it. Its effect was unparalleled. It was the cause of the War in the United States and finally of the abolition of Slavery. The number of Bengalis who can understand it thoroughly must be extremely limited. Our translators do not come from the select few. After all, no translation could preserve the humour or the local colouring. Some day we may hear of an enterprising spirit “doing” the Biglow Papers in Bengali or Tamil !

ONE of the principal objects of Mr. Risley's Bill to amend the Bengal Municipal Act III of 1884, is to remedy the difficulty raised by a Divisional Bench of the High Court, which, in the words of the

Statement of Objects and Reasons, “held that a notification of the Government of Bengal of the 18th March 1882, extending Part VII, Chapter II of the Bengal Municipal Act, V of 1876, to the Municipality of Kushtia, was not a ‘notification’ within the meaning of section 2 of the Bengal Municipal Act III of 1884, but an ‘order’; and that, as that section contains no provision saving all orders made under the former Act, none of the provisions of Part VI of the present Act, corresponding to Part VII, Chapter II of the old Act, were in force in Kushtia or in any other municipality to which they had not been extended by the present Act.” The remedy still open was a cumbrous process and the Bengal Government decided to rectify the defect pointed out by the High Court by fresh legislation as the easier course. Accordingly, it is proposed in section 2 of the Bill that “The expression ‘notification’ as used in this section shall be deemed to include and to have always included all directions, declarations and orders given or made and published, under any enactment referred to in this section.”

The Bengal Government is all respectful to the High Court and has not the slightest intention of acting against its judgment. So a proviso is introduced to protect it, thus :—

“Provided that nothing in this definition shall be deemed to affect any decision or order of a competent court made before the date on which this Act shall come into force.”

What then is the necessity of section 2? If the decision of the High Court is to prevail, the section is contradictory. It enjoins prohibition and acquiescence in the same breath. While it nullifies the judgment of the High Court, it means to retain it in tact. If the judgment is to be in force, the section cannot apply. Or, will it apply to municipalities other than Kushtia?

SIR Charles Elliott is the head of a far from happy household. The Bengal Secretariat is divided within itself. The two Secretaries in the Local Legislative Council are opposed to one another. Each finds or thinks the other's Bill revolutionary and unfit to be passed in its present form. Mr. Risley has already openly recorded his dissent to Mr. Cotton's *Chaukidari* Bill and has given notice of a series of amendments. It is no secret that Mr. Cotton sees danger in Mr. Risley's Bill. He has found his organ in a native weekly, which has opposed the Municipal Bill with a pen of vigour foreign to our contemporary. For the safety of the measure, the Chief Secretary has been kept out of the Select Committee on the Municipal Bill.

THE Governor-General in Council has exempted Raja Hari Raj Singh, of Kashipur, Tarai, in the Naini Tal District, N.-W.P., from the operation of all prohibitions and directions contained in sections 13, 14, 15, and 16 of the Indian Arms Act, XI of 1878, other than those referring to cannon, articles designed for torpedo service, war rockets, and machinery for the manufacture of arms and ammunition. It is left to the Local Government to decide the number of armed retainers to be allowed. Raja Hari Raj Singh is the worthy son and successor of the late lamented Raja Sheoraj Singh, C.I.E., who, as an Additional Member of the Viceroy's Council for making Laws in Lord Lawrence's administration, did excellent service. A fine specimen of the old Rajput Chieftain, he was a favorite with European and native. He was one of the few upcountry additional members of the Legislative Council who became popular in Calcutta society. The Rajas of Kashipur have a sadly interesting history. They are the representatives of the illustrious Royal House of Kumaon, which reigned for nearly seven hundred years before the Goorkhas, in collusion with the Brahman minister of the Raj, came into easy possession of the kingdom.

WE see the Brahman sellers of “sweets” in Madura have combined, on pain of a fine of five rupees, and fixed the rate for the different kinds of their articles at ten annas a seer. Hitherto the prices varied. Sweets at Ans. 5 per lb. ! This is ridiculously high for even a monopoly price. We suspect it is sweetmeats or pastry that is meant. We hope the “sweets” now offered will be palatable and wholesome. We wonder what they are made of. Are they all cocoanut and sugar? or meal cakes fried in cocoanut oil and dipped in syrup? Now that genuine butter and ghee have practically disappeared in Calcutta, why don't the Hindu pastry-cooks try if cocoanut oil will prove a good substitute? We are afraid the oil does not keep. Perhaps for *puris* and *mithkai*s for immediate household consumption it will make a passable frying vehicle. We merely guess, of course.

IN abruptly closing our notice of "M. B.'s" flippant letter in the *Bengal Times*, we were precluded from acknowledging the kindness of our contemporary himself. The poison of the correspondent's communication was neutralised by the footnote of the Editor. The latter has spoken of this journal and its conductor with generous appreciation. "Our old friend," says the *Bengal Times* speaking of us, "our old friend retains a good deal of his sparkling humour, and dry cutting wit." Again, "*Reis and Rayyet* is a fresh, crisp, incisive journal." This is all the more valuable from a writer who can make matters very stiff and hot if he lists. Indeed, we have a sufficiently good opinion of ourselves to care for the opinion of those who have no right to sit in judgment. What was the value of a certificate of drollery from Saturn? Happily, there is no such disqualification in the case of our contemporary.

IN a subsequent issue, the *Bengal Times*, after quoting our announcement of Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji's success in being at length elected to the House of Commons by Central Finsbury, remarks:—

"Central Finsbury electors have disgraced themselves, and by their attitude have shown that gold is a more powerful incentive than patriotism, or national sympathy. Old Daddyboy knows nothing of English feeling, in a national sense. He is unable to realise what our countrymen hold as sacred, and revere as heirlooms; he cannot identify himself with our history and our glorious traditions; he cannot identify himself with our people. How can he represent them? More. He belongs to a race of people, who cast out their dead from their midst to be devoured by birds of prey. And this is he who aspires to experience and defend English sentiment and to reciprocate English nationality! His heart has not a throb in unison with our inborn impulses, our warm hearted, insular pride of family and of greatness."

The *Bengal Times* has from the first taken an unaccountable grudge at this election. What is there in it to be surprised at or to take to heart? Our friend has not seen Mr. Naoroji. Had he done so, he would have been reconciled to him and his return. He regards this election as if it were the election of a pure Hottentot. Such a choice would have been an absurdity and worthy of the highest censure and ridicule. But *this* selection is not anything like it. It is virtually not different from the election of almost any English candidate. If Mr. Naoroji called at the Dacca Editor's under an English name, he would not only be received as an English visitor, but, from Mr. Naoroji's winning ways, probably also be asked to dinner, and the stranger would, we presume, not leave except as the friend of the Editor and his family. The *Bengal Times* may form some idea of what Mr. Naoroji is like from his portrait published in the current number of the *Empress*—the Calcutta illustrated journal. It is a speaking likeness. Of course the portrait being in ink does not pretend to give the complexion. But nobody should jump to the conclusion that the Parsee is a black man. He is perfectly fair and is undistinguishable from a Northern European. The accompanying biographical sketch shows him a worthy man. He has long been a man of mark even in England, chiefly among the knot of Anglo-Indian politicians. He has certainly been elected as an English politician, all the babblement of our home patriots notwithstanding. On principle and as a rule, a Hindu, Mussulman or Parsee representative of a British constituency is a contradiction in terms. It would be as absurd as an English President of an Indian Congress. It would be an anomaly like Mr. Hume.

ON June 13, in the House of Commons, Mr. Summers drew the attention of the Under-Secretary of State for India to a letter in the *Pall Mall Gazette* from Mr. W. S. Caine, stating that Mr. Oudh Behari Lal, of Allahabad, who had been nominated for a Government appointment in the N.-W. Provinces, was refused the appointment by the Chief of the department, because he had publicly advocated the views of the Indian National Congress, and was the Honorary Secretary of the Allahabad branch of the Anglo-Indian Temperance Association, and asked whether it was the intention of the Government of India to disqualify for Government service those Indians who identified themselves with the Congress and temperance movements. Mr. Curzon replied that the Secretary of State had no other information on the subject save what appeared in Mr. Caine's letter and that there was no such intention as attributed in the second paragraph of the question, so long as applicants for official employment, whether natives

or Europeans, do not identify themselves with movements of the nature of those mentioned in a manner which would be inconsistent with the proper discharge of official duties.

The following letter from the Government of the N.-W. P. and Oudh to the Secretary of the Board of Revenue, supplies the necessary information on the subject:—

"I am directed to forward the accompanying copy of a letter received from Oudh Behari Lal, Superintendent, Kayestha Pathshala, Allahabad, in which he states that he was nominated a Probationary Deputy Collector by the Board of Revenue in April last, and that his nomination was not sanctioned by Government owing to his having been connected with the Congress and Temperance movements.

"I am to request that the Board will inform Oudh Behari Lal that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner selected from among candidates for Probationary Deputy Collectors those whom he considered best fitted for appointment, and that the nomination of Oudh Behari Lal was not rejected on account of his temporary connection with the National Congress or Temperance movements, of which His Honour was ignorant, and which is not in any way in question.

"I am to invite attention to the opening sentence in paragraph 2 of the letter from Oudh Behari Lal, and to say that His Honour considers it desirable that nominations for Probationary Deputy Collectors should, as far as possible, be kept from those concerned till the issue is known."

That clears the Government and its head. But it does not exonerate their subordinates. Oudh Behari Lal was formally asked by the Board whether he had been a paid agent of the Congress and was an officer of the Temperance Association. Therein lies the sting. Surely that was not an irrelevant inquiry. It is fair to presume that the Board do not consider a man so connected as eligible for Government service. When, therefore, Oudh Behari Lal answered the inquiry in the affirmative, when he acknowledged his connection with the Congress and the Temperance cause, he naturally concluded himself as doomed, so far as his chances of service went. And when, finally, after such answer and admission he did not obtain the appointment, he could only conclude that he suffered for his connection.

THE new Law Courts in Madras have been completed and are ready for use. They will henceforth be one of the chief "lions" of the Southern metropolis. Situated on the Light House Esplanade, they cover about 1,00,000 square feet of ground. The cost of the buildings is given at Rs. 1,298,163. It took four years to complete them. The accommodation consists of 9 courts and about 250 rooms and corridors, with verandahs right round. There are 22 towers ranging from 100 to 175 feet.

The new buildings were, on the 12th, with some ceremony, opened by the Governor. At the main entrance, Lord Wenlock was received by the Chief Justice and the Judges of the High and Small Cause Courts and the Law officers. A procession being formed of them and others, a circuit was made of the courts, the National Anthem being played as the principal court was entered. On arrival at the dais, the Secretary to Government, P. W. D., Colonel J. Penny-cuik, offered the key—a massive silver one, a foot long—of the building to the Governor, who in his turn made it over to the Chief Justice. The Bishop of Madras then blessed the building, when, by command of the Governor and in his name, the Chief Secretary, Mr. J. F. Price, declared the building open. After a flourish of trumpets which followed, the Advocate-General asked the Chief Justice for an order to enter the proceedings on the records of the High Court, which was granted. The procession was re-formed and the National Anthem repeated. A salute of 17 guns closed, as it had commenced, the proceedings.

These ceremonies were sufficiently Orientalish. They had certainly none of the absurdity of some European forms still extant. The circuit-making reminds us of our own custom. The *Staté Purohit's* invoking the blessing of God, was the best part of the function. A banquet and gifts to Brahmans and to the poor invariably seal every Hindu ceremony. As a feed to Brahmans cannot be recommended to Europeans, they cannot have any objection to giving alms to the poor. To us, the Bishop's blessing, without some visible act of charity to God's creatures, smacks of hollowness.

The ceremonies with which the new Madras Law Courts were opened,

raise a political question of some importance. The people of India may well complain of the loss of caste of the new courts. If they were not baptised, they received certain rites. Why was the religious part of the opening ceremonies Christian? Under what law was it? or is there any other warrant? The Anglican Establishment does not warrant it. Our sovereign is Christian and makes no secret of it, but she does not impose her faith on her people. The State in India has no religion or several religions. A Shastri and a Moollah ought to have been called to bless the new Temple of Justice according to their respective rites, besides the Christian ecclesiastic. Nor is the opportunity over yet, perhaps. It may be done any time before business commences in the new buildings. Our Hindu and Mussulman fellow-subjects down South would do well to make petition to Lord Wenlock and the Chief Justice to that effect.

The matter is not so trivial as those who have lost faith in the religions of their forefathers might imagine. It is a constitutional question, and in matters of constitutional right there are no degrees. Our patriots and publicists have no imagination, and they have no originality. They depend for the most part on the initiative of foreigners, without thinking out their own situation themselves. What a vast amount of money has been sunk—irretrievably sunk—in the Congress craze and other items of the brood of Hume crazes! Yet there are fifty ways of advancing the political status of the people without starring it through the country or from land to land as political mountebanks. A battle on the issue suggested by us, fought with persistence, would be a distinct gain.

THIS time exactly three years, immediately before the Mohurrum, the two eldest sons of Nawab Abdool Luteef Bahadur were married to the third and fourth daughters of the late Chowdhry Mahomed Rusheed Khan. The third son has just now led to the altar another daughter of the same Zemindar. Three brothers are now united to three sisters. We wish the new couple all joy and happiness of this auspicious union, and the Nawab long life to enjoy the reflex.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCE.

MAHOMEDAN MARRIAGE IN HIGH LIFE.

At Natore, District of Rajshahi, at the Family Seat of the Khan Sahibs, on the night of Thursday, the 21st July, 1892, was married Moulvi Hafiz Abul Fatah Mahomed Abdool Hufiez, the third son of Nawab Abdool Luteef Bahadoor, C.I.E., to the fifth or youngest daughter of the late Chowdhry Mahomed Rusheed Khan, Khan Bahadur, Zemindar.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, July 23, 1892.

AUTHORSHIP IN INDIA.

THE complaint is generally heard that our University does not claim, as the fruit of its protracted activity, a single great name in science or literature. It every year turns out legions of young men decked with sounding titles—some of them with any number of them. But among its *alumni* very few have yet been able to earn any distinction as an author or as a *savant*. The charge is well grounded to be sure. What is the reason? We cannot admit that the barrenness which characterises our University education is due to any natural defect in the intellectual capacity of our countrymen. The descendants of the great sages who have made themselves immortal by their achievements in the domain of literature and science, cannot be quite so devoid of originality as they are by many in these days supposed to be. The fact is that what the authorities sow, that they reap. There is no encouragement whatever to original authorship and original

research. In dealing with the limits of the province of Government, Mill deprecates in the strongest manner possible the practice of neglecting the claims of scientific explorers and bestowing high rewards on the power of committing to memory what has been done by others. But in this country, almost the entire patronage at the disposal of Government is bestowed by the test of cramming, and no encouragement is given to really sound scholars and thinkers. In Europe, good authors generally derive a considerable income from their books, and are quite above soliciting Government patronage. In this country, the only books that command a large sale are school books, and no really good author has any chance of being patronised by the Education department unless he can, in vulgar parlance, curry favour with educational officers—Inspectors of Schools and so forth. In this state of things, the only wonder is that we have some among us who devote themselves entirely to the pursuit of letters.

Loud are the complaints which are made in the columns of the public press of Bengal regarding the selection of text books for the lower classes of our schools, English as well as vernacular. The feeling of dissatisfaction is intense among all interested in the working of the educational institutions of the country. The teacher who has to accept as his text the worthless compilations prescribed by the Educational authorities, the student who has to read them, and the guardian who has to pay for them, have all their grievances which every now and then find expression in some shape or other. But neither the Director of Public Instruction nor any ruler of Bengal has yet been able to check the abuse. On the contrary, it has been of late growing in dimensions to such an extent as to call for the application of some drastic remedy.

There is a standing Text-Book Committee under the Director of Public Instruction. But organized as it is, its function is only to approve or disapprove such books as are submitted to it. It has very little power for good; but as its decisions are final and as its members are not bound to give reasons for their decision, its capacity for mischief is very considerable. It may reject any good book with impunity, but has no power to give substantial encouragement to a deserving author. It may approve a book, but its approbation has commercially no value whatever.

The defects and abuses in the existing system of education are too numerous to be adequately described in a newspaper article. The method in which English is taught in the schools of this country, is specially open to exception. Almost all the primers used in initiating the native children of Bengal in the mysteries of the English tongue, are based on the plan of the Spelling Books used by English boys, who, before they enter any school, are well acquainted with almost all the words used in ordinary conversation; and have only to learn their spelling. The only rational way to begin the study of a foreign language, is to master at the outset its pronouns and the different grammatical forms of such verbs and nouns as are both simple and useful. But, instead of taking this course, our boys are made in the beginning to learn the spelling of some of the most difficult words in the English language, and also to study the construction of such sentences as

"I am up," "He is up," &c., which they may not have occasion to use even once in their life. The subject may appear to some too trivial for serious notice. But to us it seems to be one of great importance. The question has been so well argued, in a correspondence which has come to our hands, by a gentleman of wellknown attainments in English, who is an eminent lawyer and Sanscritist into the bargain, that we feel no hesitation in drawing the attention of the authorities to the letters relating to a primer entitled "First Lessons in English," which we publish in another column.

The earliest European friends of native education recognized the obvious absurdity of teaching English to Indian youth from books after the pattern of the primers used in England, though they were ill-provided with means for avoiding the mistake. Strange that the mistake continues with authoritative sanction!

A SKETCH OF

THE HISTORY OF THE PRESS IN INDIA.

By DR. SAMBIHU C. MOOKERJEE.

[Continued from page 320]

History, with its usual neglect of the heroes of peace, has not left on record the names of the Pioneers of the Press in India. An occasional name is all that has been left by accident. These biographical notices of the Press, scanty as they are, are most interesting, showing the character of the journalism of those days and the status of the conductors. The names of some of the principal journalists of Aurungzebe's reign have been preserved. The Imperial Gazetteer (*Wakanagar*)—the *Doyen* of Journalists throughout the Empire—was Mirza Ali Beg. There were many places of profit without toil and trouble under the great Mogul, but the office of the intelligencer by appointment was not one of such. This officer was in constant attendance upon His Majesty, following the court like its shadow wherever it went. Ali Beg was with the Emperor through all his campaigns in the South, and doubtless reported them. But the records must have been destroyed, purposely by order of the Emperor. Aurungzebe had an insuperable prejudice against the preservation of the annals of his reign. Hearing that some one was writing the Emperor's history, he was alarmed and vexed and instantly ordered the luckless man of letters to proceed no farther. This was Khafi Khan, a hereditary historian, and hence many deride his name. If, notwithstanding imperial embargo, he has given the world the most reliable details of Aurungzebe's reign in chronological order, we owe it to his enthusiasm of letters which made him continue his narrative in secret. Aurungzebe had his frontier gazette too as well as his home journal. A Syed of Belgram, well-known in literature for his epistolary style, Abdul Jaleel, was the official intelligencer in Guzerat. His dignity may be understood from the fact that he was also Paymaster of the Forces in that important Province. Simultaneously appointed to these posts, he was at the same time raised to the peerage as a *mansabdar*, and granted a jagir to support his elevation. So sudden an accession of good fortune could not fail to excite jealousy against the lucky man and rage against his patron the Mirza. Complaints are never wanting, and those against the new Paymaster and Gazetteer of Guzerat were encouraged, if not fomented, at the Durbar. Nothing definite was made out against him, nevertheless, it was thought expedient for peace to remove him from Guzerat. No degradation was contemplated and no loss inflicted on the faithful public servant. Similar situations were provided for him in the same frontier to the North-West. He was appointed Bukshi and Sewananager at Bukhir in Sind. Here too the tongue of malice followed him. The times were difficult. The great Alamgir Shah had long since gone to his rest. His successor too had passed away. The weak and easy Ferokhsheer was now on the throne. It was the era of uncertainty and hastening confusion. Juleel was recalled. But his good

star had not yet deserted him. His explanation satisfied the Emperor or the Syed in power, or rather Raja Ratan Chand who as the Syad's trusty factotum ruled the Empire, and Juleel was restored to his offices and dignities and emoluments. But he was growing old and had no more inclination to go to his frontier station. The aspect of the times also warned him to stay at court to maintain his interests. So he prayed to be permitted to execute his office by proxy. This indulgence was allowed. So he remained at Delhi, occasionally visiting his home at Belgram. Latterly, in 1133 Hijri, he resigned in favour of his son. He did not long survive. He died in Delhi in 1138 Hijri. His remains were carried to Belgram to be buried.

The unsatisfactory character of early history is the universal complaint of these days when nothing is accepted on trust. The obvious reason for this unsatisfactory state of things is that that history refers to a period when men took no minutes of their doings, when the art of record was not established, when perhaps men had not learnt to write, or when some few only had learnt to write imperfectly. When, at a later stage, the accomplishment became more general and the practice of record had begun, people were unable as a rule to weigh evidence and judge properly and were too simple not to be impressed with the wildest story. Hence the fables of gods and demigods, giants and fairies, heroes, centaurs, devils, magicians and what not, which constitute the staple of the early history of every community. In fine, the early history of every people is all obscurity. And not of every people only, but also of every art or science, every invention or industry, every discovery, every movement or undertaking, every convenience or comfort, every contrivance, every occupation. In favour of a single department only is one inclined to harbour an exception. One would think or expect that at least the arts or agencies which have signally favoured the preservation of the memories of man in all his manifold activities and befallings would be exempt from the common lot—that at least the history of the Press, embracing Typography and the Newspaper—would be safe. Nothing of the sort! There is some excuse for vagueness and obscurity in the early history of nations, institutions or inventions, whose foundations lie in the far off ages computed by thousands of years. No such plea holds in the case of arts and inventions of historic times, and indeed not by any possibility more than three hundred years old. It is more than lamentable, it is a shame, that there is as much obscurity about the foundation of Printing and the Press as about the foundation of Rome.

Not that there has been any indifference to the subject, any absence of inquiry. There is, indeed, a commendable thirst for knowledge but without adequate result. Whatever may have been the matter in the past, in our times at least when the spirit of investigation is abroad, when the origin of everything is being sought and nothing is taken for granted, it would have been strange had the antiquities of that art and that agency which constitute the speciality of this flower of modern times been neglected. There is neither want of curiosity in the public nor absence of desire in the learned to satisfy it. Men in number are in the field hunting for the origin of the printing press and of the newspaper. But all to little purpose. We are no nearer certainty than ever. The literature of the subject is vast, but the conclusions are few, and even these few are conflicting.

It is scarcely credible that up to this day we have not decided the question who invented printing and where, when and how. The nations are still fighting over the claim to priority. Four towns in four different countries, Haarlem, Strassburg, Mentz and Venice—early set up their respective claims to have been the birth-place of the noble art. The last named, after a brief struggle, retired from the field, but the other three have not yet made up their differences. A whole library of controversial literature has been published on the Continent of Europe, consisting of books and tracts in Latin, in German, in Dutch, in French, in Italian, and not a few writings have appeared even in English in Great Britain. The tone of this literature is highly cantankerous and bitter, so that notwithstanding the industry expended on the research and the undoubted learning of many of the writers, the true issues have often been confused in the

alacrity shown on all sides to seize a collateral advantage and inflict a literary defeat on a rival. The last great investigator was Dr. Van der Linde, a Dutch scholar and bibliographer of immense erudition. A lover of books, he collected a vast library, the extent of which may be estimated from the fact that the catalogue of a portion which was sold at Brussels in 1864 extended to nearly 400 pages octavo. From the midst of this store-house of knowledge, he sent forth books, mostly in German, in various departments of inquiry, from the orthography of the English language to Christian Theology, from the bibliography of Spinoza to the History and Literature of Chess. The origin of Printing could scarcely fail to attract the attention of such a mind. Indeed, it naturally suggested itself to him in the course of writing his *Bibliography of Haarlem*. He set to work with the patience of a Hollander as he was by birth and with the love of knowledge of a German Pandit as he was by association and sympathy. His labours were Herculean. He left no stone unturned. Even he has not been able to rescue the question from its vexed condition. Nevertheless, his contributions are of the highest negative value. In his elaborate *Haarlem Legend* he has torn to tatters the claim set up for Laurence Jans Coster of Haarlem as the inventor of printing and mercilessly exposed the extraordinary series of frauds of his own Dutch by which that claim has been supported. He then attacked the Gutenberg claim, but his work on this subject* is an inferior one, not up to his usual mark, as the English translator of his *Haarlem Legend*, Mr. J. H. Hessels, of Cambridge, promptly showed in the *Printing Times and Lithographer*. The latter then took up the subject himself and, after pursuing it with wonderful perseverance and industry, hunting all the libraries and archives of Europe and travelling hundreds of miles to verify the veriest trifle, has given the result in a 8vo. volume of nearly 230 closely printed pages. His monograph, *Gutenberg: Was he the Inventor of Printing?* is the latest contribution to the antiquities of the art. And it is worthy of the learning and research of our day. Unfortunately, for any positive conclusion, his book is Love's Labour Lost. His labours and ingenuity have gone for nought. His question—Was Gutenberg the inventor of Printing? he simply does not answer, any more than Dr. Van der Linde. "I regret", writes Mr. Hessels, "I regret that, after all my labour, I have not found anything which enables me to answer this question either with yes or no." Thus, both the Coster and Gutenberg legends are disposed of, and, except that many frauds have been detected and myths exploded, the main question remains where it was. These learned books of Dr. Van der Linde and Mr. Hessels fill one with despair. It seems that the possibility of identifying the father of the European art has passed away.

The same obscurity rests on the origin of newspapers. And, for one thing, from the same cause—fraud. The oldest existing English journal is the *Stamford Mercury* and it is not yet full two hundred years old, having been founded in 1695. The other journals of the highest pretensions to seniority all sprang in the eighteenth century. The most senior of them, the *Nottingham Journal*, was born in 1710, and the next in years, the *Northampton Mercury*, came into the world ten years later, in 1720. Surely English journalism is older than two centuries. There were "Mercuries" before the *Stamford Mercury* flourished. The founder of that weekly sheet of news was a contemporary of the Indian journalist Mirza Ali Beg. It is to be presumed there were journalists before them in both countries, just as there were kings before Agamemnon. The popular idea has long been that journalism sprang in the day of anxiety when the English people were expecting the approach of the Spanish Armada, in 1587, when sheets of news respecting the movements of the enemy and the preparations of Government to meet him were circulated with the full support of the court and cabinet to meet the general demand. These were flying sheets for the occasion. With the great English naval victory and the destruction of Philip's Fleet, though the immediate danger was passed, there remained enough reason for anxiety, and the demand for information which had been quickened continued, so that in the following year, 1588, a permanent arrangement for the supply of news was

established in the shape of a sheet under the style of the *English Mercurie* "published by authorities for the prevention of false reports." This was the first British newspaper. This was the legend of the origin of English journalism. It was accepted as the final gospel when the antiquarian Chalmers gave it his authority. In proof of its truth, the curious were referred to the British Museum in which were deposited copies of the original *English Mercuries*. In India, as late as 1867, M. D. M. Traill, a gentleman who might be presumed to know, in a booklet published in this city, gave it currency. Many years before that, however, the legend had been exposed and exploded by one of the Pandits of the British Museum itself, Mr. Watts. He showed that the *English Mercuries* in deposit in that great store-house, some of which were in MS. and others in print, were unblushing impositions—mere forgeries in fact, of a much later date. I say "unblushing," because the trick is of the rudest, and it is a wonder that such an important history had been built on such an absurd foundation. The fact is, that the paper of these *Mercuries* bears the water mark of George I. So the origin of British journalism still remains a mystery. We do not yet know the date of the first newspaper in Great Britain.

Thus the history of the noble art of Printing in all its varied applications, has been mystified—confused and confounded at every step. And learned men have assisted at the frauds. What a reflection upon the vanity and pettiness of man, to say nothing of principle!

TEXT BOOKS.

From—Baboo Jogendra Nath Bhattacharya, M. A., D. L.

To—Sir Alfred Croft, M. A., K. C. I. E.,

Director of Public Instruction.

Dated Calcutta, the 21st December 1891.

SIR,—In accordance with your verbal orders I submit herewith a copy of a primer entitled "First Lessons in English." For facilitating comparison, I send with it also a copy of Messrs. MacMillan and Co's First Book of Reading which may be taken as typical of the primers now generally used in initiating the boys of this country in the study of English. A glance at Messrs. MacMillan and Co's First Book would show that it is compiled on the plan of the Spelling Books which are meant for English boys who before going to school are already well acquainted with the pronunciation, meaning and application of most of the words used in ordinary conversation and have only to learn their spelling. Like its prototypes the First Book of Reading contains in its Spelling Lessons some of the most difficult words in the English language without giving their meaning or their pronunciation. In the beginning the reader is taught to pronounce the letter combinations *ba, be, ca, ce, ga, ge, &c.*, according to arbitrary direction given by Bengali transliteration, and the tendency to incorrect pronunciation which is thus caused is seldom shaken off completely even at an advanced age. In the Spelling Lessons, he is called upon to master such words as "dad, fad, fag, cyme, gyve, quaim, choir, chasm, phlegm, junk, joust" which can not be of any use to him except at an advanced stage of his educational career. He makes some efforts to master them. But he has to depend at each step on his teacher, and at last he is advised to omit them altogether; thus acquiring at the outset the habit of never aiming at being thorough.

The Spelling Lessons being omitted the Indian student practically begins his study of English with the Reading Lessons containing such expressions as "I am up," "He is up," "He is to go," &c., which may at first sight appear to be very simple, but the peculiarity of their grammatical construction renders it impossible for our teachers to make them intelligible to beginners.

The present system might have been justifiable, if it were of any importance for the boys of this country to learn at all the very outset such expressions as those quoted above. Their only recommendation is the simplicity of their wording. But after all the trouble taken to master them, of what use are they to the Indian student? He may not have any occasion to express the idea conveyed by "I am up" even once in his life. But it is of the greatest importance to him to learn such phrases and recognised modes of expression as are given in pages 67-72 of my primer. Such expressions are conspicuous by their absence in the text-books now used in the English schools of this country, the result being that even among the advanced students, there can be found very few who can give an appropriate reply when challenged by another person or questioned as to the state of his health. My own view is, that in the beginning, it is much easier to master words than to understand the construction of sentences. There is, in fact, no reason whatever, why the student should be in a hurry to deprive one or two solitary ideas in English, before he has learned even the

* Gutenberg, Geschichte und Erdichtung aus den Quellen nachgelesen, von Dr. A. van der Linde. 8vo. Stuttgart, 1878.

simplest words in the language. After having acquired some idea of the pronunciation of the letters and of their various usual combinations, he should get by heart such words as are both simple and useful. Before proceeding further, he should learn at least the pronouns and the various forms of the auxiliary verbs, as they appear when conjugated with the pronouns. When a sufficient stock of words is acquired, then he may be taught to study the result of the combination in which they are found in the Reading Lessons.

It is on these principles that my primer has been compiled. It is divided into three parts as detailed below.

The first part deals with the letters of the alphabet and illustrates their pronunciation by actual words and not by arbitrary letter combinations like *ba, be, ca, ce, &c.*

The second part gives lists of words beginning with the pronouns and ending with the different forms which the verbs undergo in the past tense and perfect participle.

The third part commences with the conjugation of such verbs as *be, have, do, go, &c.* And, after giving a list of some of the important idiomatic phrases in the English language, concludes with a few reading lessons, giving useful information on various subjects.

To enable boys to remember the pronunciation of the words, I have, wherever possible, transliterated them in Bengali. This system may be taken exception to on the ground that it may, in some cases, lead to a little awkwardness in pronunciation. But to some extent transliterations are given in other primers also. I have only given in print what the boys note in their books--oftentimes very incorrectly--in writing. The Bengali transliterations will certainly help them to remember the different pronunciations of the same letters in such words as "get," "gem," &c. The system may lead to mispronunciation now and then. But it ought to be the look-out of the teacher to prevent that. The Bengali transliteration is not meant to enable boys to do without the help of the teacher, but to save his trouble to such extent as is possible.

In conclusion I beg to state for your information that my primer has been approved of and strongly recommended for the use of schools in this country by several eminent scholars including the Editors of the "Reis and Rayyet" and the "Statesman." A printed slip containing the opinion of the "Statesman" and "Hope" is sent herewith for your kind inspection. There is, no doubt, room for considerable improvement in details, and I need hardly say that if the general plan of my Primer be approved of by you, and if it be appointed as a text-book for the schools in Bengal, then I shall be glad to give effect to any suggestion that may be kindly made by you.

No. 1604.

From--Sir Alfred Croft, K. C. I. E.,

Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

To--Babu Jogendra Nath Bhattacharya, M. A., D. L.

Calcutta 11th March 1892.

SIR,--In continuation of this office No. 44 dated the 6th January last, I have the honour to state that your "First Lessons in English" has not been recommended by the Central Text Book Committee for inclusion in the authorized list. While not disapproving of the principles on which the work is professedly drawn up, the Committee are of opinion that it fails in many of the transliterations as well as in the translation and selection of words and they are therefore unable to include it in the list in its present form.

From--Baboo Jogendra Nath Bhattacharya, M.A., D.L.

To--The Secretary to the Central Text Book Committee, Calcutta.

Calcutta, July 1892.

SIR,--From the Resolution recorded by the Text Book Committee regarding my "First Lessons in English," it appears that, while the principles on which it has been drawn up have been approved of, exception has been taken, in general terms, as to its transliterations and translations and also as to the selection of words given in it. With regard to the transliterations, I have the honour to observe that I have not adopted any of those standard systems which have been framed with reference to the requirements of the whole country. My book is meant only for the few districts of Bengal proper, and, in the transliterations which I have given, only such Bengali letters have been employed as, by their actual pronunciation in Bengal, are the nearest equivalents of the English letters and letter combinations whose sounds they are meant to represent. For instance, the 32nd letter of the Bengali alphabet is pronounced as *S* throughout the greater part of India. But in Bengal, it is pronounced as *Sh* and not as equivalent of *S*. I have therefore used the 7th letter as the equivalent of *S*.

As Bengali transliterations can never exactly represent the sounds of English words, it may be said that the method ought to be avoided altogether. But the native students, in every English school

in this country, do, in fact, learn the pronunciation of English words by noting their Bengali transliterations in writing, just as Europeans usually learn the language of this country by transliterating vernacular words in English. As with all its defects the Sanskrit alphabet is a decidedly more perfect one than the English, the boys of this country might, it seems, use with advantage Bengali transliterations in order to learn the pronunciation of English words. The English spelling of English words generally gives no idea as to their pronunciation. But the Bengali transliterations, with all their defects, are calculated to give a better idea. Whatever difference of opinion there may be as to the utility of transliterations for advanced students, there can be no doubt that they are a necessity to beginners. As stated in my letter to the Director of Public Instruction dated the 21st December 1891, I have only given in print what the boys note in writing--oftentimes very incorrectly. So far as my experience goes, there are very few even among the advanced students in the English schools of this country, who can correctly pronounce even such simple words as *sew, suite, slough, sugar, dairy, gaol, tear, forte, gig, gibe, gauge, divorce, err, elite, indict, naïve, ogre, ochre, onion, octroi, phlegm, tout, bauteur, douceur, souvenir, penchant, melee, patois, brochure, &c.* To me it seems, that the pronunciation of such words can be learnt much better by Bengali transliterations, than by such general ideas as can be gathered by the boys from the lessons in *ba, be, bo* which they are now made to study in the beginning. There are, it is true, such words as *regime, protige, rouge &c.*, which can not be transliterated in Bengali. But that is no reason why transliteration should be eschewed altogether.

In my letter to the Director of Public Instruction, dated the 21st December 1891, I have explained in detail the considerations which led me to give the transliterations in my "First Lessons," and as the principles, on which it has been drawn up, have been approved by the Committee, I do not think, I need say anything more here in order to justify my plan.

As to my method of transliterating, I have already referred to the reasons for the departure, and, so far as I can see, it does not, generally speaking, seem to me possible to give more exact equivalents, consistently with the principles approved of by the Committee.

As to the translations, I submit that there is room for considerable difference of opinion. The difficulty of translating the idiomatic expressions of a foreign language lies in giving the exact equivalents of the component words, and at the same time making the translation idiomatic and intelligible. For instance, the idea conveyed by the expression "Hold your tongue" can, by no means, be expressed in Bengali by giving only the literal meanings of the component words. I have tried my best to make the translations intelligible, though it is quite possible that some of them may be slightly improved.

As to selection of words, I beg leave to observe that in order to illustrate the sounds of some of the letters and letter combinations, I have been obliged to use a few difficult words. But I have given their pronunciations and their meanings, and by mastering them, the memory of the students would not be taxed quite so unnecessarily, as it is now by their being called upon to learn merely spelling. In the first chapter of my book, which deals with the sounds of letters, some of the illustrations might have been omitted without any disadvantage. But in that case exception might have been taken on the ground of its being defective. The second chapter, which deals with words, begins with the Pronouns and ends with the different forms of such simple Verbs as, *do, see, go, &c.* I submit that verbs like these and the pronouns are not only the simplest words in the English language, but are the most useful for conversational purposes. The native students ought to know them by heart before attempting to express any idea in English. The present method of teaching them English is to accustom them to study the construction of sentences, before they have any idea of the grammatical changes which words undergo on account of their number, person, tense and case, and before they have any knowledge of even the simplest words. To me this method seems to be like calling upon a man to spend before he has been able to earn anything. I have avoided this method. There are a few points of detail as to which my book is susceptible of improvement. But the gentlemen outside the Committee, to whose criticism I submitted my book, have not been able to discover any such glaring error or defect in it as to preclude it from being selected as a text book, or to place it on a lower level than the books which, blindly following the method of the spelling books meant for English boys, give only long lists of difficult words which to a foreigner beginning to study English, are practically useless. I have shown that this method is not suited to the boys of this country who have to learn not only the spelling of English words but also their meaning, pronunciation and use; and as my views have been virtually accepted by the committee, I hope I may be excused for not being satisfied with their decision as to my book. I therefore hope, that you will be kind enough to move the Committee to reconsider their decision and, in case it be adverse, to let me know the particular instances of transliteration, translation and selection of words which they do not approve of.

THE ALLEGED LITERARY FRAUDS.

THE ACCUSED AT BOW-STREET.

SIR Gilbert Edward Campbell, of 8, Barnard's Inn; Charles Montague Clarke, of Glen Legan, Droma, Ireland; William James Morgan, of 38, Lynette-avenue, Clapham-common; David William Tolmie, accountant, of 84, Lady Margaret-road, Camden Town; and Edward Sherwin were charged at Bow-street on June 14th with conspiracy to defraud the Rev. Marcus Richards and others. Mr. C. F. Gill and Mr. A. Gill (instructed by Mr. Frayling of the Treasury) prosecuted; Mr. St. John Wontner defended Sir Gilbert Campbell; and Clarke was defended by Mr. Crawshaw. Mr. Eastwood appeared for Sherwin.

Mr. Gill, in opening the case, said that the prisoners had been connected with several societies which had been instituted for the express purpose of swindling the public. The Societies were called by a variety of names. Circulars and letters were sent all over the country describing the International Society of Science and Art as a society for the promotion and advancement of literature, science, and music, and the education and advantage of its members and fellows; the encouragement of students of all ages and both sexes in all branches of science, literature and art; the distribution of prizes; the selling or publication of manuscripts; introduction, by means of which artists could sell their painting at a high price, and the publication of a journal for the use of the members. The entrance fee was £2 2s.; the annual subscription £1 1s.; and members were entitled to write F. S. L. after their names. The objects set forth were excellent; but it would be shown that the intention of the prisoners was to obtain subscriptions and entrance fees from the public, and in return they gave absolutely nothing. The prospectuses contained a great many names, some of which had been placed there without the sanction of their owners. The executive of one of the societies included W. J. Morgan and D. Tolmie. Another of the prospectuses included the names of D. Tolmie and C. M. Clarke, who sometimes used one or two other Christian names. In some instances the prisoner Sir Gilbert Campbell was described as Sir G. Campbell. It was suggested that this was done to lead people to suppose Sir George Campbell was referred to. Some time ago proceedings were taken in the High Court to recover certain manuscripts from Morgan and a man named Tomkins, who was connected with some of the societies. This gave great publicity to the case, and the bogus societies with which some of the prisoners had been connected had been traced back to 1873. Premises were obtained by the prisoners by referring landlords to each other. They remained in the offices they thus obtained until they were ejected for the non-payment of rent, and then took another place. In the same way, as soon as the name of one society was worn out they started another. It was marvellous with what success and for what a long period the swindle had been carried on. The Charing-cross Publishing Company came into existence in July, 1873. It was started by the prisoner Morgan and a man named Tomkins, who was not yet in custody. When the Charing-cross Society died out its place was taken by the City of London Publishing Company (Limited), which was started by Morgan and Tomkins. The society proposed to assist authors by employing readers to go through their MSS. and report as to their value. The result might be imagined. The story, or poem, or whatever it might be, was always favourably reported upon, and, according to the reader had a great future before it. The society undertook to publish the work on receiving half the cost, and the delighted author willingly parted with his money. He never, however, saw his work in print, and repeated applications only resulted in repeated excuses, the printers generally being blamed for the delay. One of the bogus societies was the Authors' Alliance (Limited), of which Tomlie, Sir Gilbert Campbell, Clarke, and Morgan were the directors. Morgan was also secretary under the name of W. James. The Authors' Alliance took over the business of the City of London Company, which was very favourably reported upon in the prospectus by the directors. It was evident that whatever literary ability the prisoners possessed was devoted to framing prospectuses in such a way as to defraud the public. Morgan, who was the vendor of the City of London Company, actually guaranteed a minimum dividend of 8 per cent.; but of course it was never paid. Eventually premises at 59 and 60, Chancery-lane, were taken by some of the prisoners, who recommended each other. Then the Berners-street Gallery Company was started by Morgan and Tomkins. This was succeeded by the Literary and Artistic Union, of which Morgan was the manager. That had a very short existence, and gave way to the Artists' Alliance, which came into existence in November, 1889. This was a great success from prisoners' point of view, as money came in freely for some little time. The Artists' Alliance was at 9, John-street, Adelphi, and Sir Gilbert Campbell was connected with it. Sherwin was the secretary and signed the cheques. It would be proved that the affair was a fraud, and that the society only existed for the purpose of obtaining money for subscriptions and diplomas. The concern was carried on until the door was screwed up in Sherwin's absence, money being owing for rent. The International Society was started by Morgan and a man

named Steadman. This enterprise was enquired into by Mr. Labouchere, of *Truth*, and a written agreement between Steadman and Morgan was put into his possession. According to this agreement, the two were to share the expenses and profits. They also shared any money obtained by either of them by appointing additional secretaries, who had to pay for their position. Inspector Richards, who had conducted the case with great ability, had discovered that during the twelvemonth this society was in existence Steadman and Richards received about £2,450.

Some evidence having been given in support of counsel's statement, the further hearing of the case was adjourned. Bail was refused for Morgan and Tolmie, Clarke and Sir Gilbert Campbell were admitted to bail in two sureties of £100 each, and Sherwin in two sureties of £50.

PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGE.

(*London Law Times.*)

Although privilege is correctly defined as the discretionary authority of each House of Parliament, and an authority which Coke lays down ought to be exercised "in that House to which it relates, and not elsewhere," it must be borne in mind that no new privilege can be created. In 1704 the Lords communicated a resolution to the Commons at a conference, "That neither House of Parliament have power by any vote or declaration to create to themselves new privileges not warranted by the known laws and customs of Parliament," which was assented to by the Commons. The power of the Lords to commit for contempt was questioned in the case of the Earl of Shaftesbury in 1675, and of Flower in 1779, but was admitted without hesitation by the Court of King's Bench. The power of commitment by the Commons is established upon the ground and evidence of immemorial usage. Any resistance to the Serjeant-at-Arms or his officers, or others acting in execution of the orders of either House, has always been treated as a contempt, and the parties in numerous instances have suffered punishment accordingly. If the warrant write that the person to be arrested has been guilty of a breach of privilege, the courts of law cannot inquire into the grounds of the judgment, but must leave him to suffer the punishment awarded by the High Court of Parliament by which he stands committed. The Habeas Corpus Act is binding upon all persons whatever who have prisoners in their custody, and it is therefore competent for judges to have before them persons committed by the Houses of Parliament for contempt. But although the return is made according to law, the person who stands committed for contempt cannot be admitted to trial, nor the causes of commitment inquired into by the courts of law. In 1751 Mr. Murray was committed to Newgate by the Commons for a contempt, and was brought up to the Court of King's Bench by a *Habeas Corpus*. The Court refused to admit him for trial, Mr. Justice Wright observing, "It need not appear to us what the contempt was, for we could not judge thereof. The House of Commons is superior to this Court in this particular. This Court cannot admit to trial a person committed for a contempt in any other court in Westminster Hall."

In several important particulars there is a difference in the methods of punishment adopted by the Lords and Commons in cases of breach of privilege. The Lords claim to be a court of record, and as such not only imprison but too impose fines. They also imprison for a fixed time, and order security to be given for good conduct, and their customary form of commitment is by attachment. The Commons, on the other hand, commit for no specified period—of late years have not imposed fines. The last case of fine by the Commons occurred in 1666, when a fine of £1,000 was imposed upon Thomas White who had absconded after he had been ordered into the custody of the Serjeants-at-Arms. No period of imprisonment is named by the Commons, and the prisoners committed by them, if not sooner discharged by the House, are immediately released from their confinement on a prorogation. When the offence has not been so grave as to cause the commitment of the offender, he is generally directed to be admonished only. This course was pursued in the recent case. What is said by the Speaker in reprimanding or admonishing persons at the Bar is always ordered to be entered on the journals. Formerly also persons who were censured for breach of privilege were compelled to receive the censure upon their knees. In both Houses, however, this practice has long been discontinued, although the entries in the Lords' journals still assume that the offenders are on their knees at the Bar. The ceremony is said to have been brought into some ridicule in 1751 by a culprit who, on rising from the floor, exclaimed in a tone that was audible to all, while ostentatiously dusting his dress, that this was in truth "the dirtiest house he had ever been in," and in the same year Murray on being ordered to kneel, informed the indignant House that he never knelt except to God alone. It was found impossible to make him yield, and he was imprisoned in Newgate for four months, and then released by a prorogation. A few printers appear to have been subsequently censured in the usual form, but in 1772 the practice of kneeling was abolished by a standing order of the House of Commons.

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OFFICE: 1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane, Wellington Street, Calcutta.

DROIT ET AVANT.

Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, JULY 30, 1892.

No. 535

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

ETERNITY.

BY C. D. STEWART.

THOU rollest on, O! deep, unmeasured sea,
Thy length and depth a mystery profound;
Days, weeks, years, centuries, in immensity
Pass on, nor leave a footstep, nor a sound.
Thou lightest up thy smooth, unwrinkled brow,
Beyond the limit of our utmost thought;
A shoreless space—where Ages mutely bow
Like bubbles on thy bosom, and are not!
We hear a tramp of feet, we see a throng
Of generations flashing through the gloom;
They fade, and others rise, and far along
Thy caverns yawn, and Nature finds her tomb
In thee; but thou, nor young nor old, art evermore
One all-pervading space—a sea without a shore!

THERE'S LIGHT BEHIND THE CLOUD!

In the lone and weary nights, my child,
When all around is drear;
When the moon is hidden by the clouds,
And grief and pain are near—

O, never think, my gentle boy,
In that gloomy, trying hour,
That thou art not protected still
By a kind Almighty Power!

Soon will those dark clouds roll away,
And the glorious stars appear;
And the pensive moon, with her calm, pale light,
Will shine in beauty clear.

There is an Eye above, my child,
That slumbers not nor sleeps;
There is a Friend in heaven, love,
Who still His vigil keeps.

And though in trouble's darkest hour
His face He seems to shroud,
Believe—remember—O, my child,
There's light behind the cloud!

THE AURORA BOREALIS.

OFF in the solemn night,
When Earth is veiled in darkness to the eye,
There comes a sudden and mysterious light
Within the azure sky!

'T is not the twilight beam,
Nor the pale radiance of the starry throng,
Nor Cynthia's pensive ray, nor meteor's gleam,
Shooting the heavens along:

But a strange, shifting glow,
Bright'ning and fading, like to flickering flame—
High o'er the North, white columns upwards go—
Then die—then soar again.

Light of the dreary North,
Fain would we know thy far and hidden springs,
And on what bidding thou dost issue forth
In ghostlike wanderings.

Art thou the icy smile
Of Arctic oceans, streaming in the sky?
Or light from some unknown, volcanic pile,
Uptwining, huge and high,

On a far northern shore,
With giant craters gaping to a sea,
Fiery and vast, that deep within Earth's core
Burneth unceasingly?

Or art thou near allied
To the bright spark that gilds the thunder-cloud?—
Yet moving voiceless through the heavens wide—
Piercing night's sable shroud?

Vain is each prying thought,
To find the source and nature of thy ray,
For thou art ever with deep mystery fraught,
We cannot cast away.

He, whose stupendous plan
Worketh unchanging through all space and time,
For unknown ends, thy fitful flames doth fan,
And laws for thee assign.

And He thy home hath cast
'Mid seas of ice, unchanged by Summer's ray—
'Mid frigid deserts, stretching far and vast,
Where life can never stay.

Yet doth thy nightly glow
Glad the far dwellers of the dreary North:
The Greenlander, amid the drifted snow,
Doth hail thy coming forth.

Thou cheerest Siberia's gloom,
Sweden's cold clime, and Norway's ice-girt shore;
And northern men their hardy toils resume
When thou dost brightly soar.

EDWIN S. HIGGIE.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

WEEKLYANA.

A FAMOUS duel was lately fought without arms in America between a Whiteman from Europe and a blackman of the United States. We refer to the contest between George Dixon, the coloured featherweight of Boston, and Fred. Johnson, the English champion, for the Featherweight Championship of the World and a purse of £1,000. This sporting event came off on June 27th, at the Coney Island Athletic Club in New York. Notwithstanding the high price of admission, the place was packed full to its utmost capacity. Dixon was the favourite. He forced the fighting from the first, but in the first round Johnson displayed much skill, and at the outset seemed to be gaining the upper hand. Dixon, however, maintained his ground. Thus it went on till the twelfth round, without any decisive result. Both were cautious in the extreme, and each succeeded in holding his own. The thirteenth round gave Dixon a decided advantage, the coloured champion landing some well-directed blows, which had a marked effect upon Johnson, who began to show signs of unsteadiness and some fatigue. The fate of the day was decided early in the fourteenth round. In a few moments Dixon discharged and hit Johnson a tremendous left-hander on the jaw, following it up with his right hand, which floored him, and Dixon himself falling on top of him, completed the business, for poor Johnson's head struck the floor, making him insensible.

WE read in the English papers :—

"One of the most sensational crimes ever perpetrated in a court of justice was witnessed in the Court of General Sessions, New York, on June 27th. Judge Martin was on the bench, and the court was crowded, when the case against a man named Clerger, accused of having assaulted a girl Sarah Devine, fifteen years old, was being heard. Clerger pleaded guilty, and was being conducted from the room by an officer, when the spectators were startled by the discharge of a pistol-shot. The prisoner dropped on the floor dead, shot through the heart, and at the same instant the prosecutrix, Sarah Devine, exclaimed, 'My God! it is my brother.' For a moment the judge and court officials were paralysed. The terrified spectators blocked the doorway, and the brother of the prosecutrix, John Devine, who had fired the revolver at the prisoner, was promptly placed under arrest."

It was a case of vulgar sensation. For the taking of the law into his own hands by Sarah's brother was perfectly gratuitous, the defendant having pleaded guilty. The shooting was a deed of mere savagery.

Two influential land-holders of the Pilibhit district were tried for murder of a young man who was supposed to have intrigued with a daughter of one them. The Sessions Judge of Bareilly has acquitted both of them. One of them has, however, been fined for delaying to report the death.

SYUD NURUL HUDA, Officiating Joint Magistrate and Deputy-Collector, Nawada, Gya, will officiate for 25 days for Mr. J. Tweedie, on leave, as District and Sessions Judge of Patna. Such appointments of natives has ceased by their number to draw special interest of the native community. The present appointment, however, shews that our Mahomedan brethren have made up their deficiencies and have established an equal footing with the Hindus. This is the second Mahomedan appointment of the kind in these Provinces. We are glad to see our Mahomedan fellow-subjects coming to the fore. Only for the sake of their community we wish the choice, for some time at least, to be made with intelligence and judgment.

IN the same gazette we find Babu Kedar Nath Roy from Sealdah is transferred to Birbhum to officiate as District and Sessions Judge for Mr. J. Whitmore.

THE *Madras Standard* gives a full dose of its WHIP to the Judge of Coimbatore who sat upon Dewan Bahadoor Subramanier Iyer, when the latter, in his capacity of Government Pleader, lately appeared before him to prosecute an interesting but difficult case of murder from superstition among the Todas. The article is a trifle long, and it is spoiled by misprints, but it is a favorable specimen of banter of the Indian press. The proceedings of a District Judge of such pronounced self-consciousness are appropriately headed "His Honor." And throughout the phrase is repeated and reiterated at every step.

SURGEON-MAJOR-GENERAL W. R. Rice goes on leave for three months from the 8th August next, Surgeon-Colonel J. Richardson, Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, N.-W. P. and Oudh, acting during the period the Surgeon General and Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India.

THE Wild Birds Protection Act (XX of 1887) has been extended to the territories for the time being administered by the Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan as such Agent.

THE Governor General in Council has exempted from custom duties all arms, ammunition, and military stores imported into British India, with the sanction of the Government of India, for the use of any portion of the military forces of a Native State in India which may be maintained and organised for Imperial service.

IN Queensland, they still lock up the jurymen. The Chief Justice Lilley denounces the practice as an arbitrary invasion of the rights of free citizens and scornfully wonders why the Judges are not equally treated. The privilege of Jury trial is not without its disadvantages.

A SOUTH American Court at Guayaquil, unable to fix the relative guilt of two prisoners, Francisco Briones and Victor Hiquera, passed the following sentence :—

"They shall draw lots, and the one favoured by chance shall not be executed, and shall have his sentence commuted to that of imprisonment for life, which sentence he shall serve in the prison of the capital of the Republic after being present at the execution of the other murderer."

There is honesty in that, at any rate. Unfortunately, that is not the only instance proving that justice in the law courts is oftentimes a game of chance.

IN the Manchester County Court, in a suit for recovery of money lent, the Judge found that the borrower had agreed to pay interest on arrears of instalments at the rate of one half-penny per shilling per week, which amounted to more than two hundred per cent. per annum. There was a decree for the principal with interest at five per cent. per annum from the dates of the several defaults, which the Judge considered full justice.

MR. Vanderbilt went one day to Meissonier and asked him which of his works was, in his own opinion, his *chef-d'œuvre*. Meissonier answered, "The Chess-Players." Whom does it belong to? was Mr. Vanderbilt's next question. To Herr Meyer, of Dresden, was the answer. That very night Mr. Vanderbilt despatched a secretary to Dresden, who went straight to Herr Meyer and demanded to know his price. "£10,000," replied the owner, thinking that he had effectually frightened his interrogator. "I take it," said the secretary, to the great astonishment of Herr Meyer, and take it he did.

THE Government of Bengal has promptly published the proceedings of the Belvedere Conference of the 18th July. The following resolution embodying the decisions arrived at, is published in the week's *Calcutta Gazette* with the proceedings of that day and the papers circulated beforehand :—

"In considering the various schemes which have been brought forward from time to time for the purpose of providing the town of Howrah and the small municipal towns on the west bank of the river between Howrah and Hooghly with a supply of filtered water, the Lieutenant-Governor was led to the opinion that the existing municipal law did not make adequate provision for inducing municipalities to undertake schemes of water-supply or drainage, or to combine their resources for the purpose of undertaking such schemes. Tentative proposals were therefore drawn up with this object, and were circulated to selected officers and non-official Chairmen of Municipalities. On receipt of their opinions, a number of gentlemen who were qualified by their experience to advise the Lieutenant-Governor on these difficult questions were asked to meet His Honour at a Conference at Belvedere on the 18th July. The reports and papers bearing on the subject were circulated to them beforehand for consideration. The Conference agreed in adopting the following Resolutions, one member dissenting from the first three, but concurring in the fourth :—

- I. That it is expedient, in the opinion of this Conference, that the Local Government should be empowered, if the existing law does not already empower it, to require municipalities to apply under section 221 for the extension of the provisions of Parts VI and VII of the Municipal Act (i.e. to provide for projects of drainage and water-supply).
- II. That it is expedient, in the opinion of this Conference, that the Local Government should be empowered to require

municipalities to combine with one another, and with District or Local Boards and Cantonment authorities, for the purpose of improving the water-supply of the area subject to their jurisdiction.

III. That it is expedient, in the opinion of this Conference, that the Local Government should be empowered to require municipalities to combine with one another, and with District or Local Boards and Cantonment authorities, for the purpose of improving the drainage of the area subject to their jurisdiction.

IV. That when an application is made to Government on the part of the inhabitants of any tract where malarial fever prevails, or when it is notorious that there is a high rate of mortality due to the want of drainage, provision shall be made by law for ascertaining the wishes of the majority of the inhabitants or owners of property concerned, as represented by the District Board, and if the majority support the scheme, the Government shall be empowered to carry out comprehensive schemes of drainage, and to raise from the area affected such funds as may be necessary for meeting the cost of such schemes.

2. Steps will now be taken to add to the Municipal Bill pending before the Legislative Council provisions giving effect to the first three resolutions. Application will also be made to the Government of India for permission to introduce into Council a Bill embodying the principle affirmed in the fourth resolution."

There were present at the Conference, the Lieutenant-Governor, the Hon'ble the Secretary H. H. Risley in charge of the Municipal Bill, the Hon'ble Dr. Mahendralal Sircar, Mr. D. R. Lyall, of the Board of Revenue, the Joint Irrigation Secretary Mr. C. W. Olding, the Sanitary Commissioner Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Gregg, Prince Khoorshed Kader Syud Iskandar Ali Mirza Bahadar, Chairman of the Lalbagh Municipality, Raja Pearymohun Mookerjee, of Uttarpara, Rai Bahadar Eshan Chunder Mitter, Chairman, Hooghly and Chinsurah Municipality, Rai Bahadar Nalinaksha Basu, Chairman, Burdwan Municipality, Rai Bahadar Shib Chunder Banerjee, Chairman Bhagalpur Municipality, Babu Surendranath Banerjee, Rai Bahadar Gopal Chunder Mookerjee, Chairman, Cossipur-Chitpur Municipality, and Khan Bahadar Fuzl Imam, Vice-Chairman, Patna Municipality.

The dissenting member was Raja Pearymohun Mookerjee, and he proved a host.

IN the course of its leader of Thursday, the *Englishman* writes:—

"The electors of Finsbury claim the proud privilege of presenting a Parsee to the High Court of Parliament, and thereby give innocent pleasure to, for instance, other good people in Madras."

Do the Parsees hail from Madras? So much for the well-regulated household of a "leading journal"!

NOTES & LEADERETTES

with

OUR OWN NEWS.

THE order of the Garter has been bestowed on the Duke of Devonshire (Lord Hartington) and the Duke of Abercorn.

The Commander-in-Chief of Cashmere, Raja Ram Singh, has been made a C. B.

THE disaster at Sangir is not wholesale. Not the entire island, but only the north-west portion has been destroyed. The mortality is confined to 2,000 inhabitants and not 12,000. No European has been killed.

LORD Sherbrooke is dead.

THE petition against Dadabhai Naoroji's election has been lodged. The Conservative leaders in Central Finsbury think that they have come upon sufficient evidence to outvote the Indian and to return their own Captain Penton.

THERE have been during the week vague rumours in the Bazar of immediate war in Afghanistan involving both Russia and England. It was all, we suspect, the reflection on the native mind of European conversation.

IN point of fact, the tension of the relations between our Government and the Amir has a trifle abated. The Government of India had ad-

ressed another remonstrance to the ruler of Cabul against his proceedings against Bajour, to which His Highness has replied with moderation. He of course still accuses Omra Khan as the cause of the mischief. Nevertheless, he will abstain from attack till provoked. As regards the settlement of the frontier about Asmar, he is understood to show some disposition to discuss the subject with our Government. This may well be considered an improvement on the previous spirit of sullenness.

THE Hazara revolt in Afghanistan seems to be a serious affair. News has been received at Simla from Cabul to the effect that, besides the regular troops, the Amir has seventy thousand tribal levies from the Cabul, Candahar, and Ghazni districts employed to suppress the Hazara revolt. An incredible statement! The Achakzai and Murzai tribes, who refused to furnish levies to the Governor of Candahar unless commanded on service by their own chiefs, are said to be emigrating to British territory for fear of the Amir's vengeance. The reason of their refusal to supply levies was that the Candahar troops had lost heavily in the previous fighting owing to bad generalship.

It is said that the Afghan general had seized a number of inoffensive people near Orusghan and sent them in chains to Cabul in proof of the suppression of the revolt.

THE Amir has put to death two Shia mullahs of Candahar on suspicion of endeavouring to excite revolt of the Shia Hazaras. This severity has aroused angry feeling among the Kazilbashs of Cabul and Candahar, who are all Shias. It was very inopportune at the particular time of the year, close upon the Moharam when the religious frenzy of the Kazilbashs will be roused against all the oppressors of the Imams and their followers to the latest generations.

THE Bombaywallahs are determined to make the most of the Chicago Exhibition as an opportunity for putting money in their purse. They are organising an expedition of the Barnum kind by which they expect to clear over half a lac of Rupees after paying all expenses. They propose to open a restaurant with Hindu servants—in their picturesque costume—and Native music, which is sure to attract. Here they hope to sell a million cups of Indian tea at 10 cents each, netting a lac of Rupees. They do not take into consideration the contingency of opposition from India itself. The Bengal Tea Planters have decided to open a Pavilion where they will probably offer tea free to all comers. They may dish Ducks in their own gravy by sending over a khansama service dressed in grotesque finery and a band of *dhaks* and *dhol*s to keep the black waiters in countenance.

THE *Indian Planter's Gazette* is a business organ rather than a political journal, but that very circumstance gives it an advantage in the treatment of politics, when it comes to treat them. That treatment, alike for manner and matter, is usually free from conventionality. The *I. P. G.* generally pursues a line of its own. No journal has exposed the inconsistency and absurdity of the Government of India's decision in the case of Judge Wheeler with such downright bluntness or with more plain vigour. The Judge of Jounpore was accused by the High Court of not having written his judgment in the case of Devi Persad, as he pretended to have done. The Commission appointed by the Local Government to enquire came to the conclusion that he did not write and deliver his judgment. The Local Government accepted that conclusion. But the Government of India, when the matter came before it, thought differently. The Governor-General in Council held that the charge of not writing the judgment was not proven. Mr. Wheeler's conduct with regard to the decree of the Bank of Upper India was, however, held to be "censurable." That surely could not be ground for sacrificing an old servant of the state. Nevertheless, the Supreme Authorities

"proceeded to notify to Mr. Wheeler that he is to be compulsorily retired. On what grounds? Because there was some evidence on the record before the Government, that he, Mr. Wheeler, had been guilty of carelessness in doing his work as a District Judge. Can any reasonable man say that this was a just way of dealing with Mr. Wheeler? There was not a single charge made against him before the Special Commission that he had been careless in his work. He naturally made no attempt to give any evidence as to his work as a District Judge. There was no notice given to Mr. Wheeler by the Government of its desire to deal with the question, whether he had been careless or otherwise in his work. No explanations were asked

and, without being called upon to defend himself, the Government find him guilty and force him to retire."

No doubt, power is blinding. Still it were strange if such obvious considerations did not suggest themselves to the conclave of supreme authority! Our idea is that the Government of India blundered with open eyes in order to bring the Civilian safe through, without outraging justice. The bureaucrats at Simla had a most difficult problem.

THE people of this Presidency are by no means over-informed about the more distant parts of the Empire and rather disposed to despise and ignore them. That attitude is neither just nor politic. More knowledge would lead to better appreciation and mutual cordiality and united strength. Few in Bengal and Hindostan are aware that the far South has a respectable and strong country press. We have lately made the acquaintance of some of its members and they would do credit to any place. We may instance the *Western Star*, a weekly published at Cochin, which is marked Vol. XXVIII. Who would in these latitudes have thought that Cochin has had an English newspaper all these twenty-eight years!

By way of an example of the ability and worth of the Southern press, we would notice a discussion that our Malabar coast contemporary has lately had with a wellknown Coromandel coast contemporary. The *Hindu* had justly been exposing with its usual adroitness the Government training of Native Princelings. Said the Madras journal:

"Your anglicised Prince is certainly a thing of beauty and a joy for ever, even though favourites, flatterers and dancing girls, nautches, *nadagams*, and tambourines minister to his pleasures and, monopolize his time, and whether *pan supari*, processions, and private debauchery have ever turned out statesmen or strong administrators? Better by far, the hour spent in healthy exercise like polo and cricket than in the enervating and demoralizing atmosphere of the Zenana, and better the European ball room than the questionable surroundings and vulgar witticisms, and absurdities of the Indian stage. Of all the unfortunates under the sun the conservative Hindu Raja or Maharaja is the most miserable! Man was not meant to live alone, and yet isolation is the fate of the conservative Hindu Maharaja. Equal he has none in his Court, and without equality there can be no companionship, no interchange of ideas, no exchange of sympathy, no confidence, no love. It is what Carlyle would call, 'a very nightmare of existence,' and is it any wonder that cut off by oriental etiquette from all true friendship, a fruit which only ripens under the sun of perfect equality and a mutual independence that, the average Hindu Prince sooner or later learns to lean upon and be guided by the good or evil counsels of some well meaning, or designing, but strong nature, who has his sovereign's will under his control and makes or mars the ruler of the State. We are not exaggerating when we say that nine times out of ten, this human instinct for sympathy and fellowship, which the Hindu Prince is altogether deprived of, and which, unless he is possessed of a very strong individuality he is unable to battle with, compels him to seek in privacy and concealment, companions and pleasures utterly incompatible with his position and entirely inimical to all physical, mental and moral development. On the other hand, a liberal Western education, combined with travel to great centres of civilization like Paris and London widens a Hindu Prince's horizon of life, modifies his conservative views of the equality of men and things, knocks off his angularities, gives him a liberal education and as Dr. Wendell Holmes would say 'depolarizes' his ideas. He comes back to India a new man and, is inclined to treat his officers and advisers on a plane of equality, and on a footing of respect, born of the conviction of his own shortcomings in many directions."

That is a real complaint smartly put. Of course, it is not the whole truth, and the *Western Star* holds up the other side of the shield. He asks—

"whether the Native Prince is a thing of beauty and a joy for ever, even though favourites, flatterers and dancing girls, nautches, *nadagams*, and tambourines minister to his pleasures and, monopolize his time, and whether *pan supari*, processions, and private debauchery have ever turned out statesmen or strong administrators? Better by far, the hour spent in healthy exercise like polo and cricket than in the enervating and demoralizing atmosphere of the Zenana, and better the European ball room than the questionable surroundings and vulgar witticisms, and absurdities of the Indian stage. Of all the unfortunates under the sun the conservative Hindu Raja or Maharaja is the most miserable! Man was not meant to live alone, and yet isolation is the fate of the conservative Hindu Maharaja. Equal he has none in his Court, and without equality there can be no companionship, no interchange of ideas, no exchange of sympathy, no confidence, no love. It is what Carlyle would call, 'a very nightmare of existence,' and is it any wonder that cut off by oriental etiquette from all true friendship, a fruit which only ripens under the sun of perfect equality and a mutual independence that, the average Hindu Prince sooner or later learns to lean upon and be guided by the good or evil counsels of some well meaning, or designing, but strong nature, who has his sovereign's will under his control and makes or mars the ruler of the State. We are not exaggerating when we say that nine times out of ten, this human instinct for sympathy and fellowship, which the Hindu Prince is altogether deprived of, and which, unless he is possessed of a very strong individuality he is unable to battle with, compels him to seek in privacy and concealment, companions and pleasures utterly incompatible with his position and entirely inimical to all physical, mental and moral development. On the other hand, a liberal Western education, combined with travel to great centres of civilization like Paris and London widens a Hindu Prince's horizon of life, modifies his conservative views of the equality of men and things, knocks off his angularities, gives him a liberal education and as Dr. Wendell Holmes would say 'depolarizes' his ideas. He comes back to India a new man and, is inclined to treat his officers and advisers on a plane of equality, and on a footing of respect, born of the conviction of his own shortcomings in many directions."

That is powerfully presented. Although our sympathy is all on the other side, yet we cannot help acknowledging the general accuracy of the contrast exhibited in such vivid colours. After making all admissions, however, the truth remains that Anglicism in the palace of a native court is a profound mistake. Could it make the Princes themselves good and happy it were something, but that was impossible. The scorn of native and European alike, they have neither self-respect nor happiness. And there is a sufficient reason for this: They are not truly anglicised. It is only a disappointing veneer only that is put on them. They are simply denationalized without being Europeanised. Hence they only repel and do harm without drawing and doing good.

AFTER disposing of their sporting journal to the great Annexander (Mr. Abbott), Captain and Mrs. Hayes have gone to South Africa. They are still sporting as well as literary. We are glad that their con-

nection with the *Indian Planter's Gazette* has not been determined. In a late issue of our contemporary is a letter from Mrs. Hayes dated Pretoria, May 10. That is a land of painful recent memories.

"I visited yesterday the place where they buried the British flag with Military honours and erected a mock monument to its memory. Some Englishman, however, managed to remove and hurl into oblivion the degrading stone, so a mound is all that is left to mark the place where our flag of which we sing 'has braved for a thousand years the battle and the breeze' lies buried."

Of course one must not look a lady's grammar in the face. Otherwise, the account is interesting.

The Boers are no better than Bengalis.

"The Boers here we found to be a conceited, boastful set of men who were particularly amused on seeing our advertisement to the effect that we would give a public 'show of horse breaking and riding in the Berea Park. Admission 2/6.'"

Ought the Boers to have taken the matter seriously? Notwithstanding their impertinent hilarity, however,

"Over a thousand of them mustered to our show including the great General Joubert in a uniform and queer hat resembling a member of 'the ancient order of Foresters.'"

The fair writer was evidently charmed with the General. The old gentleman must be a handsome person. A description is nothing if not critical, so she would recommend him a hair-dresser—that's all. And no great matter that. It is a thing of individual fancy—perhaps the veriest caprice of fashion, when our literary lady says—"General Joubert would not be at all bad looking, if some one would cut his hair which hangs down to his shoulders, and trim his beard up a bit." How the beaux and belles of Lucknow would be amused at the queer taste of the Nazarene Peri!—that is, supposing the old ideals still to reign among the natives at the Paris of India. When we resided there after the Mutinies, our singing master, a tall Mussulman of seventy who was innocence itself, cherished curls floating down below his chest, which unrolled would touch his thigh. We can never forget the pride he took in them, or the affectionate care with which he would lubricate them with perfumed oil. Doubtless the old Daji, as he invariably designated his wife, who was a midwife by profession, was not a whit less proud of those hirsute streams. Possibly he won her in the olden days more with his hair than his nightingale voice. Samson was not the only man whose strength lay in his hair.

The Hayes party had nearly got into a scrape with the Boers. The mob attempting to "rush" the gate of the entertainment enclosure, a look and a word from the old General converted the rowdies into good boys.

Our lady did not charm the President.

"I could not leave Pretoria without calling on President Kruger, so got a friend who spoke Dutch to escort me to his presence. This old man is quite uneducated and a typical Dutchman. He condescends to receive visitors in his verandah at 5 o'clock in the morning when he takes his early coffee. He understands English but will not allow it to be spoken, and is very angry with any English visitors who do not take their own interpreter with them. On such occasions the sum and substance of the interview consists in enquiring of one of his servants if the Englishman has brought an interpreter, and in summarily dismissing the visitor with a warning not to appear again without one. Our interview was not more satisfactory; for after nodding to me the old man asked my friend in Dutch if I understood that language, and on hearing that I did not, took no more notice of me; but began talking and laughing with an enormous old woman in a dirty dressing gown, who I was told was his wife. I felt uncomfortable, as they seemed to be criticising my clothes, so made my exit as soon as I could. Neither of them asked me to sit down, and take a cup of coffee or shewed themselves at all friendly disposed towards me."

The illiterate brute!

WE publish elsewhere the Indian Councils Act, 1892, being 55 and 56 Victoria, Chapter 14, an Act to amend the Indian Councils Act, 1861. The new law empowers the Governor-General to nominate not less than ten nor more than sixteen, being an increase of not less than four, additional members for his Council for making laws and regulations only. In the same way the Governors of Madras and Bombay are enabled to raise the number of members of their respective Councils, besides the Advocate General, from not less than four or more than eight to not less than eight nor more than twenty, the highest limit of the law of 1861 being made the lowest, and the highest being raised by double and half. The law of 1861 does not originally apply to Bengal or the North-Western Provinces. But it is left to the Governor-General in Council, by proclamation, with the sanction of the Secretary of State for India, to extend the provisions relating to the legislative Councils of Fort Saint George and Bombay to Bengal, the

North-Western Provinces and the Punjab. The Punjab has not yet a Council of her own. The new law raises the number of members for Bengal to twenty and for the N.-W. P. to fifteen. The number of members for the Lieutenant-Governors' Councils is limited by the old law to the number in the proclamation of the Governor-General, one-third of which must be non-official members. This proportion of non-official members seems to have been made away with in the new law, for, according to it, any person resident in India may be so appointed. A new provision is, however, added enabling the Governor-General in Council, with the approval of the Secretary of State in Council, to "make regulations as to the conditions under which such nominations, or any of them, shall be made by the Governor-General, Governors, and Lieutenant Governors respectively, and prescribe the manner in which such regulations shall be carried into effect." Thus the Governor-General and the Secretary of State are to determine as to who shall in future be the additional members and members of the several councils and how. It is a provision which is capable of indefinite expansion. It is competent to these two authorities, independent of Parliament, to grant any reasonable expectation of the natives of this country so far as regards the legislative councils in this continent, including election. A greater concession is the right of interpellation and of discussion of the Annual Financial Statement, though without the power of proposing any resolution or dividing the council on any such financial discussion or answer to any question. It is no wonder that such a trial should be hedged in by stringent rules which must be sanctioned by the Secretary of State or the Governor-General. 24 and 25 Vict., c. 67, s. 22; 3 and 4 Will. IV, c. 85, and 16 and 17 Vict., c. 95 restricted the Governor-General in Council to making laws for the territories then under the dominion of Her or His Majesty. The question arose whether the existing laws could apply to after acquisitions. One of the High Courts decided that new territories were included. The amending Act confirms that decision. It is now declared that the existing statutes equally cover new territories. We hope this is merely a correction of an omission and not an indication of the revival of a policy of annexation and acquisition.

In case of vacancy by death, acceptance of office or resignation of an additional member, the Governor-General or the Governors had power to fill it by another nomination without diminishing the proportion of non-official members. Those powers are now recalled, and new provisions made. Hereafter, in the absence from India for two months consecutively or inability to attend for the same period, a membership shall cease and the seat declared vacant. For the vacancy thus or otherwise created, a new nomination will be made, preserving the full complement of non-official members. A local legislature is left free, with the previous sanction of the Governor-General, to "repeal or amend as to that province any law or regulation made either before or after the passing of this Act by any authority in India other than that local legislature." Finally, notwithstanding these provisions, the Governor-General in Council at meetings for the purpose of making laws and regulations remains supreme.

THE *Indian Daily News*, in its leading columns of the 27th July, writes:—

"The services of Pundit Ramnath Tarkaratna, as a travelling Pundit under the Asiatic Society of Bengal for exploring the mass of unprinted Sanscrit literature that is still available in the country, have been dispensed with on the ground of 'neglect of duty.' It was only in January last, that the late President of the Society, Sir Alfred Croft, showed his appreciation of these services by granting the Pundit an increase of Rs. 10 to his monthly pay. It is understood that the Pundit has been made the victim of misrepresentation. The Council of the Society would have acted more worthily of itself by informing the Pundit of the charges against him, and by waiting for his explanation before taking such a decided step. This was due in common fairness to a servant of twenty years, who, it is believed, has explored more than 4,000 manuscripts, many of which have justly been regarded as invaluable treasures by oriental scholars all over the world, and who assisted the late Dr. Rajendralala Mitra in cataloguing about an equal number of manuscripts. Besides being the author of an original Sanscrit epic poem called *Vāsudeva Vijaya*, which has been pronounced by competent critics both in India and Europe, to be a production of great merit, not inferior in any respect to the best efforts of the Sanscrit Muse of mediæval India; and of two other valuable works on Vedānta philosophy, in course of publication, and which are deservedly held in high esteem, Pundit Ramnath, during the agitation on the Consent Bill, boldly declared himself for the Bill, and exposed in a brief but vigorous *Vyāvasthā*, given at the solicitation of the Government, the weakness of the Garbhādhānist and the miserable devices of misquotation to which they had stooped to bolster up their cause.

Ever since that time Pundit Ramnath has been an object of persecution at the hands of unscrupulous enemies. The Pundit has petitioned the Council for a reconsideration of the order after receiving an explanation from him. We have no doubt that the Council will grant his prayer. If he is to be dismissed after such a brilliant record of services under all sorts of privations undergone for 20 years in course of his journeys of exploration into remote and out-of-the-way stations in the Mofussil, and so soon after the unsolicited increase granted to him in January last, he should be accorded the opportunity of a hearing."

Pandit Ram Nath is the most notable victim of the vengeance of disappointed Garbhādhānism. His offence is great. It was bad enough that he a Pandit among Pandits, a high-priest of the noblest Brahmanocry in Bengal, should give in his adhesion to the Age of Consent Bill (now Act.) He crowned his baseness by delivering an argument in Hindu Law in support of the Bill which went farther than that of any other Pandit supporter of it in any part of India, and in which, quoting or citing chapter and verse from the most authoritative Sastras from the Vedas downwards, he demolished the positions of the Pandits of the opposition, even convicting their leader, the great Sashadhar Tarkachuramani himself, not simply of gross sophistry but also actual falsification of texts. It was an unanswerable document. After one feeble essay, all attempts at reply were given up. This was the enormity of which the poor Pandit was guilty. It was gall and wormwood to his own immediate superior in the Asiatic Society, Raja Rajendralala Mitra, who had, like so many of the best in the land, gone crazy with Garbhādhānism, but he had the magnanimity to forgive.

Mahamahopadhyaya Pandit Mohesh Chandra Nyaratna too proved a true Brahman, the typical Brahman being soon appeased and never harbouring any grudge. Others were unrelenting. They vowed their determination to make Ram Nath rue for his boldness to the end of his days. And they have succeeded. They first ostracised him, preventing his invitation as one of the learned to feasts and festivals—the gifts received at which form the main income of the Pandit class, besides any pieces of rent-free land which the more fortunate may inherit. Even an enlightened man like Babu Nilamber Mookerjee, late Minister of Cashmere, has been prevailed upon to withhold his gifts from a Pandit of unequalled learning and a Sanskrit Poet unapproached by any modern, on the same occasion on which he has been bountiful to scores of sciolists and not a few of the illiterati who crowd at every obsequial assembly in Calcutta. And now they have delivered the finishing stroke by depriving him of the difficult and most painfully toilsome office at which he has worked in obscurity for twenty years to the aggrandisement of others' reputation and the advancement of the world's learning in the hidden treasures of Sanskrit and Prakrit genius.

By a strange irony of fate, the final crushing blow of Garbhādhānist vengeance comes immediately through the hand of a Pandit who, like Ram Nath, was guilty, as an officer of Government, of supporting the Bill. He makes his peace by offering the greater victim.

It is comparatively lucky that on the present Moharram the differences are inter-Mussulman, being confined to the camp of Islam. The quarrel is between the Orthodox and the Sectarists—the Sunnis and the Shias. That is bad enough, but we might have worse—a conflict between Mahomedans and Hindus, as on the Bakrid. In the Bakrid the cause of offence to the Hindus is the sacrifice of the cow to which some Mussalmans openly resort to spite the Hindus who worship the animal. In the Moharram there is no sacrifice. But the Moharram is a moveable festival, timed according to the lunar year, whose months have no unalterable correspondence to the same solar months, it is always shifting. Hence the Moharram is sometimes synchronous with Hindu festivals, and then the Government must look out. If the Hindu and the Moslem processions cross each other in any way, actually or figuratively, there is sure to be a collision, perhaps a bloody collision. It has always been so. Here is an extract from the *Calcutta Gazette* dated October 1, 1789:—

"The two great holidays of the Mussulmans and Hindoos, the Mohurrum and Dooiga Poojah, falling together, have occasioned the greatest tumults and riots in the Bazars for some days, and been productive of several murders.

On Monday afternoon, as Ramcaunt Chatterjee, a rich Banian and Brahmin, was carrying the Doorga to the river, attended by a large procession, he was met near the Boitakannah by a party of Mussulmans, who, as we understand, first attacked the Hindoos, destroyed their images, and dangerously wounded several men and women, and, amongst others, the daughter-in-law of Ramcaunt Chatterjee. In consequence of this outrage, Ramcaunt Chatterjee,

on Tuesday morning, assembled about fifty or sixty armed peons, and demolished all the Mohametan Durgahs they could find in the neighbourhood of the Boitakkannah.

In the evening the Mussulmans formed in a body of two or three hundred men, and attacked the house of Sookmoyi Takoor in the Bow Bazar, and plundered it of furniture, jewels, 5,000 Gold Mohurs, and Company's bonds and certificates to the amount of 8,000 Rupees, and, to show their contempt of the Hindoo religion, killed two cows.

Sookmoyi Takoor escaped with his life by running away as soon as his house was broke open, but two of his people were killed, and several dangerously wounded. A Mussulman was also killed, and a number wounded.

We understand the ringleaders of this outrage and robbery have been apprehended and carried before Mr. Justice Hyde.

Sookmoyi Takoor made oath that several of his things were carried into the Madrissah, and a search warrant was granted in consequence, and, as we are informed, part of Sookmoyi Takoor's effects have been found there.

The house of Conny Boiragi, in the Mutchy Bazar, was also attacked, but fortunately, before any damage could be done, a Guard of Sepoys arrived and dispersed the rioters.

We understand every precaution has been taken to preserve the peace and security of the Town by stationing a number of Sepoy Guards in different parts."

That ought to reassure us that Calcutta under Commissioner Lambert has not very much deteriorated.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, July 30, 1892.

THE MOHARRAM.

WE are again in the thick of the Moharram. It is always an anxious season, for both the people and the Government. Warned by previous experience, both the general Mahomedan community and the authorities of this Province have been wide awake and have taken the necessary precautions.

The members of the Shia community of Chupra applied to the Magistrate for permission to take out the *Alam* with *Mashak* and *Tir* in procession, during the present Moharram. *Alam* is flag or standard, such as the Shias carry in their Moharram processions. There is no objection to it, except in those places, where the Shias profess it to be their duty to utter the *Tabarra* or imprecations on the holy chiefs of the Sunnis. *Mashak* is skin for drawing water such as the *bhistis* carry. *Tir* is arrow. These latter are intended to recall a most heart-rending scene in the tragic death of Hassan, the son of Ali, and his family and followers. The enemy had shut them out of all water supply. They were perishing of thirst. At length, Abbas, (a son of Ali and step-brother of Hassan,) who was standard-bearer to Hassan, unable to stand the groans of the little children crying for water, went himself with a skin to bring water from the Euphrates. Eluding the guards, he reached the river and, after filling his skin, he was carrying it tied to his standard to camp, when on the way one of the enemy aimed an arrow at it and pierced it through. Thus the only chance of assuaging the thirst of the Holy Family was lost. The exhibition of a skin depending from a standard and pierced through by an arrow is intended to recall to the Shia faithful the horrible death to which the family of Ali was doomed, and to incite them to curse the memory of not only the immediate foes of the family but also the enemies of the House of Ali, past, present, and future, or, in other words, to repeat the *Tabarra*. The Sunnis strongly objected to this, as, in their opinion, it was a feint on the part of the Shias in order to secure the opportunity to utter the *Tabarra* in connection with that form of procession. The Magistrate, after satisfying himself that what the Shias asked for was an innovation and that there was likelihood of serious breach of the peace if their prayer was granted, disallowed it, and

directed that if any Shias acted against his decision, they would be held responsible for any disturbance that might take place. The Shias have, thereupon, moved the High Court, praying that the order of the Magistrate may be reversed. Papers have been called for, and the case is pending.

The Shias of Gya have also for some time been trying their best to obtain permission from the authorities to take out the *Alam* with *Mashak* and *Tir* in procession on the present occasion; and as the Sunnis could not be persuaded to agree to this proposal and were prepared to oppose them, they subscribed several thousand Rupees to take the required steps to enforce their religious rights. Thus armed with the sinews of war, they applied to the Magistrate of the District, through a European barrister. The Sunnis also were not backward in appearing before that officer attended by another barrister. The Magistrate, after hearing the arguments on both sides, decided that as it was an innovation that they sought, he would not as magistrate grant the application of the Shias, but if they wanted it, they could apply to the District Superintendent of Police to arrange the procession. The Shias now besieged the Head of the local Police, who, notwithstanding the strong remonstrance of the Sunnis, has passed an order to the effect that the Shias will be permitted to take out the *Alam* with *Mashak* and *Tir* on the seventh day of the Moharram. There is great sensation among the Sunnis of Gya in consequence, and they have appealed to the Commissioner of Patna against the decision of the local authorities. The Commissioner's final order, our correspondent says, is every moment expected by both the sects with breathless anxiety.

Our readers are aware that the year before last there had been a row between the two sects at Moorsheadabad, the Shias uttering the *Tabarra* whilst taking out their *Alams* in procession through the public streets, and the Sunnis resenting such reviling of the revered leaders of their Faith, namely, the first three Caliphs. The *fracas* was followed by arrests and prosecutions ending in the conviction of members of both communities. Accordingly, last year, in anticipation of the Moharram, the Sunnis of Moorsheadabad presented an elaborate memorial to the Lieutenant-Governor praying that steps might be taken in time to prevent the recurrence of a similar disturbance during the then coming Festival. Sir Charles Elliott visited Moorsheadabad, collected the members of the Nizamut Family at the Palace, and strictly enjoined upon them the necessity of adopting measures whereby the uttering of the *Tabarra* on the public streets might be put a stop to. The Princes agreed, and the Nawab Bahadoor who had, as confessed by the Sunni Memorialists, always lent his powerful influence to the cause of peace and social harmony, readily undertook to do the needful, with the result that the Shias abstained from uttering the *Tabarra* and the Moharram processions passed off without a hitch. This year again, the Sunnis, apprehending a serious riot, having reason to know that the Shias were so far from reconciled to the peaceful solution that they accused the good Nawab Bahadoor of being a traitor to the integrity of the Shia Creed, memorialised the authorities, and we hear that orders have been issued that the same procedure was to be adopted as was done last year. We therefore trust that no disturbance will take place at Moorsheadabad during the Festival through which we are passing.

Nearer home, there was a fear of a serious riot at Garden Reach. But thanks to the vigilance and tact of the head of the Police, and the strong measure timely adopted by Mr. Lambert, Calcutta has, we hope, been saved the spectacle of another Shambazar collision. For some time, there has been a dispute going on between the Shias and the Sunnis of Garden Reach, in consequence of the former introducing the words *Bila-fasl* in their *Azan* or call to prayer. These Arabic words mean *without separation*. Applied to Ali, they mean that he is the true Caliph and next in succession to the Prophet, despite his artificial separation from his rightful place which was the effect of brute force, the historical succession intervening being of no account with the Shias. The Sunnis strongly protested against this innovation, as it was a distinct form of the *Tabarra* implying that the first three Caliphs were sacrilegious usurpers and deprivors of the lawful right of Ali, the fourth Caliph. The matter was placed before the authorities, who decided that the words "*Bila-fasl*" should not be used by the Shias in their *Azan*, and this order was carried out accordingly. About six weeks ago, however, the Shias, while carrying a corpse to the burial-ground, again uttered the words, *Bila-fasl*, aloud on the public road, in connection with the prayer which they were chanting as an accompaniment to the funeral procession. The Sunnis resenting the objectionable words uttered within their hearing and feeling that it was done with the deliberate intention of hurting their religious feelings, complained to the Commissioner of Police, who called for a report from the local police. Finding that there was almost a certainty of a breach of the peace taking place between the Shias (who numbered about a couple of hundred or so) and the Sunnis (who were some thousands in number), if the Shias were not prevented from uttering the *Tabarra* in that form on the public road, Mr. Lambert sent for the representatives of both the sects to his office on the 20th instant. After patiently listening to the arguments of both the parties, he told the Shias that, as the uttering of the words "*Bila-fasl*" was the only cause of all the dispute, and as he had learnt from reliable sources that their introduction was a pure innovation, they having never before been uttered in public by any Shia either in Calcutta or the Suburbs, he could not allow the objectionable phrase in connection with any procession. He advised the leaders of the Shia sect to advise their people to abstain from provoking their co-religionists of the other persuasion. He even told them that, unless they agreed to it, he would refuse the license for the processions in this Moharram. This firm attitude on the part of the Commissioner of Police had the desired effect, and the Shias have agreed to give the Sunnis no such cause of resentment.

THE HYDERABAD CASE AT SECUNDRABAD.

APART from the standing anxiety in respect of the annual Moharram, the social sensation of the hour is supplied from Hyderabad. There has commenced another Hyderabad litigation with a British subject. This time the *venue* is transferred nearer home—to Secundrabad. On that occasion, the victim was a Syrian—this time it is a Bengali.

On Thursday se'nnight, the man of the hour in Hyderabad, Nawab Fattah Nawaz Jung (Mahdi Hassan), Home Secretary to the Nizam's Gov-

ernment, applied to Mr. Bosanquet, Magistrate, Residency Bazaars, for a warrant against S. M. Mitter as the author of the pamphlet, (now known as the scandalous pamphlet) in which Mrs. Mahdi Hassan and the Nawab are held up to public scorn. The warrant was issued on Friday following and the Baboo arrested at about 9 O'clock in the same evening. He was enlarged on depositing the sum of Rs. 1,000 (one thousand) as cash security. Mr. Inverarity, barrister-at-law (from Bombay) will lead the prosecution.

We believe there will be no difference touching the character of the publication. It is a pasquinade of a pronounced type. There is no mincing of matters in it. No mere indulgence in sarcastic railery—no taking refuge in dark innuendo or even in broad hint. It is an undisguised plain statement, a lengthy affidavit translated into smart newspaper language. The allegations are many and circumstantial and all of the most serious kind. They may be summed up in one word, namely, that the lady is a Eurasian who had been a noted character as a member of the *demi monde* of Lucknow and other towns in Northern India, and that the gentleman who knew her well has insulted his master the Nizam and the Empress herself by introducing her to them as a respectable lady. He who publishes such writings does not—cannot—hope to take shelter in equivocations, for equivocations there are none. He means to stand by his guns—to stick to his words. He has burned his ships after landing, and there is nothing for him but to fight—to win if possible or die hard. Under any circumstances that is an arduous rôle. But if he is driven to bay, his best, though desperate, resource, is in fight. But weak is human nature, and the bravest may quail before overwhelming odds, and at the last moment his courage may fail. The assistance he may have relied upon, may not be forthcoming. The sinews of war may fall short, &c., &c. In such a case, the poor dupe of self and others had better reckon on an ignominious defeat and destruction.

Already, the accused has found out the frail nature of the staff on which he leaned. At the very outset, he experienced great difficulty in finding surety for a Rs. 1,000. He could not get one after all, in that great city, in which he has been a journalist for some years. He ought to have been warned by the experience of the *Bangabasi* in the late State Trial. The conductors of a newspaper of enormous circulation could not, in their own country, get a surety. With commendable magnanimity and courage, a comparative stranger, a Vaidya of Vikrampur, practising Sanskrit medicine in this city—whom the Babudom of Cockaigne would despise as barbarian—readily stepped into a position which belonged to friends and men of Calcutta and the metropolitan districts. Not that their nearer and dearer people were afraid of their running away. They were afraid for themselves. It was a state prosecution—there was the rub. Their friends were charged with treasonable language—with exciting sedition. They were under the evil eye of Government. Herein lay the difficulty of friends. It was all very well as long as the thing was confined to reading the *Bangabasi* week after week, with loud enjoyment and receiving its writers with vociferous cheers. But to identify themselves in open court with men tried for a serious offence against the state, was a different matter. We remarked the same feebleness on the occasion of Babu Surendra Nath Banerjea's arrest for contempt. All the overflowing demonstrations that

accompanied him to the High Court, vanished as soon as an adjournment was ordered and the prisoner allowed to be enlarged on giving a surety of Rs. 5,000. Not a mouse came to comfort. There was not a man near our great Demagogue when he emerged from the crushing crowd, except his lawyer. A quarter of an hour ago the admirers of the agitator, their ranks swollen by battalions of schoolboys, had been trying to storm the gates of the great Gothic pile in which Her Majesty's Justice is dispensed, in order to come to his assistance—now not a soul to enquire or condole. Under the order for a punitive bail, the spirit of patriotism hitherto so defiant, had collapsed. In that case too, a stranger, though by no means an outsider, saved the already too-tried accused a most disagreeable detention for how many hours who knows. After that, it is idle to expect more manliness in the despot-ridden atmosphere of Hyderabad.

Apart from the merits of the case, the public cannot help sympathising with a man in such a peculiarly difficult, not to say desperate, situation. Assuming that the accused has had anything to do with the pamphlet, he can be but a secondary instrument at best—a mere intermediary—a go-between, a cat's paw. His guilt is none the less, but it is the guilt of thoughtlessness, perhaps want. He can hardly be supposed to bear any personal malice towards either Nawab Mahdi Hassan or Begum Hassan: He is too insignificant for that. He is not in the running for the contingent vacancy in the Premiership: he is not a possible candidate. It is among the seekers of office and power that the true enemy is to be found. Any scores of Mitters, Boses and Ghoses, and Mookerjees and Chatterjees into the bargain, may be hanged, drawn and quartered, without touching a hair of the true Simon impure.

THE LATE BAKRID AND THE PRESENT MOHARRAM IN THE GYA DISTRICT.

TO THE EDITOR.

FOR some months past, the people at Gya had been watching the approach of Bakrid and Moharram with a growing sense of anxiety and alarm. Anxiety, because it was feared the deeds of notorious Maina Pandit, a full account of which went the round of the press this time last year, might be repeated, and alarm, because a local Shia pleader had been moving heaven and earth to take out *alam*s with arrow and *mashak* symbolising the dismembered Abbas pierced with the shaft and holding the skin of water by the teeth. The religious sentiment of the Sunni masses was deadly opposed to the introduction of the idolatrous innovation here. The educated Sunnis, on the other hand, took an attitude of indifference but advised their Shia brethren, whenever the latter cared to consult them, that, considering the excitement among the lower classes of the Sunni population against the proposed novelty, it was not proper in the interest of peace and order to introduce it. The Shias would not listen, and thus the prospect of peace was rendered uncertain.

To the great relief of the public, however, all fears are over now, and it is interesting to detail the course of events which brought about the happy end.

Bakrid is past. Mr. Macpherson, the new Magistrate, anticipated and managed the occasion capitally. A body of infantry was sent for and quartered in the town. On the eve of the festival it marched through the principal streets overawing the people and giving them to understand that the authorities were prepared to suppress any disturbance by force of arms. On the day of the Bakrid, constables and Head-constables armed with long heavy clubs (*lattes*) patrolled the streets at short distances, while sepoy with loaded guns guarded the *sarai* gate and the last year's scene of battle at Muradpoor. The Vice-Chairman, Mr. Halim, rode out, visiting every Mahomedan quarter where

a sacrifice was expected, and telling his coreligionists to perform the ceremony but not hurt the Hindu feeling by any undue and unnecessary exhibition. The Magistrate, the Assistant Magistrate, the District Superintendent of Police, and a Deputy Magistrate drove through the streets to show that they were wide awake and ready. The Hindus and Mahomedans both behaved well, and the occasion passed without a disturbance. Although an outbreak was not unreasonably feared, there had apparently been no predetermination to riot—certainly no overt indication in that direction.

Different was the case at the Sub-Divisional town of Jehanabad (in the Gya District.) There nearly a thousand professional *lattials*, collected from the neighbouring villages, were secretly quartered in different Hindu houses, awaiting the signal of their leaders, a Khatri and a Brahman, to join in a crusade of vengeance against the cow-killers. The provision dealers and grocers being all Hindus, all the shops were closed to prevent the Mahomedans getting provisions for their grand annual feast. The hour when the Mahomedans should engage in prayers at the mosque was fixed to attack the houses where cows were to be sacrificed. The situation was truly serious, requiring courage and decision as well as judgment and tact. The Sub-Divisional officer Khan Bahadur A. K. M. Abdus Subhan was a young officer who had taken charge of the place only two days ago. Fortunately, he proved himself thoroughly equal to the occasion. He acted with laudable strength and resolution and displayed extraordinary coolness of judgment and promptness of execution in dealing with the affair. He went to the scene of the apprehended riot and there, from his exalted seat on elephant-back, addressing himself to the vast crowd of Hindus and Mahomedans assembled round him, declared his principle and policy in a most emphatic tone. He said he would punish the Mahomedans who might sacrifice a cow in a place open and exposed to the public gaze and also the Hindu who under the colour of religious frenzy might trespass upon a Mahomedan house where a cow was being secretly sacrificed. This announcement of policy, however, did not calm the agitators, and the resolution to loot Mahomedan houses at the prayer time continued unshaken. So keenly did Moulvi Abdus Subhan realize the difficulty of the situation; that he did not feel himself at liberty to join his co-religionists in the function of the auspicious day. He sent all the Mahomedans to pray at the mosque, while, foregoing his own prayers, he remained behind to prevent the threatened outbreak. The Police Inspector and constables patrolled the town, and the Mahomedan houses upon which attacks were feared were strongly manned.

Thus the ruffians were cowed down by the vigilance and strength of the Sub-Divisional Officer and none dared to create a whiff of disturbance. The sacrifices were offered but in no militant manner, and the day passed peacefully.

One little incident, just to show the possibility which management and luck had avoided, took place. Two *lattials* had rushed forth from their hiding places and were seen inciting the people to rise. They were promptly arrested by the Bengali Inspector, and are now undergoing trial.

The District Magistrate, it is said, has thanked the Sub-Divisional Officer for his having managed the affair so well.

Thus ended the long feared festival of Bakrid. As for the Moharram, it has not practically set in yet, but the contested question of the show of the *alam*, which alone lends a dreadful colour to the occasion, is almost set at rest. The Shias, a handful of the population, represented by Mr. Howard, petitioned the Magistrate for permission for that hostile demonstration. Eighteen hundred Sunnis, represented by Mr. Jones, opposed the application. The result was that the Magistrate refused the Shia prayer on the ground that the *alam* was an innovation likely to cause a serious breach of the peace. The Shias have now applied to the District Superintendent of Police, and they have apparently received from him encouragement. This officer is said to have spoken valiantly like a Briton. He would like to see the *alam* paraded by force of arms. We hope this is not true, and, if it be, we fear the D. S. will be ill able to discharge a responsibility which his superior the District officer, with his far greater power and prestige, did not think it proper and politic to undertake.

Gya, July 25.

THE LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF
THE RAJKUMARI LEPROSY ASYLUM,
BAIDYANATH,

BY THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

Dr. Mahendralal Sircar's Address.

HONORABLE SIR,

It is my proud privilege to-day to be able to ask Your Honor to perform a ceremony which inaugurates a work which, if I am not mistaken, has been recognized as one of charity only since the great exemplar of humanity did not hesitate to touch lepers and heal them.

I need not remind Your Honor that Leprosy is a disease which is dreaded and abhorred more than any other flesh is heir to, and the horror and abhorrence with which it is looked upon are more than justified by the ravages it makes in its victims; leaving not an organ, not a tissue, not even a microscopic constituent of the body free from its relentless hold, and giving rise to such frightful distortion of the human form divine as to drive the strongest sentiments which bind man to man away from the discharge of their legitimate functions.

And when it is remembered that the disease is contagious, that it does not end with its immediate victims but makes victims of others who come in contact with them or their foul discharges, we shall be in a position to realize its terrible nature.

Such is the dire disease which counts not less than 250,000 human beings as its victims in India alone. I am quite satisfied that the figure given by the last census is widely divergent of the fact. It gives but half the actual number. And there is every probability that the disease is on the increase, and this is not to be wondered at when we remember that the disease is contagious and that the people have not awakened to a sense of their duty in regard to it.

I am sorry I cannot exonerate the medical profession from this culpable neglect of duty, and indeed I may go so far as to charge it with positive mischief, inasmuch as even to this day medical men are not unanimous as to the contagious nature of the disease, a fact that has contributed not a little to exert a most deterrent influence upon the people and the Government.

I do not think, however, that there was any necessity of correct medical opinion as to its contagiousness for the disease to excite the sympathy of the people and the Government towards those afflicted with it. Their condition is so pitiable that it might have been expected that it would not fail to excite pity in the most hard-hearted; but as I have said, it is only since the time of Jesus Christ that they have begun to be looked upon as legitimate objects of charity, and though very nearly nineteen hundred years have passed since that blessed life lived on our earth, the sympathy that has been accorded to these unfortunate beings, is very far from the full measure that ought to be accorded. The very loathsomeness of the disease which ought to have touched the hearts of those who are fortunately free from it, has served only to create abhorrence rather than pity.

This neglect of duty, involving unmitigated suffering to our fellow-men, has only redounded to the injury of those who have been guilty of this neglect. And it has been proved that the best safety from the disease is in the kindest treatment of those afflicted with it. And the first step towards that kind treatment is to give those of them whose poverty compels them to lead a vagrant life, an asylum where they can find a shelter from the inclemencies of the weather, where they can have food and raiment without being forced to molest and endanger their healthy neighbours, and where they may have such medical treatment as may mitigate their sufferings.

This place of pilgrimage has been the resort of lepers from all parts of the country. They come here in the vain hope of getting their disease healed by the presiding divinity who has somehow or other got the name of sovereign healer, Baidyanath—Lord of Physicians. Whether any one was ever cured of this fell disease in olden times, nobody can tell. But this much is positive that not only has no one within the memory of the present generation ever had the slightest relief of his sufferings, but that the disease has begun to make fearful havoc amongst the resident population, and chiefly amongst the votaries of the idol.

This deplorable state of things has been going on for years, I may say for centuries, and what is more deplorable nobody seems to have spent a thought about it. Human beings afflicted with the most loathsome and the most malignant of diseases, with sores eating away skin and flesh and bone and thus causing the most frightful mutilations and disfigurements, almost without food and absolutely without shelter from sun and wind and rain, have been leading here a most wretched existence till death puts an end to it, but Oh! in ways most heart-rending to behold. And yet hundreds and thousands of pilgrims visiting these shrines year after year, from the wealthiest rajahs and zemindars downwards, have been looking on without a thought of doing something permanent for their benefit.

While I make this statement, I need hardly assure Your Honor that it is not my intention to cast the slightest reproach upon any one. Though no fatalist I still believe that the fullness of time for the amelioration of the condition of the lepers of Deoghar was not come till in 1886 the attention of a schoolmaster was drawn to that condition, and his heart moved in their behalf. Fully a year elapsed before Babu Jogendra Nath could venture to resolve to do something, and it was not till August 1888 that he got his first subscription from a Maharaja who had come on a pilgrimage. Three years elapsed but the subscription list did not advance beyond Rs. 516. Illness brought me to Baidyanath in the beginning of 1891, and during my stay here of nearly a couple of months I had opportunities of observing the condition of the unfortunate lepers. Heart-rending as that condition was I did not know what to do, and I would in all probability have done what others before me had done, that is, would have done nothing, had it not been for Babu Jogendra Nath Bose who came to me for some subscription. A shelter for the unfortunate lepers was urged as an immediate and most urgent necessity, and his estimate for thatched sheds to accommodate fifty people was Rs. 2,000, to meet which he had got promise of only Rs. 500 in three years. Seeing that the chances of making up that sum were very very remote indeed, I gave up the intention I had of building for myself a retreat in Deoghar for occasional rest from harassing professional and other duties, and told him that I should deem it a privilege to be permitted to bear the entire cost of building the asylum on the simple condition that it should bear the name of my life's partner, through whose unwearied and tender care and nursing, under God's blessing, my health was restored. I need hardly add that Babu Jogendra Nath and his co-projectors, Babu Raj Narain Bose and Pandit Girijanand Datta-jha, readily accepted my offer. The outcome of this is that I have now to bear, which I do most cheerfully, an expenditure which will be more than treble of the original estimate; for on mature consideration I have thought it advisable to have pucca buildings which will be more substantial and durable in place of thatched sheds which will require constant repairs and renewals, and for the present to serve as accommodation only for half the number originally contemplated. The plan, laid on the table for Your Honor's inspection, shows what it is intended to do in the way of building.

But the building is not all. The inmates, especially as they will not be allowed to lead a vagrant life, must have provision for their food and clothing and medical treatment. For all this we shall have to depend upon public subscription, as I set forth clearly in my letter to Babu Jogendra Nath. Permission was taken to publish my letter, in order that supported by it an appeal might be made to the public. The result of the appeal is what I had anticipated. The people have awakened to a sense of their duty, and they are responding liberally. The projectors have already in hand Rs. 7,000 which will yield an income of Rs. 20 a month. I propose for the present to admit only a dozen, eight males and four females. Under economic management Rs. 50 a month will meet all the expenses for this small number. So that unless we have fresh subscriptions we shall have a deficit of Rs. 30. As a safeguard against uncertainty this deficit, or whatever it may be, I offer to meet myself for a year or as long as it will continue. Already I find that the burden I have imposed upon myself is beginning to be lighter; for I am happy at this stage to be able to announce that the Maharaja of Gidhaur has with his usual liberality subscribed Rs. 1,000 in aid of the maintenance fund; and I have no doubt that others will not be slow to follow his noble example.

This is our humble plan of the asylum and this our humble scheme for its maintenance, and notwithstanding that altogether it is a very small affair, it may be said, as it has been said, there is so much of uncertainty about it, so much of dependence upon charity which is a more fitful thing than love itself, that I should not be sorry if one were so ill-natured as to say that the whole thing, for the purpose intended, looks like building a castle in the air. I can only say in reply that most of the great and good things of the world have often had small and not unoften shadowy beginnings, and that I have some confidence from my past experience in similar matters. I am in the habit of building castles in the air, and somehow or other they come down on solid ground and become durable structures. Of one of these castles, which goes by the name of the Science Association in Calcutta, Your Honor is now the presiding divinity. Fully convinced of the sacredness of our cause, though our plan and scheme are very humble indeed, we have not hesitated to approach Your Honor as a ruler in whose eyes small things are no less important than great, and who has noble antecedents of large and discriminate charity,—we approach Your Honor with our prayer for the stamp of your high approval on our undertaking, which, though now small in its beginning, is destined to be from the very fact of that approval a really good and great thing in course of time; such that it will commend itself to the spirit of Father Damien himself who literally made himself a leper amongst lepers, and such that Your Honor will not have to

regret the trouble you have undergone in taking the high priest's part in this day's ceremony.

One word about the name which it is proposed to give to the asylum. As a general rule, throughout the world, but especially in my country, we are forgetful of woman. Our worthy Deputy Commissioner of these paraganahs, in his interesting little work recently published, has deplored the condition of our women. That condition is deplorable indeed, and I have not, whenever occasion has represented itself, hesitated to bear my testimony to the sad fact. I must say, however, that my devotion to woman as the guardian angel of infant humanity, my reverence for woman as our first preceptor, my love of woman as the sweetener of life, have not been derived from western education, great as its influence has been in otherwise modelling my character, nor from our own shastras. They are inherent in me, and the great wonder with me is, how any man can be void of them. I deplore the condition of woman not in my own country alone, but all over the world more or less. It is to wipe off to the extent in my power this reproach to which we men have rendered ourselves liable, and to lighten the debt of gratitude I owe to one without whose incessant and tender care I would have long ceased to be, that I have ventured to propose the name, and I trust that in this small matter I shall not fail to have Your Honor's approval.

My last word is that Your Honor be pleased to grant our prayer by laying the first stone of the Rajkumari Leper Asylum; and I need hardly add that by this act Your Honor will not only lay under the deepest obligation Mrs. Sircar and myself and the lepers but the whole community of Deoghar.

INDIAN COUNCILS ACT, 1892.

[55 & 56 VICTORIA, CHAPTER 14]

An Act to amend the Indian Councils Act, 1861.

[20th June, 1892.]

Be it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. (1) The number of additional members of Council nominated by the Governor General under the provisions of section ten of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, shall be such as to him may seem from time to time expedient, but shall not be less than ten nor more than sixteen; and the number of additional members of Council nominated by the Governors of the presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay respectively under the provisions of section twenty-nine of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, shall (besides the advocate-general of the presidency or officer acting in that capacity) be such as to the said Governors respectively may seem from time to time expedient, but shall not be less than eight nor more than twenty.

(2) It shall be lawful for the Governor General in Council by proclamation from time to time to increase the number of councillors whom the Lieutenant-Governors of the Bengal Division of the presidency of Fort William and of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh respectively may nominate for their assistance in making laws and regulations: Provided always that not more than twenty shall be nominated for the Bengal Division, and not more than fifteen for the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

(3) Any person resident in India may be nominated an additional member of Council under sections ten and twenty-nine of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, and this Act, or a member of the Council of the lieutenant-governor of any province to which the provisions of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, touching the making of laws and regulations, have been or are hereafter extended or made applicable.

(4) The Governor General in Council may from time to time, with the approval of the Secretary of State in Council, make regulations as to the conditions under which such nominations, or any of them, shall be made by the Governor General, Governors, and Lieutenant-Governors respectively, and prescribe the manner in which such regulations shall be carried into effect.

2. Notwithstanding any provision in the Indian Councils Act, 1861, the Governor General of India in Council may from time to time make rules authorising at any meeting of the Governor General's Council for the purpose of making laws and regulations the discussion of the Annual Financial Statement of the Governor General in Council and the asking of questions, but under such conditions and restrictions as to subject or otherwise as shall be in the said rules prescribed or declared: And notwithstanding any provisions in the Indian Councils Act, 1861, the Governors in Council of Fort St. George and Bombay respectively, and the lieutenant-governor of any province to which the provisions of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, touching the making of laws and regulations, have been more or are hereafter extended or made applicable, may from time to time make rules for authorising at any meeting of their respective Councils for the purpose of making laws and

regulations the discussion of the Annual Financial Statement of their respective local governments and the asking of questions, but under such conditions and restrictions as to subject or otherwise as shall be in the said rules applicable to such Councils respectively be prescribed or declared. But no member at any such meeting of any Council shall have power to submit or propose any resolution, or to divide the Council in respect of any such financial discussion, or the answer to any question asked under the authority of this Act, or the rules made under this Act: Provided that any rule made under this Act by a governor in council, or by a lieutenant governor, shall be submitted for and shall be subject to the sanction of the Governor General in Council, and any rule made under this Act by the Governor General in Council shall be submitted for and shall be subject to the sanction of the Secretary of State in Council: Provided also that rules made under this Act shall not be subject to alteration or amendment at meetings for the purpose of making laws and regulations.

3. It is hereby declared that in the twenty-second section of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, it was and is intended that the words "Indian territories now under the dominion of Her Majesty" should be read and construed as if the words "or hereafter" were and had at the time of the passing of the said Act been inserted next after the word "now"; and further, that the Acts third and fourth William the Fourth, Chapter eight-five, and sixteenth and seventeenth Victoria, Chapter ninety-five, respectively, shall be read and construed as if at the date of the enactment thereof respectively it was intended and had been enacted that the said Acts respectively should extend to and include the territories acquired after the dates thereof respectively by the East India Company, and should not be confined to the territories at the dates of the said enactments respectively in the possession and under the government of the said company.

4. Sections thirteen and thirty-two of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, are hereby repealed, and it is enacted that—

(1) If any additional member of Council or any member of the council of a lieutenant-governor appointed under the said Act or this Act shall be absent from India or unable to attend to the duties of his office for a period of two consecutive months, it shall be lawful for the Governor General, the governor, or lieutenant-governor to whose council such additional member or member may have been nominated (as the case may be) to declare, by a notification published in the Government Gazette, that the seat in Council of such person has become vacant:

(2) In the event of a vacancy occurring by the absence from India, inability to attend to duty, death, acceptance of office, or resignation duly accepted of any such additional member or member of the council of a lieutenant-governor, it shall be lawful for the Governor General, for the governor, or for the lieutenant-governor, as the case may be, to nominate any person as additional member or member, as the case may be, in his place; and every member so nominated shall be summoned to all meetings held for the purpose of making laws and regulations for the term of two years from the date of such nomination: Provided always that it shall not be lawful by such nomination, or by any other nomination made under this Act, to diminish the proportion of non-official members directed by the Indian Councils Act, 1861, to be nominated.

5. The local legislature of any province in India may from time to time, by Acts passed under and subject to the provisions of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, and with the previous sanction of the Governor General, but not otherwise, repeal or amend as to that province any law or regulation made either before or after the passing of this Act by any authority in India other than that local legislature: Provided that an Act or a provision of an Act made by a local legislature, and subsequently assented to by the Governor-General in pursuance of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, shall not be deemed invalid by reason only of its requiring the previous sanction of the Governor General under this section.

6. In this Act—

The expression "local legislature" means—

(1) The Governor in Council for the purpose of making laws and regulations of the respective provinces of Fort St. George and Bombay; and

(2) The council for the purpose of making laws and regulations of the lieutenant-Governor of any province to which the provisions of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, touching the making of laws or regulations have been or are hereafter extended or made applicable:

The expression "province" means any presidency, division, or province or territory over which the powers of any local legislature for the time being extend.

7. Nothing in this Act shall detract from or diminish the powers of the Governor General in Council at meetings for the purpose of making laws and regulations.

8. This Act may be cited as the Indian Councils Act, 1892; and the Indian Councils Act, 1861, and this Act may be cited together as the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892.

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 1892.

} No. 536

From the Papers of 1850.

A CEMETERY WITHOUT A MONUMENT.

MANY a tear has been dropped in memory of Capt. Ira Bursley, who, with his noble crew, after sending all the passengers ashore from the ill-fated Hottinguer, went down with her to the "cemetery without a monument."

Like the lamented Dustan, on board the Atlantic, he stayed by his vessel until the last efforts were put forth to save the lives of others. One is reminded of Cooper's description of long Tom Coffin, which, though fiction, has proved the mournful truth concerning many a brave sailor. In looking over a volume of poems by Brainard, I copied his

LAMENT FOR LONG TOM.

Let us think of them that sleep
Full many a fathom deep,
By thy wild and stormy steep,
Elsinore!

Thy cruise is over now,
Thou art anchored by the shore,
And never more shalt thou
Hear the storm around thee roar
Death has shaken out the sands of th
Now around thee sports the whale,
And the porpoise snuffs the gale,
And the night winds wake their wail,
As they pass.

The sea-grass round thy bier
Shall bend beneath the tide,
Nor tell the breakers near,
Where thy manly limbs abide;
But the granite rock thy tombstone shall be.
Though the edges of thy grave
Are the combings of the wave,
Yet unheeded they shall rave
Over thee.

At the piping of all hands,
When the Judgment signal's spread;
When the islands and the lands
And the seas give up their dead,
And the North and the South shall come:
When the sinner is betrayed,
And the just man is afraid,
Then Heaven be thy aid,
Poor Tom.

From the Oxford Edition of Milton's Works.

MILTON ON HIS LOSS OF SIGHT.

I AM old and blind!
Men point at me as smitten by God's frown;

Afflicted and deserted of my kind,
Yet I am not cast down.

I am weak, yet strong;
I murmur not, that I no longer see;
Poor, old, and helpless, I the more belong,
Father Supreme! to thee.

O, merciful One!
When men are furthest, then thou art most near;
When friends pass by, my weakness to shun,
Thy chariot I hear.

Thy glorious face
Is leaning toward me, and its holy light
Shines in upon my lonely dwelling-place—
And there is no more night.

On my bended knee,
I recognize thy purpose, clearly shown;
My vision thou hast dimmed, that I may see
Thyself, thyself alone.

I have nought to fear;
This darkness is the shadow of thy wing;
Beneath it I am almost sacred—here
Can come no evil thing.

Oh! I seem to stand
Trembling, where foot of mortal ne'er hath been,
Wrapped in the radiance from thy sinless land,
Which eye hath never seen.

Visions come and go;
Shapes of resplendent beauty round me throng;
From angel lips I seem to hear the flow
Of soft and holy song.

It is nothing now,
When heaven is opened on my sightless eyes,
When airs from Paradise refresh my brow,
The earth in darkness lies.

In a purer clime,
My being fills with rapture—waves of thought
Roll in upon my spirit—strains sublime
Break over me unsought.

Give me now my lyre!
I feel the stirrings of a gift divine;
Within my bosom glows unearthly fire,
Lit by no skill of mine.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

WEEKLYANA.

THE Wharves, Tidal Basin, and Dock No. 1 at Kidderpore have been declared by the Local Government to be places for the landing and shipping of cargo.

THE newest member of the Bengal Legislative Council is Mr. Patrick Playfair. He succeeds Mr. C. H. Moore. The date of his appointment is the 27th July and he took his seat on the 30th following.

MR. C. A. Samuells, Officiating Commissioner of Excise, Bengal, takes three months' leave from the 12th instant. Mr. T. Inglis, Officiating Junior Secretary, Board of Revenue, will, in addition to his own duties, have charge of the current duties of the other office. This may be taken as an argument against independent existence of the new office of Excise Commissioner.

THE second half-yearly departmental examination of 1892 of Assistant and Deputy Magistrates, Special Deputy Collectors, and Sub-Deputy Collectors in the Regulation and Non-Regulation Districts, and of officers in the Police, Medical, Public Works, Forest and Opium Departments, will begin on Thursday, the 27th October next and be concluded on the Saturday following.

IN the Hyderabad libel case, S. M. Mitra has been allowed a month's time to prepare his defence. It will be taken up on the 29th.

THE Chief Presidency Magistrate, Bombay, has fined the manager of Messrs. D. B. Taraporewala, booksellers, Rs. 201 for selling an obscene book, "The Theory and Practice of Neo-Malthusianism," the one Rupee being added to give the defendant an opportunity of appealing to the High Court.

IN the same city a young man of twenty-one, Thomas Martin, formerly employed on the local railways, having been thrown out of work, and the mother of the young woman to whom he was engaged having broken off the match, swallowed opium to end his troubles and his life. Failing to kill himself, he was prosecuted for the attempt. The Magistrate showed his just appreciation of the law by sentencing him to one day's imprisonment.

JOHN HAWKINS, of Taunton, a plate-layer on the Great Western Railway, is being prosecuted for marrying Jane Caswell, his step-daughter. The charge is that he made a false declaration of marriage, saying that he was not related to her.

ON July 8, at the West London Police Court, Captain Walter Barnes Pugh was brought up for being drunk and disorderly in Hammersmith-road. The Magistrate, Mr. Montagu Williams, suspected in the prisoner a school fellow, and satisfying himself on the point by enquiring of him, ordered his discharge, advising him not to be drunk again. A stern judge would have acted differently.

HERE is a snake story from Japan which beats hollow all others, including the legends of the most imaginative American journalists:—

"One called Saito Tora-no-suke was one day breaking up some land, when he came upon a snake three feet long. Seizing it in his hands, he called out to his companions that if they would give him four dollars he would swallow the snake. Although dollars are scarce in Japan, it is stated that the money was at once subscribed, the onlookers not believing that the bet would be won. But, true to his word, Saito put the head of the creature into his mouth and swallowed the whole three feet of snake without difficulty. The punishment of his temerity was swift and fell. While his companions were gazing at him speechless with horror and astonishment, he was seen to change colour and fall to the ground in great pain, and he died in a few minutes."

That feat is worthy of the race that in a night effected in the same breath a political, a social, and a religious Revolution. Verily, these islanders of the Pacific coast are the *rakshases* of the Sanskrit authors.

WHILE the Government in India are anxious about the increase of population shewn in the last census, in France they have introduced in the Chamber a Bill providing against the steady decrease of numbers.

IN July last, M. Delafosse, Vicar-General of the diocese of Rennes, was fined 8*l*. for preaching sermons directed against the Government. He had denounced secular schools, saying that parents who sent their children to them were no more entitled to absolution than if guilty of blasphemy or immorality, and had spoken of a conflict as going on between God's soldiers and devils.

MR. Exshaw, of brandy fame, was born in France, is a British subject and resides at Bordeaux. His son, Alfred, was born at Bordeaux in 1871 and, under the Nationality Law of 1889, was inscribed on the Conscription List, and subsequently adjudged to serve in the Army. The son when of age had elected the British nationality. He now claimed to be freed from service in the French Army. The French Court has decided against him as both father and son were born in France.

As a movement against Bremen and Liverpool, arrangements are making to found a Cotton Exchange at Hamburg.

THE terrible efficiency of the manlicher was proved the other day near Arad, in Hungary, by a fatal accident. At a distance of nearly one and a half mile, a labourer was shot dead by a soldier at the practising ground, the labourer deeming himself safe for the space intervening.

THE *Advocate of India* notices that a Calcutta church warden advertises for

"an M. A. or B. A., strong in Mathematics and English, to be a private tutor to a second year boy, salary Rs. 20 a month with free board and lodging. Residence in the house is compulsory." and asks,

"Has higher education reached this despicable level?"

Our contemporary moralises in this strain and concludes an excellent "leader" with an appropriate paragraph, whereof we submit the best portions:—

"The outlook for a relief to the possessors of University degrees is not bright. An overstocked market is being still more overstocked. In industries when there is over production the brake is put on, production is restricted until an equilibrium is established between demand and supply. No such law is either recognized or followed in higher education, and yet political economy and its laws are fully taught in the colleges. Should these colleges practise what they teach? Yes, says everybody, they should be true to their principles."

This is the writer's advice to the guardians of youth:—

"Should not these parents and friends make some forecast of the future economic condition of India? If they make this forecast they will find in the industrial centres that machinery is becoming the deity of the day. Engines and boilers, and tools and mechanical plant are being dragged all over the country and distributed everywhere, and if India is once so released from her currency difficulty as to attract European capital into the country the land will be filled with mechanics both of higher and a lower order. Mechanical industries are therefore the most promising life for Indian youth in the future. These industries are increasing rapidly while the field of candidates is not overstocked. It is exactly the reverse with higher education; the candidates for such employment as University men can engage in are ten times in excess of the business appropriate to their training. Hundreds of such candidates have committed irretrievable error by devoting the best part of their lives and no inconsiderable portion of the household means to secure a training which can gain an M. A. strong in Mathematics and English with the miserable pittance of twenty rupees a month."

THERE is a general movement among the Local Administrations against municipal management. This is not visible in the Bengal Legislative Council only. The Madras Government lately appointed a Chairman to the Municipal Board of Calicut, to the annoyance of the forward party in Malabar. They have now passed the following order:

"As M. R. Ry. M. Tillinayakam Pillai Avergal's duties in connection with the Revenue and Magisterial administration of the two important Taluks of Madura and Tirumangalam render it necessary that he should be relieved at the earliest possible date of the office of the Chairman, Municipal Council of Madura, and as no fitting Municipal Councillor can be found to take up the appointment, the Government considers it desirable to appoint a paid Chairman, but before passing final orders on the matter, the Municipal Council will be requested to submit as soon as possible any remarks it may have to offer on the proposal."

The *Madura Mail* loudly condemns the proposition of a paid Chairman for a Municipality. According to our contemporary,

"It means that the right of election which was purposely and deliberately granted to the Council by the Act of 1884 is to be permanently taken away from it. It means that the Government is to have the sole voice in appointing or removing the Chairman and that the Council is to be a puppet in his hands. It means that Lord Ripon's beneficent object of training indigenous talent for self-government and giving non-official gentlemen the rudiments of political education by initiating them in the administration of local affairs, is to be frustrated and set at naught. It means increased expenditure, which must sooner or later mean increased taxation. It seems to us that the only dignified course that the Council can adopt is to ask the Government to give it back the right of election, which the Government took away from it simply because the Act was so defective that there was no other way of getting rid of a Chairman whom neither the Council nor the Government wanted to remain where he was. After electing their Chairman, the Council may afterwards, if need be, consider the desirability or necessity of paying him a salary or an allowance. The Council can easily create a paid nominee of Government, but it would by no means be easy for it to get rid of him when it finds him to be needless or mischievous. As we have pointed out before, neither the Council nor the Government has the power to pay a Chairman, without the consent of the other."

The *Malabar and Travancore Spectator* has been speaking in the same strain of the official action at Calicut.

It seems a part of local self-government as understood by our countrymen of both Bengal and Madras, not to pay the labourer his hire. It is a mistake which must be rectified sooner or later. Municipalities equally in the North and the South have ceased to deserve the consideration claimed for them by our contemporaries.

NOTES & LEADERETTES

with OUR OWN NEWS.

THE new Parliament met on the 4th as announced at the dissolution. The first business, the election of the Speaker, was gone through quickly. The Right Hon. Arthur Wellesley Peel was re-elected unopposed, Mr. Gladstone seconding. Then commenced the swearing in of Members. Lord Salisbury's Government has decided to face the new House. The Queen's Speech will be read on the 8th, when the Opposition will move for a direct vote of want of confidence in the Government. It is probable that the Parliamentary Session will close directly after the vote is passed, after a debate of two days. To give point to the capture by the Conservatives of five Irish seats, one of the Ulster Members, Mr. Barton, has been selected to move the address in reply to the Queen's Speech. On the 5th, the Labour Member for South West Ham, Mr. Keir Hardie, went to the House in some state. He drove in a wagonette with a brass band playing the "Marseillaise." He was, however, dressed in a tweed suit and a cloth cap, which he wore in the House.

The anti-Parnellite new Committee, which reckons among its members Messrs. Blake and Michael Davitt, has re-elected Mr. Justin MacCarthy, Chairman.

CHOLERA is decreasing along the Volga but is on the increase along the river Don, where there were five hundred deaths in one day.

It has even attacked St. Petersburg. There was one death there on Monday.

Grain riots have been followed by Cholera riots in Russia. Stringent measures to suppress the disease at Tobolsk and Tomsb were resented by Sarts, who in thousands attacked and pillaged the house of the Deputy Governor and ultimately killed him. In return for the attack and murder, the troops who had to be called out fired upon the rioters and killed sixty and wounded upwards of a hundred.

ON the 3rd, there were seven deaths from cholera in Paris and the same number in Tours.

RUSSIAN secret despatches are being officially published by the Bulgarian Government, proving the complicity of high Russian officials in the plots to murder Prince Ferdinand. The Russian Government denounce the documents as forgeries.

HEAT is intense in New York and all the cities in the Eastern States of America. There have been several deaths from sunstroke. Busi-

ness is almost at a stand-still. The weather at New York has since cooled down.

WE are evidently on the brink of a crisis. Matters seem to be coming to a head on the outer Afghan frontier. A Simla telegram of the 4th says that the Afghans have come into collision with the Russians and Chinese on the Alichar Pamir and have also carried off a number of Kirghis as captives. General Yanoff and his party are said to have come down to Aktash. The number of Russians on the Pamirs is uncertain, varying, according to different accounts, from five hundred to two thousand. A later report says that five Russians were killed and about fifteen taken prisoners, but whether the former were Russians or Kirghis it is impossible to say. Gholam Haider's whereabouts are still unknown. The English Conservative papers connect the Russian descent on the Pamirs with the accession of Mr. Gladstone to power.

ACCORDING to a London telegram of the 4th instant, several thousand rioters who took part in the late disturbances at Tashkend, fled and tried to enter Ferghana, but were repulsed by the local troops. The position of the Russians, however, is critical if the insurrection spreads, the majority of the Ferghana troops having gone to the Pamir. The Governor of Turkestan, who has been asked to send reinforcements from Tashkend, has refused owing to excitement among the Mussulmans there.

THE voluminous and rather angry correspondence which has lately been going on between the Government of India and the Ameer having failed to convince the latter against his will, the Viceroy invited him to a conference. It was on the face of it a wild suggestion to the Afghan ruler to leave his country at a time when it is in war with the tribes and beset by dangers on all sides. But the Viceroy had no choice. As he expected, the Ameer expressed his inability to come to India. Then His Excellency offered to send his own trusted man to *samjao* Abdur Rahman Khan. The Afghan has readily, and we believe gladly, consented. Accordingly, a deputation from India to Afghanistan will shortly leave, Lord Roberts heading it.

THE Gaekwar of Baroda and family are still travelling in Europe. They had an audience of the Queen of England and Empress of India at Windsor. In the wretched taste of the day, which cannot too severely be condemned, the Farzand-i-Khas-i-Doulat-i-Englishtia was habited as a European with the exception of the head dress. The Maharani, however, was Oriental and not Occidental in her costume. She wore, says "Atlas" in the *World*, "a dark blue *sari* with heavy gold border, a bright pink jacket, and some of the finest pearls, emeralds and diamonds ever seen in Windsor in the day time." Her Majesty was all graciousness. "The Maharani addressed the Queen in very fair English and the Queen answered without much difficulty in Hindustani." There! there was an event, for those who have the imagination to see it. It was a prolonged conversation. The Gaekwar subsequently dined with Her Majesty. The Gaekwari party consisted of the Maharaja, the Maharani, their two sons, attended by Shriinant Sampatrao Gaekwar, the brother of the Maharaja, and Shrimant Sita Bai, Mrs. Elliott, and Rajashri Vasuan Madhan Samarth. The dinner party included their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Henry of Battenberg, his Highness the Maharaja of Gaekwar of Baroda, the Countess of Antrim (Lady-in-Waiting), Miss McNeill, the Marchioness of Lansdowne, and Lady Evelyn Fitz-Maurice, Viscount and Viscountess Cross, the Earl of Romney (Lord-in-Waiting), General the Right Hon. Sir Henry Ponsonby, the Hon. Sir Edmund Monson, Sir Gerakl Seymour Fitzgerald (Political Aid-de-Camp), and Colonel Reynolds (Governor-General's Agent at Baroda).

THE Conference at Venice, in January last, for the sanitary control of ships passing through the Red Sea to Europe, proved abortive. A code on sanitary basis was prepared by France, and many of the Powers saw that it would be more acceptable than the diplomatic arrangement contrived between Austria and England. After discussion, the French code was modified and improved, and all the Powers accepted it except England and Turkey. With a view towards final settlement they lately reopened the Conference at Paris. Although Austria, France and Eng-

land have each appointed a diplomatic delegate, yet it is known that the technical delegates—Dr. Proust, Professor Brouardel and Dr. Thorne—will decide the matter, and they have come to a satisfactory conclusion. A convention has been agreed upon. Mr. Constantine Phipps and Dr. Thorne have accepted it for England, M. Barrere, Professor Brouardel and Dr. Proust signed for France and Count Keufstein agreed for Austria-Hungary. The last Power will submit the convention to other Powers for their approval. The measures are now much less stringent, and consequently a greater facility will be afforded to vessels passing through the Suez Canal. Cholera patients, their nurses and immediate adherents are only to be landed in a hospital. If they are to be kept on board, the detention of the vessel will vary from a few hours to five days according to the date of the last attack, to put them under observation. But vessels without doctors will be under the control of doctors of the Alexandria Board. For some years an idea has grown identifying Moses' Wells near Suez as the plague spot on the route from which the cholera radiates to all parts of Europe. There is no excluding devout men from pilgrimage to a holy shrine, but the international physicians are not for receiving them back, believing that the pilgrims are sure to draw cholera from the Wells and on their return to contaminate the Western world. Hence stringent measures of isolation and disinfection are to be provided to their full extent. The English Government has consented to less authority on the Alexandria Board to make it more international in its character, and this has occasioned great satisfaction amongst the Continental Powers.

MATTERS are going from bad to worse in the Straits Settlements. The Malay insurrection has become a formidable thing. Six months ago, the Orang Kayah, in revenge apparently for some wrongs, real or imaginary, proceeded with a few followers and looted one or two police-guards. Armed with the captured rifles, he pursued a career of raiding, dacoiting several small towns or villages, until he was emboldened to threaten Pahang. A handful of Sikhs were sent to stop the further spread of Orang-ism, but it was then too late. Kayah had become a power. The utmost that could be done was to place Pahang into a temporary state of defence. The Straits Government then called upon the Sultan to suppress what threatened to become a very serious rising. They, furthermore, in especial requested him to operate against the Orang Kayah. He promised of course, but wasted valuable time in inaction, when the Resident was roused and goaded him. By that the Orang Kayah had over-run a large area of the country, maiming and murdering two Europeans, and it was not until he was within an ace of attacking Tras and Ruab that the Straits Government awoke to the fact that the situation had become serious. Still no European troops were pushed to Pahang on the absurd ground that the "climate was not suitable for Europeans," nor were the men-of-war, then lying idle in port, despatched for the safety of the besieged places. The Sultan, whose loyalty was suspected, allowed to take the field against the insurgent leader without the presence of a European in his camp, made no impression on the course of events. The rising was not stamped out, any more than the Orang Kayah was caught. Even after that, Government would not see the necessity of adequate measures. Once more some Sikhs only proceeded to mop away the flood. The rebels quietly took shelter in the jungle where the handful of sepoy's dared not to follow them. The Sultan having already returned home, the country at large is practically at the mercy of the rebel leader and his horde. Add to all, the latest news is that the Sultan's own followers, headed by the Datoh Gajah, has destroyed a quantity of valuable new machinery belonging to the Raub Gold-mining Company.

Unless the Government of the Straits can soon show more activity and capacity, and concentrate all their forces, naval and military, for a crushing blow, the rebellion will pass beyond their power, and the Government of India will have to be called to reconquer the lost Province.

WE received yesterday the following telegram from Gya :—

Two thousand Sunni Mahomedans assembled in the Jumma mosque today, prayed for Nawab Abdool Luteef Bahadur's long life and prosperity and wired to him a message of gratitude for keeping Government informed of the true state of the Sunni feeling here on the late alarm and agitation by the Shias of this place and securing timely interference of Government in averting much apprehended breach of the local public peace.

A NEW feature of elective system has come to our notice. It shows to what low depth respectable and educated people can stoop when they have to defeat and insult their opponents. During a bye-election in the Natore Municipality, one Zamir jemadar, a head-peon of a local Magistrate, has been elected a Municipal Commissioner. We are told that this fortunate *peada*—porter or messenger—has been elected through the influence of an enlightened local Raja or Maharaja, whose object is to compel some of the most useful and respectable Commissioners to resign. The election has caused a great sensation in that little town, and it is said that a large number of Commissioners are going to resign. They cannot, they think, continue in their posts with a grain of self-respect in them. It is said that no meeting will be held again, as it is believed that most of the Commissioners will not attend. The new Municipal Commissioner is illiterate, and the object of thrusting him upon the Corporation is that he might insult the opponents of his master. It has also been notified in the *Bazar* that all the rayyets of the Rajdhanees shall call him a Moulvie in future. The Moulvie Peadah was to have been installed as a Commissioner on the 1st August and a valuable khillat given him after the ceremony by his high-minded and liberal patron.

Here is a godsend for Mr. Cotton. This incident unexpectedly supports several of his contentions.

As the municipal Bill is now before the Bengal Council, we hope the legislature will take notice of this election. If any one simply for vexatious and wicked purposes gets an unfit person elected in order to annoy and insult other Commissioners, it is very necessary that there should be some remedy, otherwise all good and honest people will be gradually driven out of the infusill Municipalities.

Party feeling being at its highest, the municipal administration of Natore has come to stand-still, and no useful work is done. The sufferers are the rate-payers. The town is one of the dirtiest in Bengal, full of all sorts of filth and sewage. There is no drainage and the rain water has no outlet. Malaria is making havoc among the population.

RAJA Surjakant Acharjee has appealed against the order of the Assistant Magistrate of Maimensing fining him Rs. 500 for building a wall of his house. While the appeal is pending before the District Judge, the High Court has made absolute the rule issued against the District Magistrate calling upon him to show cause why his order on the Raja not to rebuild the wall which the Magistrate had himself taken down, while his Assistant, before whom the complaint was pending, had not yet made his order, shall not be set aside. The High Court is of opinion that there can be no prohibition against repetition of what has not been declared a nuisance by a competent Court. Mr. Justice O'Kinealy argues that "if a man has been acquitted of an offence, it is hardly a proper thing to pass an order from an executive point of view, and say 'don't do it again.' Nor can it be said that he continued a public nuisance of any kind, for if the statement on the paper be correct, it appears that the nuisance has been abated. That being so we think that the order under section 143 is not an order that we should allow to stand on the record, and in making the rule absolute we set aside the order."

At the hearing, the Crown was not represented. Mr. Kilby indeed appeared but he was not ready to argue. He asked for an adjournment on the ground that the Advocate-General was unable to appear to show cause against the rule. The Court, however, refused the application on the opposition of Sir Griffith Evans, as it was not shewn that Mr. Woodroffe's absence was due to any official business.

At the rising of the Court, Mr. Woodroffe appeared before the Chief Justice and asked for an order for a re-hearing of the rule. He took up high ground. Standing on the inalienable rights of the Sovereign whom he represented, he contended that the Divisional Bench had no jurisdiction in the matter in the Advocate-General's absence, however occasioned. The Crown, he said, was *dominus litis* in all criminal matters, and the Judges being servants of the Crown were bound to grant postponement of cases in which the Crown was concerned, on the demand of its representatives, not being competent to decide such cases unless those representatives were present and had been heard. The argument was worthy of the Advocate-General's subtlety. Considering what a labyrinth the English law is, who shall undertake to assert the soundness of the

contention? Enough to know that Sir Comer Petheram saw no reason to interfere.

THE following attracted our notice in an article quoted from the *Saturday Review* in the Allahabad *Morning Post* :—

"Sterne's Maria's 'God tempers the winds to the shorn lamb' appeared long ago in Herbert of Cherbury's *Jacula Prudentum* (where perhaps that false Yorick found it, or he didn't know too much French, even of Stratford-at-Bowe) as 'To a close shorn sheep, God gives wind by measure'; and Lord Herbert must have translated this—for its form is not English—from the French proverb which Littré gives, 'A brebis tondue, Dieu mesure le vent.' This is also in Leroux (of 1786); but Cotgrave (1660) has it not, although he does give a right good answer to it in 'Les malvestus devers le vent,' just our 'The weakest to the wall.' But there are endless other French forms of Sterne's saw all over the place."

Unless there is an inherent and special confusion in the matter, that correction cannot go unchallenged. There are in English literary history two contemporaries of the name of Herbert, who were brothers—George the divine and sacred Poet, and Edward, Lord Herbert of Cherbury, the diplomatist and statesman, who wrote probably the first autobiography in English, but is better known for his deistical publications. Did each of the brothers Herbert publish his *Jacula Prudentum*? This kind of work was, no doubt, a favorite with men of wit and learning in those early times, and the great Bacon himself did not disdain it. We have before us the good George Herbert's *Jacula Prudentum* first printed in the year of the Revolution, 1640, but of course the alleged original of poor Maria's maxim, worthy of Holy Writ—a maxim, by the way, which has always profoundly struck us with its pathos and its trustfulness—does not occur in it.

We were shocked to hear of the death of Baboo Surendra Nath Mitter, eldest son of the late Mr. Justice Dwarkanath Mitter. He died suddenly of a short and apparently simple fever. The doctors themselves are as much surprised at the silent prognosis and startling *finale* as his unsophisticated friends. As was remarked in the case of General Washington, the news of death preceded the report of illness. There are evidently mysteries in the commonest complaints beyond the Faculty.

The deceased had been a brilliant boy who disappointed his early promise. It was due partly to the *entourage* of his father who not only saw a prodigy in the boy but some of them thought it politeness, and others conceived it their interest, to pile proofs upon proofs of the fact, in season and out of season, before the partial parent. Not content with that, several of them dwelt on the supposed proofs in the presence or in the hearing of the prodigified. The result was, that if the brilliant parent narrowly escaped demoralization, the poor boy could scarcely help being in some degree spoiled. Still he was an uncommon lad and might have done uncommonly well. Here the father was in the boy. Brilliant men do not make good fathers any more than good husbands. The brilliant Bengali Judge of the High Court was no exception. With the best intentions in the world, he was his son's worst enemy. He was at him from the earliest period, and at once distracted and overburdened him. He would teach him everything, but specially he would see him distinguish himself in the mathematical and physical sciences in which he most delighted. The precocious aptitude which the boy showed in these, only aggravated the intellectual persecution against him—drew down on him further tortures of learning on his devoted head. What wonder the poor fellow broke down!

His mother had died before his father, and the untimely death of his father left him doubly an orphan. Thus thrown upon the world without guardians, a scion of wealth within his teens, without a career, without any urgent occupation, it is very creditable to young Surendra that nothing worse was alleged against him in a censorious community than extravagance. But his expenditure lay in a harmless direction. He had a weakness for purchases. He filled his large house and grounds with all sorts of things. He was still scientific in his tastes, still pursuing astronomy, zoology, botany and other sciences. Photography and the arts too attracted him. On the whole, he found himself in good occupations, and doubtless he lived a more interesting and not unuseful life than most youngmen of wealth in this or any other country.

He was a chip of a fine rare block. A noble soul, ever ready to relieve others, indeed charitable to a fault, manly, truthful, hating falsehood, and honest to the backbone. The death of such a man is a

greater loss to society than the passing away in triumph of many a "bogus" notability.

THE din of the Mohrram has been loudest in the Allahabad High Court. Mr. Justice Mahmood, in open Court, resented the preparation of the cause list of his Court without reference to himself, though under rules of the Court sanctioned by himself and the other Judges, and refused to attend Court during the whole period of the Moharram. He had no religious scruples in the matter, but as a matter of social propriety, he thought that he had the right as one of Her Majesty's Judges to decline to be forced to sit during the Ashr-i-Moharram. He is, however, a loyal servant of the Crown, and would not put the Government or the public to any real inconvenience. He said:—"I intend to remain in Allahabad during the whole of this Ashr-i-Moharram and I shall during this period be available for any emergent work that may arise during that period and which may be required by my own sense of duty under the Letters Patent with which Her Majesty has honored me as a puisne Judge of this Court, and which I have loyally accepted." Mr. Justice Mahmood is a very able Judge who knows his rights and means to assert them. But he knows his duties too, and will strictly perform them. He claims equal privileges with the Chief Justice except in one or two matters.

The revolt of the Mahomedan Judge was taken up by the Mahomedan lawyers and they too kept away. An appeal came up before the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Blair. Mr. M. A. Rushid, Counsel for the appellant, being absent, the Chief Justice dismissed it, as no previous application had been made for its postponement.

Englishmen are not likely to sympathise with a contention of Easterns independent of religious scruple. But they ought to appreciate the manliness which takes its stand on civil rights, scorning to take shelter under a religious plea which might sometimes or in the case of some be false.

We are afraid there is a mistake in the reading of the telegram received by us from Gya which appears at the bottom of p. 376, col. 1. The word "and" between "alarm" and "agitation" in line 5 of the telegram was of our introduction to make sense. It makes poor sense, to be sure, though better grammar. It now appears that "alarm" is a blunder of the signaller in wiring *alam*—the standard which is carried in the Moharram procession and which is now being employed in many places as a signal for uttering the *Tabarra* or imprecations. The passage should be read "the late *alam* agitation" &c.

We may as well here state that we received the telegram from a gentleman whom we do not know, but as he dates it from the Jumma Masjid, he must be the Superintendent of that religious edifice.

The spontaneous impulse of two thousand Mahomedans at a great city in Behar assembling at the Cathedral-mosque of the city and praying for Nawab Abdool Luteef Bahadar, is a great thing for that gentleman. This, speaking secularly. From a religious point, it is a great deal more—of incalculable value. Islam is still a living faith. The Mussulmans have not yet degraded their religion by making of it a political stock-in-trade. No tyrant in the world could send two thousand Mussulmans to a mosque to make a hypocritical profession. Is there any serious-minded, not to say religious, man who doubts that the sincere intercession of two thousand men with the Almighty counts for nothing?

Humanly speaking, the Nawab deserves the thanks of not only Mussulmans but all communities as well as of the Government, for his exertions in preventing bloodshed and the horrors of a bitter internecine religious struggle.

AN esteemed Mahomedan correspondent writes to us in connection with our leader on the Maharram in our last issue :—

"The article on the Moharram will cause a great sensation. I am sorry however that two errors in spelling have crept in which would not be noticed in any other paper, except in the *Reis and Rayyet*. One is *Hassan*. The martyr of Karbala was not *Hassan*, but his younger brother *Hossain*—the elder, having been poisoned a few months earlier. The other is *Bhishtes*. The word is *BiHishiti*, which means one whose dwelling place is or ought to be the Heavens, on account of his business being to supply drinking water to the thirsty, a most pious act. It was first corrupted to *Bhishti* and the Europeans dropped the *h* after the *s* and made it *Bhisti*. This last word is quite vulgar. *Bhishti*, with the *h* is passable."

LADY Evelyn Fitzmaurice, daughter of Lord and Lady Lansdowne, was united in holy wedlock, on the 30th July, to the Hon. Victor Cavendish, at St. Margaret's Westminster, in the presence of the highest society. It is difficult to regard without mixed feelings this grand wedding in high life in England, while the father of the young bride is locked up in splendid exile on the heights of the Himalayan hills on the borders of Chinese Tartary. Lord Lansdowne must be musing at heart in the strain of the Poet,

O, had I the wings of a dove,
How soon would I be home again,

to preside on the happy occasion! May all the joys of married life without its trials be theirs!

To the people of India, it was immaterial whether the wedding took place in Europe or Asia. They have no part in such functions, even as mere beholders. Even if the great Lord Saheb married his son or daughter in this country, no shrine would be the richer by a minished Rupee, nor any beggar be fuller in the belly by a single fried bread (*pooree*). There would be no noisy procession with music and lights to enjoy. No crowds would be permitted to hover round the church to contemplate in mute wonder at the white ladies and gentlemen and their seemingly well-rehearsed pantomime. If the more curious attempted a peep within the lofty spired pile, they would stand a good chance of being sent by a zealous constabulary to make the acquaintance of the inside of a lock-up. No native of the soil would be invited. Not even the Chiefs and Princes of the land who may have many a time been privileged to receive the Viceroy and family and suite as honoured guests at their own seats, would be apprised of the happy event. Certainly, the people would not know that anything was the matter in the family or at the Palace of the Ruler—the great Satrap of all the Indies. Far be it from us to complain. Where nobody was to blame, complaint were gratuitous injustice. We only indulge in obvious reflections on a changed order. It is well that our people do not know the personal joys and sorrows of our rulers. Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise! The marriage of the heir of the British Nawab Viceroy and Governor-General of India could scarcely stand comparison for popular effect with the least demonstrative wedding at the house of the Nawab Nizam-ool-moolk Bahadur of the Deccan, or of the Maharaja of Patiala, or even, coming down to non-ruling Chiefs, with such a grand wedding as took place the other day at the seat of Dumraon. The people still cherish the memory of the pomp and profusion with which Mahabbat Jang celebrated the nuptials of his ill-fated grandson, on which occasion, for one thing, open table was maintained for a whole month at the Nawab's expense for the people throughout the country.

But the ways of the Mussulmans and Hindus are not the ways of the British. We shall not be surprized to hear that Lord Lansdowne had, by way of marking his joy, sent donations to the Charities of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Lahore and other cities.

A TRAVELLER in Italy, while passing through Turin, recently called upon the aged Hungarian patriot Kossuth, who lives there in modest and comfortable circumstances. He was surprised to see a man of ninety rise to greet him with the ease of a man of seventy or less. Kossuth still reads and writes without spectacles, is not deaf, takes his daily walks, and speaks England's English as he did when delivering eloquent lectures on Hungary forty years ago. Throughout life, Kossuth has, in diet, lived simply, and this moderation now has its reward in an old age full of surprising elasticity and vigour.

AFTER all, the old man is not happy. He has turned a misanthrope, with all his fervent republicanism. We learn—

"Kossuth continues a consistent Freethinker, and is more pronouncedly Republican than in '48, considering Presidents of Republics as needless and as but an imitation of Monarchy. The social question, he considered, and the question of capital and labour would become aggravated as years went on, and culminate in a frightful convulsion. That was another certainty. 'I have quitted humanity,' said Kossuth, 'left it at a distance.' There is no wonder at this, considering the universality of hypocrisy and ingratitude, the littleness of the public mind, the ignorance of the masses, and the debauched state of the world's political press. 'La société moderne est une grande bête.'"

So this is the latest gospel of the great Patriot—*Modern society is a huge beast*. Alas! alas for the world!

KOSSUTH is still engaged in the memoirs of his eventful life. Three only of the dozen volumes in which he hopes to complete them, have already appeared. He dwelt with much pleasure on his recollections of the reception given him in America after quitting Europe. In the six months of his stay there, he delivered six hundred speeches. He never reads books printed about him, nor notices in the newspapers. The old story!

GOOD luck, like ill, is contagious. Home Rule flushed with success at the General Election, has scored a literary triumph of no little consequence. It has drawn from the veteran bard Robert Buchanan a charming little poem. Here it is:—

✓"THE UNION."

"This is the Unionist—yea, this is he
Whom every honest heart would choose to be!"

The speech our English freemen spoke
Still fills the plains afar,
Where branches of our English oak
Wave 'neath the Western star;
"Be free!" men cried, in Shakspeare's tongue,
When smiting for the slave—
Thus Hampden's cry for Freedom rung
As far as Lincoln's grave!

Back rings that cry from far away
To fill the Motherland,
Where 'neath the Union Jack this day
Both false and true men stand.
Hark to the foes of all things free,
Who, arm'd in hate, intone:
"The Union! Let our war-cry be
/That word, and that alone!"

"The Union! Kiss the dead Christ's face,
While brandishing the sword,
Foster the scorn of race for race,
Exult, and praise the Lord!
Carry the rule of pride and hate
O'er earth from pole to pole!
The Union! leave men desolate,
/But keep the Empire whole!"

"The Union? Yes, in God's name! still,
The Union!" we reply:
The Union of a Nation's will
Against each timbre'd Lie!
The Union beautiful and good
Of lands by Love made one!
/One heart, one cause, one brotherhood,
One Empire, 'neath the sun!

"That Union which hath been so long
Our boast from sea to sea,—
Justice, redressing human wrong,
Love, keeping all men free;
Not *that* which starves one hapless Land
While others smile full-fed,
Not that which from a brother's hand
Would snatch his daily bread!"

"Union in strength of Love, not Hate!
Union in Peace, not Strife!
Union to keep inviolate
/The sacraments of Life!
Union in one great common aim,
Triumphant late or soon,
To share the freedom we proclaim
With all who beg the boon!"

"Not Union based on braggart's boasts,
Or on the robber's creed,
Not Union thrust by armed hosts
On lives that would be freed !
Not Union fed by hate and wrath
Where'er the weak make moan !
No ! Union on the heavenward path
Where Justice hath her throne !

"Justice to all, and first, to those
Who speak our common speech—
Help to our brethren, great or small,
Free thought, free laws, for each :
Who chains his brother to his side
Seeketh his help in vain,
And Might is impotent to guide
The Souls that Love may gain.

"This is the Union which is still
Our strength from sea to sea—
Freedom, whose mandates we fulfil
By leaving all men free !
To sheathe the sword, to help man's lot,
To break each cruel chain !
The Union ?—Yes, by God !—but not
A pact 'tween Christ and Cain !"

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, August 6, 1892.

THE MOHARRAM.

THE Moharram has passed off in Bengal without any disturbance. This we say from what we have been able to learn up to this date. The authorities at Chuprah did not allow the Shias to take out the Alam with *Mashak* and *Tir*. The motion against that order of the Magistrate is still pending in the High Court, and may very likely be taken up by Messrs. O'Kinealy and Amir Ali some time next week. Although the Moharram has come to an end, the Shias of Chupra are anxious to take out the Alam, if allowed to do so, on the day of the chihlum which will take place in the beginning of September next.

As for Gya, there was great commotion among both the Shias and the Sunnis and there was an apprehension of a serious breach of the peace. The Commissioner calmly considered the representations of both sides, and discovered that the Shias of Gya had made a similar attempt in 1882, but owing to the strong objection of the Sunnis, permission was refused by the authorities—and ever since no further application had been made by them for the taking out of the *Mashak* and *Tir* with the Alam. Their application this year being thus a pure innovation, he was unable to grant it, especially as there was a likelihood of a disturbance among the members of the two sects. He accordingly reversed the order of the executive authorities and issued instructions not to allow the procession in question. We have not yet heard of any disturbance at Murshidabad, and we trust that everything has passed off satisfactorily there.

At Garden Reach, there was some fear of a quarrel, and Moulvi Abdool Jubbar Khan Bahadur the Suburban Police Magistrate, was present at the spot on the last day of the Moharram. We understand that Prince Jehan Kadr adopted special measures to warn the Shias of that locality against using any expressions which might give offence to

the Sunnis. This had the desired effect, and there was no disturbance.

In Calcutta, there has never been a dispute between the Shias and the Sunnis, as the leaders of the two sects have always been on the best of terms, and neither has ever given cause of offence to the other. The Moguls, or Persian merchants, who celebrate the Moharram in two richly furnished Imambarahs, and who are the most influential and wealthy Shias in Calcutta, do never allow the *Tabarra* to be uttered in their Imambarahs, or in the company of their grand processions with richly caparisoned horses and valuable Alams,—nor do they ever think of taking out any Alam with *Mashak* and *Tir*—or in any way offending the religious susceptibilities of the Sunnis. The result is that their Imambarahs and Processions are daily attended by a very large number of respectable Sunnis.

These processions occupy about two and half hours on each of the three days in the Moharram, during which the public roads are held by the Police and traffic entirely stopped. But the whole thing is so nicely and decorously managed, that there has never been any dispute or disturbance. This has been going on for the last 70 or 80 years, and the authorities or the various communities inhabiting the metropolis have never found cause for dissatisfaction with the arrangements of the Moguls. The chief credit belongs, however, to the Hon'ble Mr. Lambert and his predecessors in office for the very effective arrangements made by them for the passing of the processions through the crowded streets of Calcutta. Besides the processions of the Moguls, thousands of low class Mahomedans, almost entirely of the Sunni sect, take out numbers of large Taziahs in procession through the streets of Calcutta, accompanied by drums, torches, &c., and this is really a source of great anxiety to the Police. But they have, under the leadership of Mr. Lambert and his Deputy Mr. Barnard, managed the whole thing in such an admirable manner that it has passed off most satisfactorily and without a single hitch. We would be wanting in our duty to Sir Charles Elliott if we did not tender him the grateful thanks of the general community, for the firm attitude which he has assumed since his accession to the *guddee* at Belvedere, in putting down with a strong hand all breaches of the peace between the different communities on religious grounds throughout the territories under his Government.

THE LUNGAR PROCESSION OF HYDERABAD.

ON Saturday last, the 30th July, there were grand doings at Hyderabad, in the Deccan, which threw into the shade all the Moharram exhibitions throughout India. It was the day of the Lungar there—the Carnival of the Nizam. Like the *Bera* at Moorshedabad, it is not the observance of any religious injunction, Hindu or Mussulman, yet it is duly observed, year after year, and has been so observed for nearly three centuries, without interruption. Unlike the *Bera*, however, whose beginnings have been lost by the popular memory, the Lungar has a well-remembered historic origin. Not but what a Niebuhr or a Lewis could not suggest doubts in it, but as no palpable improbability is involved in it and as it is not timed in the dim past but belongs to a late modern and civilized era, the origin assigned may be believed. The able Hyderabad correspondent of the *Bombay Advocate of India* gives the account as follows:—

"On the fifteenth of the month of Zilhaj 1003 H. corresponding

with A. D. 1594, Prince Abdulla whose father, Sultan Kulu Kutub, was then reigning left Hyderabad for Golconda with a large body of nobles and attendants. He was mounted on an elephant and shortly after leaving the Purana Pool Gate the animal became *mad* and charged amongst the nobles and attendants, compelling them to flee for their lives. After this the elephant moved off towards the jungle, still having the unfortunate Prince on his back. His mother, Hanyat Baksh Begum, when she heard what had occurred became much alarmed for her son's safety. She ordered food to be placed in various places around Hyderabad for both the elephant and her son. She vowed that if he returned safely she would make a chain of gold similar in thickness and weight to that used for fastening up elephants. Her son returned safely on the same elephant after an absence of six days—so the chronicles say,—and his mother, in conformity with her vow collect all the goldsmiths of the city together and set them at work to make a gold chain. When it was finished her son carrying the chain and followed by an immense procession of all the nobles and troops of the State, went to the shrine of a Shia saint in the city to offer up thanks for his preservation from the elephant. At the conclusion of the ceremony the gold chain was broken into pieces and distributed amongst fakirs and other religious mendicants—and from that date the procession became an annual custom here, the Nizams, although not Shias, following the custom of their predecessors, the Kutab Shahis, in allowing it."

Doubtless, the stern Tartars and Moguls who succeeded the Kutab Shahis in the Deccan, continued the *Tamasha* by way of conciliating their subjects, the more so as their own stern Faith is deficient in those elements which appeal to the imagination of a childlike people wedded to colour and sound.

The same correspondent gives a graphic account of the last Lungar procession. The weather was delightful. In this connection he has invented a phrase, which will doubtless be popular among the *flaneurs*, clawbacks, pickthanks, *bhats*, and encomiasts with which Hyderabad abounds. The new coin, an adaptation of an existing one, is *Nizam's weather*. Says the writer:—

"The Lungar on a rainy day is as gloomy as it is the very opposite on a bright one. On Saturday, fortunately for sight-seers, the squally monsoonish weather and high winds that have been prevailing of late gave way to glorious sunshine tempered by light invigorating breezes—real Nizam's weather. It is a notable fact that when any great function takes place at Hyderabad at which His Highness presides it is invariably favoured by magnificent weather, what is known as Queen's weather in England."

That is a delicate compliment creditable to the literary man and of which no civilized ruler need be ashamed. But, then, the surviving native courtiers of the old school of the time of Afzal-ud-Doula are sure to run it to death by attributing a miracle to a Prince, who never came to expose himself to foul weather for a *Tamasha*.

The *Advocate's* correspondent saw the Lungar procession to the best advantage—with a full stomach and a body and soul fortified and exhilarated by genuine Nawabi *pilaos* and the rarest wines. On this occasion it is customary for the Minister to invite the European society of Hyderabad, Chudderghat, Secunderabad and Bolarum, as well as European ladies and gentlemen from distant places, besides the *elite* of the capital to pass the day with him at his town residence and depart after seeing the procession in the evening. This year as usual invitations had been issued, more than a week previous, to more than five hundred persons likely to attend. Accordingly, on Saturday there was a gathering "of all the beauty and the chivalry" and all the representatives of civil power and of wealth at His Excellency Sir Asman Jah's Palace the Khana Bagh. The advent on holiday-making of so many guests, all of the well-favoured and influential classes, including not a few representatives of wealth and of landed possessions and of power, in their different equipages, attended by liveried attendants as they passed through the crowded thoroughfare and descended at the gate of the vast mansion, formed itself a procession—which would be remembered at any other city—as if to offer a foretaste of the grander pageant to follow. Mr. Correspondent Saheb knew even by sight but a few of the concourse of notabilities. He says:—

"Amongst the throng I noticed Major Gough, Colonel Ludlow, C.I.E., General East, B.C., Mr. and Mrs. Dunlop, Captain and Mrs. Beauchamp, Mr. and Mrs. Fellowes, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Gough, Mr. and Mrs. Harold, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. G. Heenan, Mr. Gauntlett, Mr. and Mrs. Pendlebury, Mr. and Mrs. Berkley, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, Mr. and Miss Gallagher, Mr. and Mrs. F. Schaffier, Miss (Dr.) Eltzhoiz, Rev. Mr. Hill, Rev. Mr. Rowe, Mr. H. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Lamont, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Warner, Mr. Fardoonjee, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Gribble, Miss Shortt, Captain and Mrs. Cary, Mrs. Dobbie, Nawab Vicar-ul-Mulk, Rajah Sheoraj Daramwant, Rajah Murli Manohur, Miss Nundy, Mr. and Mrs. Mohamed Ahmed, Syed Ikbal Ali, Syed Ali Bilgrami, B. A., Mr. Mehdi Ali Khan, Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk, Mr. Dorabjee Dossabhai, Nawab Framurz Jung, Mr. Sham Uddin

Ali Khan, Syed Serajul Hossain, Dr. Kareem Khan and a number of other officials European and Native. The Resident and family were not present in consequence of the indisposition of Mrs. Plowden but of the Residency staff there were Mr. Irwin, First Assistant; Captain Adye, officiating Military Secretary; Mr. Bosanquet, Second Assistant, and Lieutenant Arbuthnot, A.D.C."

The writer gives a graphic description of the scene he beheld from the Khana Bagh. His picture of Native Hyderabad on the Lungar Festival is painted with vivid but by no means extravagant colours, showing the hand of a true artist. But we have no space for it. We hasten to the far-famed Lungar itself:—

"It consists of a procession of all the troops, regular and irregular, in the Nizam's service, interspersed with elephants in gorgeous trappings, camels decked out to look as respectable as those ugly animals can be, led horses with the most elaborately embroidered saddle-cloths and head-gear, and a motley crowd of natives dressed in the most fantastic costumes that their imaginations can devise. Besides these there are numerous bodies of fierce and villainous looking Arabs, Rohillas and Pathans in the service of the State and the nobility, who march or rather trot past, to the sound of the strongest and most weird music imaginable, with old flint matchlocks on their backs and shouting out praises of their chiefs and their own bravery. The bells of the elephants, the beating of tom toms, the braying of the different bands of the irregular troops playing execrably out of tune, the yells of the Arabs, the led horses prancing and neighing, all these go to make up a universal din that must be heard to be believed and which is simply indescribable."

"Rohillas and Pathans" seems a slip, for the Rohillas are Pathans. But that by the way. We conclude with the account of this year's Lungar:—

"As usual this year the pageant was headed by the city police forces, both mounted and foot, led by the Kotwal, the Nawab Akbar Jung, C. S. I., seated in a fine howdah on the back of a huge elephant. Then followed for the space of about one hour an interminable procession of Arab jamadars and their strange followers. Pathan jamadars and their men, elephants with the sons and relatives of city magnates, seated in gorgeous howdahs, camel sowars, irregular cavalry, led horses saddled and bridled or caparisoned in cloth of gold, saddle-cloths and bridles and bodies of men in blue, scarlet and green. After these came the irregular troops, and very irregular most of them were too, both as regards dress and marching. I notice that some of the irregular are still clad in uniforms of the old French pattern with the quaintly shaped head-pieces. These are the men amongst whom the name of the great French adventurer,—Monsieur Raymond—is still cherished.—The deeds of "Mussuram" as they style him, are still themes of speculation and story with them. They honour his tomb and once a year go thither to sing at his shrine. The whole of these irregular troops are armed with the Old Brown Bess, so that if they are not dangerous they are still ornamental and help once a year to add to the glories and picturesqueness of the Lungar. The shrill sounds of a cavalry band next announced the approach of that small but splendid body of men known as the Golconda Brigade. At the head of his men rode that fine cavalry soldier, Major Asfur Jung, surrounded by a brilliant staff gorgeous in gold lace. First came the Golconda Cavalry, three squadrons strong, each numbering from 90 to 100 sabres. These elicited much praise as they defiled past in splendid order, as also did the Maiseram regiment clad in a picturesque Zouave costume and the Golconda Infantry both of which regiments went past at a swinging pace keeping excellent time to the music of their infantry band stationed opposite the Khana Bagh. A bullock battery of artillery, with five guns, brought up the rear of this fine brigade, numbering in all some three thousand men. Next came the division under Colonel Nevill, known as the Nizam's Regular troops, the finest body of troops in the service. The cavalry especially the African guards in their dark blue uniform with white braid, were much admired. Besides the African Guards, the Cavalry brigade consisted of the 1st and 2nd Hyderabad Lancers, one in white and the other in yellow facings and head dress. Behind these came two horse batteries of four guns each horsed by fine large walers and every thing looking very spick and span. Following the Artillery came the Infantry in one brigade of three regiments. The first that went past, heading the brigade was Captain Hartle's regiment, the second with their drums and fifes playing the British Grenadiers. This was by far the best regiment of the three composing the brigade. The next the 4th Infantry under Captain Finglas—did not show to advantage in their shabby looking Khakée trousers and faded head dress and the last, the 6th Infantry under Captain Griffin were not very much better as regards marching. As this last regiment came opposite the Minister's residence there was a long stoppage and many of the guests getting impatient and it being already 6 o'clock, began to depart but the long procession did not finish to defile until nearly two hours later, the rear being brought up by the Paigah troops of Sir Asman Jah and a miscellaneous body of irregulars, Jamadars, camel sowars, Rohillas and Jawans."

Thus passed the Lungar of Hyderabad. It was not only a most magnificent pageant but a unique spectacle such as is not to be seen in any part of the world. It recalls the glories of old Delhi during the height of Mogul supremacy where two hundred thousand soldiers were habitually quartered. In no part of India out of the Nizam's Dominions in these days, could so many troops be turned out for a *tamasha* year after year to swell the triumph of the Lungar at Hyderabad.

TODS' AMENDMENT.

The World hath set its heavy yoke
Upon the old white-bearded folk
Who strive to please the King.
God's mercy is upon the young,
God's wisdom in the baby tongue
That fears not anything.

The Parable of Chajju Bhagat.

Now Tods' Mamma was a singularly charming woman, and every one in Simla knew Tods. Most men had saved him from death on occasions. He was beyond his *ayah's* control altogether, and perilled his life daily to find out what would happen if you pulled a Mountain Battery mule's tail. He was an utterly fearless young Pagan, about six years old, and the only baby who ever broke the holy calm of the Supreme Legislative Council.

It happened this way: Tods' pet kid got loose, and fled up the hill, off the Boileaugunge Road, Tods after it, until it burst in to the Viceregal Lodge lawn, then attached to 'Peterhoff.' The Council were sitting at the time, and the windows were open because it was warm. The Red Lancer in the porch told Tods to go away; but Tods knew the Red Lancer and most of the Members of Council personally. Moreover, he had firm hold of the kid's collar, and was being dragged all across the flower-beds. 'Give my salaam to the long Councillor *Sabib*, and ask him to help me take *Moti* back!' gasped Tods. The Council heard the noise through the open windows; and, after an interval, was seen the shocking spectacle of a Legal Member and a Lieutenant-Governor helping, under the direct patronage of a Commander-in-Chief and a Viceroy, one small and very dirty boy in sailor's suit and a tangle of brown hair, to coerce a lively and rebellious kid. They headed it off down the path to the Mall, and Tods went home in triumph and told his Mamma that all the Councillor *Sabibs* had been helping him to catch *Moti*. Whereat his Mamma smacked Tods for interfering with the administration of the Empire; but Tods met the Legal Member the next day, and told him in confidence that if the Legal Member ever wanted to catch a goat, he, Tods, would give him all the help in his power. 'Thank you, Tods,' said the Legal Member.

Tods was the idol of some eighty *jbampanis*, and half as many *saiies*. He saluted them all as 'O Brother.' It never entered his head that any living human being could disobey his orders; and he was the buffer between the servants and his Mamma's wrath. The working of that household turned on Tods, who was adored by every one from the *dhoby* to the dog-boy. Even Futtch Khan, the villainous loafer *kbit* from Mussoorie, shirked risking Tods' displeasure for fear his co-mates should look down on him.

So Tods had honour in the land from Boileaugunge to Chota Simla, and ruled justly according to his lights. Of course, he spoke Urdu, but he had also mastered many queer side-speeches like the *chotee bole* of the women, and held grave converse with shopkeepers and Hill-coolies alike. He was precocious for his age, and his mixing with natives had taught him some of the more bitter truths of life: the meanness and the sordidness of it. He used, over his bread and milk, to deliver solemn and serious aphorisms, translated from the vernacular into the English, that made his Mamma jump and vow that Tods must go Home next hot weather.

Just when Tods was in the bloom of his power, the Supreme Legislature were hacking out a Bill for the Sub-Montane Tracts, a revision of the then Act, smaller than the Punjab Land Bill but affecting a few hundred thousand people none the less. The Legal Member had built, and bolstered, and embroidered, and amended that Bill, till it looked beautiful on paper. Then the Council began to settle what they called the 'minor details.' As if any Englishman legislating for natives knows enough to know which are the minor and which are the major points, from the native point of view, of any measure! That Bill was a triumph of 'safeguarding the interests of the tenant.' One clause provided that land should not be leased on longer terms than five years at a stretch; because, if the landlord had a tenant bound down for, say, twenty years, he would squeeze the very life out of him. The notion was to keep up a stream of independent cultivators in the Sub-Montane Tracts; and ethnologically and politically the notion was correct. The only drawback was that it was altogether wrong. A native's life in India implies the life of his son. Wherefore, you cannot legislate for one generation at a time. You must consider the next from the native point of view. 'Curiously enough, the native now and then, and in Northern India more particularly, hates being overprotected against himself. There was a Naga-village once, where they lived on dead and buried Commissariat mules. . . . But that is another story.

For many reasons, to be explained later, the people concerned objected to the Bill. The Native Member in Council knew as much about Punjab as he knew about Charing Cross. He had said in Calcutta that 'the Bill was entirely in accord with the desires of that large and important class, the cultiva-

tors,' and so on, and so on. The Legal Member's knowledge of natives was limited to English-speaking Durbaris, and his own red *chaprassi*, the Sub-Montane Tracts concerned no one in particular, the Deputy Commissioners were a good deal too driven to make representations, and the measure was one which dealt with small landholders only. Nevertheless, the Legal Member prayed that it might be correct, for he was a nervously conscientious man. He did not know that no man can tell what natives think unless he mixes with them with the varnish off. And not always then. But he did the best he knew. And the measure came up to the Supreme Council for the final touches, while Tods patrolled the Burra Simla Bazar in his morning rides, and played with the monkey belonging to Ditta Mull, the *bunmia*, and listened, as a child listens, to all the stray talk about this new freak of the Lord *Sabib's*.

One day there was a dinner-party, at the house of Tods' Mamma, and the Legal Member came. Tods was in bed, but he kept awake till he heard the bursts of laughter from the men over the coffee. Then he paddled out in his little red flannel dressing-gown and his night-suit and took refuge by the side of his father, knowing that he would not be sent back. 'See the miseries of having a family!' said Tods' father, giving Tods three prunes, some water in a glass that had been used for claret, and telling him to sit still. Tods sucked the prunes slowly, knowing that he would have to go when they were finished, and sipped the pink water like a man of the world, as he listened to the conversation. Presently, the Legal Member, talking 'shop' to the Head of a Department, mentioned his Bill by its full name---'The Sub-Montane Tracts *Ryotwari* Revised Enactment.' Tods caught the one native word and lifting up his small voice said---

'Oh, I know all about that! Has it been *murramuted* yet, Councillor *Sabib*?'

'How much?' said the Legal Member.

'*Murramuted*---mended.---Put *theek*, you know---made nice to please Ditta Mull!'

The Legal Member left his place and moved up next to Tods.

'What do you know about *ryotwari*, little man?' he said.

'I'm not a little man, I'm Tods, and I know all about it. Ditta Mull, and Choga Lall, and Amir Nath, and---oh, *lakhs* of my friends tell me about it in the bazars when I talk to them.'

'Oh, they do---do they? What do they say, Tods?'

Tods tucked his feet under his red flannel dressing-gown and said---'I must *finik*.'

The Legal Member waited patiently. Then Tods with infinite compassion---

'You don't speak my talk, do you, Councillor *Sabib*?'

'No; I am sorry to say I do not,' said the Legal Member.

'Very well,' said Tods, 'I must *finik* in English.'

He spent a minute putting his ideas in order, and began very slowly, translating in his mind from the vernacular to English, as many Anglo-Indian children do. You must remember that the Legal Member helped him on by questions when he halted, for Tods was not equal to the sustained flight of oratory that follows.

'Ditta Mull says, "This thing is the talk of a child, and was made up by fools." But I don't think you are a fool, Councillor *Sabib*,' said Tods hastily. 'You caught my goat. This is what Ditta Mull says---"I am not a fool, and why should the Sirkar say I am a child? I can see if the land is good and if the landlord is good. If I am a fool, the sin is upon my own head. For five years I take my ground for which I have saved money, and a wife I take too, and a little son is born." Ditta Mull has one daughter now, but he says he will have a son, soon. And he says, "At the end of five years, by this new *bundobust*, I must go. If I do not go, I must get fresh seals and *takkus*-stamps on the papers, perhaps in the middle of the harvest, and to go to the law-courts once is wisdom, but to go twice is *Jebannum*." That is quite true,' explained Tods gravely. 'All my friends say so. And Ditta Mull says, "Always fresh *takkus* and paying money to *vakils* and *chaprassis* and law-courts every five years, or else the landlord makes me go. Why do I want to go? Am I a fool? If I am a fool and do not know, after forty years, good land when I see it, let me die! But if the new *bundobust* says for fifteen years, that it is good and wise. My little son is a man, and I am burnt, and he takes the ground or another ground, paying only once for the *takkus*-stamps on the papers, and his little son is born, and at the end of fifteen years is a man too. But what profit is there in five years and fresh papers? Nothing but *dikk*, trouble, *dikk*. We are not young men who take these lands, but old ones---not farmers, but tradesmen with a little money---and for fifteen years we shall have peace. Nor are we children that the Sirkar should treat us so'"

Here Tods stopped short, for the whole table were listening. The Legal Member said to Tods, 'Is that all?'

'All I can remember,' said Tods. 'But you should see Ditta Mull's big monkey. It's just like a Councillor *Sabib*.'

'Tods! Go to bed,' said his father..

Tods gathered up his dressing-gown tail and departed.

'The Legal Member brought his hand down on the table with a crash---'By Jove!' said the Legal Member, 'I believe the boy is right. The short tenure is the weak point.'

He left early, thinking over what Tods had said. Now, it was obviously impossible for the Legal Member to play with a *bunnid's* monkey, by way of getting understanding; but he did better. He made inquiries, always bearing in mind the fact that the real native---not the hybrid, University-trained mule---is as timid as a colt, and, little by little, he coaxed some of the men whom the measure concerned most intimately to give in their views, which squared very closely with Tods' evidence.

So the Bill was amended in that clause; and the Legal Member was filled with an uneasy suspicion that Native Members represent very little except the Orders they carry on their bosoms. But he put the thought from him as illiberal. He was a most Liberal man.

After a time, the news spread through the bazars that Tods had got the Bill recast in the tenure-clause, and if Tods' Mamma had not interfered, Tods would have made himself sick on the baskets of fruit and pistachio nuts and Cabuli grapes and almonds that crowded the verandah. Till he went Home, Tods ranked some few degrees before the Viceroy in popular estimation. But for the little life of him Tods could not understand why.

In the Legal Member's private-paper-box still lies the rough draft of the Sub-Montane Tracts *Ryotwary* Revised Enactment; and, opposite the twenty-second clause, pencilled in blue chalk, and signed by the Legal Member, are the words 'Tods' Amendment.' ---Rudyard Kipling.

THE MADRAS CITY CIVIL COURT BILL, 1892.

A Bill to establish an additional Civil Court for the City of Madras.

Whereas it is expedient to establish an additional Civil Court for the City of Madras; It is hereby enacted as follows:---

1. (1) This Act may be called the Madras City Civil Court Act, 1892; and

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. In this Act, unless there is something repugnant in the subject or context,---

(1) "City Court" means the Court established under the next following section;

(2) "City of Madras" means the area within the local limits for the time being of the ordinary original civil jurisdiction of the High Court;

(3) "High Court" means the High Court of Judicature at Madras; and

(4) "Small Cause Court" means the Court of Small Causes of Madras.

3. The Local Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, establish a Court, to be called the Madras City Civil Court, with jurisdiction to receive, try and dispose of all suits and other proceedings of a civil nature not exceeding two thousand five hundred rupees in value and arising within the City of Madras, except suits or proceedings which are cognizable---

(a) by the High Court as a Court of Admiralty or Vice-Admiralty or as a Colonial Court of Admiralty, or as a Court having testamentary, intestate or matrimonial jurisdiction, or

(b) by the Court for the relief of insolvent debtors, or

(c) by the Small Cause Court.

4. The Local Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint so many persons as it may think fit to be Judges of the City Court; and may, for any misconduct, by a like notification, suspend or remove any Judge so appointed.

5. (1) Every person appointed a Judge of the City Court shall be, by virtue of his office, a Judge of the Small Cause Court with respect to cases cognizable by that Court.

(2) Every such Judge shall be liable to perform any duties of a Judge of the Small Cause Court which the Chief Justice of the High Court may require him to perform.

6. When the City Court consists of more than one Judge,---

(a) each of the Judges may exercise all or any of the powers conferred on the Court by this Act or any other law for the time being in force;

(b) the Local Government may appoint any one of the Judges to be the principal Judge; and

(c) the principal Judge may, from time to time, make such arrangements as he may think fit for the distribution of the business of the Court among the various Judges thereof.

7. (1) The Judge of the City Court, or, when the Court consists of more than one Judge, the principal Judge, may from time to time, with the sanction of the Local Government, appoint as many clerks, bailiffs and other ministerial officers as may be necessary for the administration of justice by the Court, and

for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties conferred and imposed on it by this Act or any other law for the time being in force.

(2) The officers so appointed shall exercise such powers and discharge such duties of a ministerial nature, as the said Judge or principal Judge may from time to time direct.

(3) The said Judge or principal Judge may, subject to the control of the High Court,---

(a) suspend or remove any officer so appointed, or

(b) fine any such officer who is guilty of misconduct or neglect in the performance of the duties of his office.

(4) Any fine imposed on an officer under subsection (3) may be deducted from his salary.

(8) All questions which arise in suits or other proceedings under this Act in the City Court shall be dealt with and determined according to the law for the time being administered by the High Court in the exercise of its ordinary original civil jurisdiction.

9. When the subject-matter of any suit or other proceeding is land or a house or a garden, its value for the purposes of the jurisdiction conferred on the City Court by this Act shall, subject to the other provisions of this Act, be fixed in manner provided by the Court-fees Act, 1870, section 7, clause 5.

10. Fees chargeable for serving or executing processes issued by the City Court, or served or executed under its direction or control, shall be such as the High Court may prescribe with the approval of the Governor of Fort St. George in Council and the sanction of the Governor-General in Council.

11. The powers conferred by Chapter XXXVI of the Code of Civil Procedure on High Courts and District Courts as to the appointment of Receivers may be exercised by the City Court or any Judge thereof.

12. In clause (a) of section 31 of the Presidency Small Cause Courts Act, 1882, for the words "to the High Court" the words "to the Madras City Civil Court or the High Court of Judicature at Fort William or Bombay, as the case may be," shall be substituted.

13. Whenever any suit or proceeding in the City Court is settled by agreement of the parties before issues have been settled or any evidence recorded, half the amount of the institution fees paid by the plaintiff shall be repaid to him by the Court.

14. When, under section 13 of the Letters Patent for the High Court, dated the twenty-eighth day of December, 1865, of under section 25 of the Code of Civil Procedure, the High Court has removed for trial by itself any suit from the City Court, fees on the scale for the time being in force in the High Court as a Court of ordinary original civil jurisdiction shall be payable in that Court in respect of the suit and proceedings therein;

Provided that, in the levy of any such fees which, according to the practice of the Court, are credited to the Government, credit shall be given to the plaintiff in the suit for any fee which in the City Court he has already paid under the Court-fees Act, 1870, on the plaint.

15. (1) The Court authorized to hear appeals from the City Court shall be the High Court.

(2) The period of limitation for an appeal from a decree or order of the City Court shall be the same as that provided by law for a decree or order of the High Court in the exercise of its original jurisdiction.

16. Nothing in this Act contained shall affect the original civil jurisdiction of the High Court:

Provided that---

(1) if any suit or other proceeding is instituted in the High Court which, in the opinion of the Judge who tries the same (whose opinion shall be final), ought to have been instituted in the City Court, no costs shall be allowed to a successful plaintiff, and a successful defendant shall be allowed his costs as between attorney and client;

(2) in any suit or other proceeding pending at any time in the High Court, any Judge of such Court may at any stage thereof make an order transferring the same to the City Court if in his opinion such suit or proceeding is within the jurisdiction of that Court and should be tried therein;

(3) in any suit or other proceeding so transferred, the Court-fees Act, 1870, shall apply, credit being given for any fees levied in the High Court.

17. The City Court shall use a seal of such form and dimensions as may be for the time being prescribed by the Local Government.

18. (1) The Judge of the City Court, or, when the Court consists of more than one Judge, the principal Judge, shall, at the commencement of each year, draw up a list of holidays and vacations to be observed in the Court, and shall submit the same for the approval of the Local Government.

(2) Such list, when it has received such approval, shall be published in the official Gazette, and the said holidays and vacations shall be observed accordingly.

19. Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to affect the provision contained in section 360A of the Code of Civil Procedure.

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Babu Satya Kinkar Sen, B. L., Government Pleader, Burdwan,
Ray Nalinaksha Bose Bahadur, Chairman, Burdwan Municipality,
Babu Umacharan Banerji, M.A., Principal, Raj College, Burdwan,
Dr. Jagat Bandhu Mitra, Vice-Chairman, Burdwan Municipality,
Babu Satkari Banerji, Member, Burdwan Raj Committee,
Babu Rajendra Kumar Bose, Sub-Judge, Burdwan,
Muni Golan Azduk, Pleader, Burdwan,
Babu Jagannohan Bhattacharyya, Deputy Magistrate, Burdwan,
Babu Taraprasanna Mukerji, Pleader, Burdwan,
Thakur Govinda Prasad Tewari, Zemindar, Burdwan,
&c., &c., &c.

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Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 1892.

No. 537

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

THE UNION!

Brother freemen, hear a story,
Borne upon your native breeze,
Fresh and young, and old and hoary,
Sturdy as your greenwood trees.

Read it—note it—far extended
Over every land and sea,
How our Island races blended
In one matchless Unity.

How, from small beginnings springing,
Nationhood began to grow,
Saint and sinner something bringing
Weighty word or weighty blow:

Master builders, downward sending
Stones that show the master hand;
Thus began the never-ending
Oneness of our Native Land.

Bowmen, statesmen, heroes, martyrs,
Strong to do, and strong to die,
Standing on their hard-won charters
Built the noble fabric high.

And from John o' Groats to Dover,
And from many an Irish crag,
And on sea, the wide world over,
Waved the gallant Union Flag.

Loyally the workmen reared it.
For it shed their generous blood;
Well the despots knew and feared it—
Its far reaching brotherhood.

Read this flag, split up this nation,
Of the latter make you four;
Dare the work of separation
With the foeman at your door!

Let our enemies divide us,
Tell our shame with tongue and pen,
In the world's great mart deride us,
Having found us less than men.

Romans in their country's danger
Knew no Party but the State;
Faction left they to the stranger,
Rome was one, and Rome was great.

Fair Columbia in her peril
Heard these words from o'er the sea—

“Break the Union”!—Hear the answer
“As we live it shall not be”!
And it was not—and it will not,
While our sons are brave and free.

Kindred words were fitly spoken—
“Freemen! like one unit stand”!
Italy rose to the token,
And the German Fatherland:
“One and all.”—The men were brothers,
Bound as in an iron band.

With good steel the words were written,
Angels bore them far and wide
Till within the realm of Britain,
Came the counsel—“Nay, Divide”!
Sentiment is great—yea greatest—
Trust your treasures to the tide.

Was it treason? damned treason?
No such charge shall shame my song!
Great the voice, ev'n in unreason,
Great and gifted—*In the wrong.*

In the wrong—all lands proclaim it,
Human instinct deep and strong,
Foes applaud—’Tis friends who blame it—
(Friends who sorrow as they name it)—
In the wrong, men—In the wrong.

Stand we then at post and station,
Foot by foot in firm array,
’Tis the life-blood of the nation
That demands our help to-day.

Men of Britain hear the story
Running on from age to age
Shining with resplendent glory
On the old historic page.

JAMES ROUTLEDGE.

June 27, 1892.

ON GUARD!

UNITE OR DIVIDE?

July 2, 1892.

When crafty Philip, King
Of Macedon, began
To forge the chains his Son designed
For universal man,

One grim device he had,
Wherever men were free—
“To conquer, first divide,” he said;
It was his master-key.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

Athens and Sparta fell,
Swords snapped, wise words were vain,
Science and Art lay in the dust,
Nor ever rose again.

Shall this be Britain's fate?
Shall her flag, too, be furled—
Her once proud name be written small,
A byword to the world?

Her fearless lion heart,
Her sturdy common sense,
Her precedent—shall all be lost
In specious eloquence?

If so, divide! Old Time
No surer means hath known
To level in one future doom
The Cottage and the Throne.

Such were the thoughts that sped,
As though on wings of flame,
When first the Separation faith
Had voice, and form, and name.

Silent the nation stood,
Perplexed, bewildered, slow,
Striving for gleams of honest light,
Fighting for that as true men fight,
Hoping that black was not yet white,
Nor fire a term for snow.

On guard the nation stood,
And pondered as she read
How he—her Old Man Eloquent—
Dealt with her deathless dead.

Recasting records old
As though no pen had writ,
In sober truth from then till now,
Of the great deeds of Pitt.

Disowned those pregnant deeds,
That massive, well-knit work,
Owned in its day by Wilberforce,
Endorsed by Edmund Burke.

Old laws, well tried, must go,
New laws, untried, prevail,
Blood-red the danger signal stood,
But Party must not fail.

Fine words would pierce all gloom,
Darkness so seen be light.
The very cry "Divide!" "Divide!"
Explained, becomes "Unite!"

"Your faith is new," 'twas said;
Sharply the answer came—
"Not new at all—We always held
And always said the same."

"You did?—'In eighty-five?—
And 'Six?—Then 'tis no dream?
Stood you the same in both those years?"
Reply:—"Yes, just the same,
We seemed—so-so; but take our word,
We were content to—*seem*."

At length the nation spoke,
Sophists were nowhere then:
Her scorn aroused her sleeping sons—
Not Party now, but Men.

Hold up the Union Jack!
The Potent Mandate ran,
And hold it in the ancient way—
United as one man.

Poor in her gifts of speech,
This Britain in her need
Never hath lacked the eloquence
Of stern, unflinching deed.

When danger's night is dark,
And Rhetoric is dumb,
Then British hearts can higher beat,
Then Britain's hour has come.

No hour for weaving words,
No time for well-trained pen:
An hour to test the nation's best—
The manhood of her men.

The hearts that do not flinch,
The firm, unfailing knees,
The spirit, as of old, to face
The battle and the breeze.

To such the summons comes
Once more in accents clear
From realms beyond the Sophist's reach,
From purer atmosphere.

A gift the nation brings
Choicest in all her store—
Alike to daughter as to son
The gift of Duty to be done
She leaves at every door.

No time to pause. To hesitate
Might noble work retard.
To-day the nation speaks her will,
And sternly stands On Guard.
He who would serve these Islands Three
Stand he to-day for Unity!

JAMES ROUTLEDGE.

WEEKLYANA.

THE gingerbread nut which damaged Mr. Gladstone's eye has not only become historical, but has become a sacred relic of the Liberal Prophet with which generations yet unborn will be conjured. It has been bought for a considerable sum by a local Gladstonian of Cheshire who intends to have it mounted in gold and gems.

MR. Frederick Dresser, Charlton Hall, near Chester, writes to the *Times* as follows:—

"Friends of Mr. Gladstone will be glad to know that the lady who threw the gingerbread at him in Chester is one of his most ardent supporters. Far from intending to insult him, she only attempted to give some outward expression of her frenzied admiration. I could give you her name and address, but she is so utterly overwhelmed with the consequences of her reckless zeal that it would be cruel to add to her suffering."

XAVIER DE MONTEPIN, feuilletonist of the *Petit Journal*, is the most prolific novelist in France and the one who makes most money. It was his constant contributions that advanced the circulation of that paper to a million. Nor was the journal ungrateful which has made its feuilletonist wealthy. Writing from the age of twenty, De Montepin has produced considerably over four hundred novels, and the old man hopes to produce as many more. He turns out sixteen hundred words a day, and never misses a day. Lope de Vega must in his grave turn his face, in discomfiture.

AMERICA is good a hand at inventing religions as at turning out mechanical novelties. We read:—

"Virginia has a new religion established among the negroes under the name of the 'No Meat Eaters.' The head of it is one Nathaniel Brown, who says, that the Lord told him in a vision to gather his people and lead them to the promised land, which, he says, is Barkley, Va, where, he says, they shall live for ever if they eat no meat. Their religious services are thus described by an eyewitness. At regular intervals they would break out into a howling sort of hymn, accompanying their shouting with grotesque dancing and jumping about the

room. As the speech proceeded, the people became more and more excited, until, with perspiration rolling down their faces, they were dancing, singing, jumping and shouting like a mob of maniacs. This was continued for over an hour until nearly all had fallen from exhaustion. Brown tells them that after 300 years on earth they shall be translated to heaven."

Brown is a far better prophet than Smith. And there is more divinity in this nigger Brownism than in Mormonism. The mythology and miracles of the two are at par.

SIR Edwin Arnold has another feather to his cap. He has become what in Indian parlance would be called a high mansabdar of Japan. In the Empire of the Rising Sun he has just received the decoration of the Order of the Rising Sun—an honour hitherto confined to natives. There are just four kinds of distinction in that state. The first or lowest is a military order. The second, to which alone ladies are admissible, is the "Sacred Mirror." The third or penultimate distinction is the Order of the "Rising Sun." The highest is the Order of the "Chrysanthemum."

It is interesting to note that at the celebration of the Tercentenary of the Dublin University last month, the University of Bombay was represented by Sir Raymond West, the University of Calcutta by Sir Alfred Croft, the University of Madras by Mr. Kernan, and the University of the Punjab by the Hon'ble W. H. Rattigan (Vice Chancellor).

WE congratulate our friend Dr. K. D. Ghose on the brilliant success of his son Arabinda, now a student in England. He had already passed the Indian Civil Service competition, and now news comes that he has just obtained first class honours in the Cambridge Classical Tripos. This is the first occasion on which the academical distinction so highly prized by the British, has fallen to a Black Man and a Baboo.

Woman with feminine curiosity has been inquiring into the details of the Sultan's household, particularly of his womankind. We are told that the harem costs Turkey annually £3,000,000. Woman says "it is a perfect nest of intrigue and scandal, of envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness."

Nonsense! A good deal of simplicity and nature characterises life in the harem. There is more intrigue and scandal and the rest of it at a ball and even at many a prayer-meeting than in a month in even the Seraglio at Cairo or Constantinople.

THE *Indian Mirror* is fortunate in its Burdwan correspondent. Instead of trying to strike sensation out of the desperate dullness of Burdwan life, he looks out for inspiration in the historic scenes near him. Referring to the bank of the Banka river, with its remnants of old tombs and Musjids, the writer says:—

"It is apparent that in the days of Mahomedan ascendancy, the town was more towards the Banka side than it is at present. Towards the southern extremity of the town amidst a thousand ruins of Mahomedan buildings in a lovely spot, a remnant of an old architecture is pointed out as the *Surunga of Sundar*, the hero of *Viśya Sundar*. Whether the incidents, related by Mukunda Ram and Bharat Chunder, were based on some reality or that they took up the plot of Barrochi, and developed it according to their own sweet will, or that the incidents did actually happen more than eighteen hundred years ago in some other portion of India, we will not stop here to discuss. But the spot pointed out as the tunnel. (Suranga) of Sundar is certainly no such thing at all. It is, to all appearances, the inside of a Mahomedan tomb. There is an entire tomb by its side with a *Nim* tree above where the visitor is called on to throw some coin to propitiate the *Pir* presiding over the spot. One geological fact is to be noticed about the place. The land seems to have sunk down a great deal from its former level. The ruins around testify to the wealth and prosperity of the Mahomedans. The Kapur Kahattriyas must have settled northward, and ruins of their buildings are generally seen about the old Choke. There are, however, mosques to be seen here and there, towards the northern side of the town and even at Keshubgunge. But they do not seem to a cursory observer to be as old as those on the bank of the Banka.

The writer ought to fish out the sharp gentleman who invented the Sundar hole. It must have been in Tej Chunder Bahadoor's time, we suspect. The writer says:—

"The Burdwan Rajahs from Abu Rai downwards have been remarkable for their bravery and large-heartedness. They have left their impress upon the town in the shape of many works of public utility. The splendid tanks with their raised embankments attract the eye, and rivet the attention of a traveller. There is a solemn grandeur about them. Standing on the side of Krishna Sagar, I was thinking of the memorandum of Rajah Sushil Suckhur Roy on the water scarcity of

Bengal. What amount of human labour and what amount of gold and how much time the splendid tank must have cost the Rajah who had it excavated. Passing northward the wild grandeur of Romnar Bag attracts the eye. A fair collection of tigers and deers are to be seen at Dilkhosh, the grounds of which are being laid out after the most approved European style. Near the Dilkhosh there is a spot surrounded by a ditch full of water. It is called the island. Full of thick jungles it is said to be the favourite abode of snakes, jackals and birds. It is rather safe to contemplate the wild scenery from a distance. But one bent on sight-seeing should go a little further, pass through the Keshubgunge Chati on to Nawabpore, and there see for himself the lonely spot on which stand in the form of a square, a hundred and eight separate temples with an image of Siva in each. A Rani of the Raj family had them constructed."

This, we believe, is the cluster of white pagodas seen from the train as it issues out of the Burdwan Station and runs up towards the junction.

SIR E. W. Watkin is an indifferent politician but a good engineer. He is always worthy of attention in his speciality. He writes to the *Times*:—

"One great thing they (the Government) could settle—a question more important to Ireland, as it seems to me, than a dozen Home Rule Bills—a question which can be discussed quite apart from Home Rule controversies—I mean the restoration of prosperity and progress by great, but simple, public works—the leading works being—(1) a ship canal of capacious dimensions between the west and east of Ireland, and (2) a tunnel from the north of Ireland to the south of Scotland. The former would place Ireland on the shortest sea-road to all the great West, and to the East *via* the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the latter would make Ireland and Scotland one country. Surveys and discussions to which I and others have for years been parties have demonstrated the feasibility of both projects, and the most liberal estimate for both does not exceed 20,000,000*l.*, which at 3 per cent. ninety-nine years' terminable security would amount to a burden of 600,000*l.* a year for ninety-nine years, or about a fifth of the cost of keeping a hostile force in Ireland.

The discussion of these projects might in some measure effect a healthy diversion of the public mind of Ireland, though of course the professional agitators would put every obstacle in the way. The tunnel would make for "Union."

WE read:—

"A most eccentric person died recently in Berlin at the age of seventy-three. He began, a Berlin correspondent says, on his eighteenth birthday, and kept up till his seventieth year, a book which showed that during fifty-two years he had noted the smoking of 628,713 cigars, of which he had received 43,692 as presents, while for the remaining 585,021 he had paid 2,086*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*, which shows that his tastes were at any rate not unduly extravagant. During the same period he had had eighty-five pairs of trousers made, costing altogether 92*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.*, seventy-four coats and waistcoats for 158*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*, sixty-two pairs of boots for 66*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.* He wore out 298 shirts and 'fronts,' and 326 collars, costing altogether 57*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* In tram fares he spent 85*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* In fifteen years, according to his book-keeping, he had drunk 28,786 glasses of Bavarian beer, of which, however, 21,261 were only small ones. For this beer and 36,081 glasses of cognac and other spirits, he spent 1,070*l.* He gave 'tips' amounting to 261*l.* His book-keeping stopped when he completed his seventieth year, and at the end of this quaint volume are the words, 'Omnia tentavi, multa perpexi, nihil perfecti.'"

Poor soul!

In Berlin, a discharged labourer shot in their office the Director of Public Gardens and his assistant, dangerously wounding both. The reason is unknown.

WHAT an outcry was raised when it was proposed to tax the bicycles and tricycles in this city. At the re-assembling of the French Chamber, we read, M. Francois Deloncle means to propose a tax on them at 10*frs.* each. It is expected to yield 3,000,000*frs.* annually, 12,000 of which is intended for a National Accident Fund.

M. WILSON, the son-in-law of the late ex-President Grévy, and M. Leroux, president of M. Wilson's Election Committee, were tried for corrupt practices at the municipal elections in May last, when M. Wilson was elected Mayor of Loches, found guilty and sentenced to pay a fine of 1,000 *frs.* each. M. Wilson has given notice of appeal.

THE Russian Holy Synod has adopted a vigorous policy of suppression of Catholicism in Poland. Religious instruction in the Polish elementary schools has been prohibited. The number of dioceses is to be reduced, the bishopric of Lusk and Zytonietritz—the last remaining Catholic episcopal see in Ruthenia—is to be done away with. The Pope requested the intervention of France which has been making

strong representations at St. Petersburg but the Synod is as strongly averse from making any concession to Catholics. The Holy Synod which controls the religious affairs of the empire, is determined to continue its anti-Papal propaganda in Poland, and to maintain the absolute supremacy of the Orthodox faith at the holy places of Palestine.

THE Russian Government has voted an extra credit of 21,800 roubles for the colonization of the valley of the Kush river, the scene of the battle between the Afghans and Russians in 1885, and which at the supplementary demarcation of the North-West frontier of Afghanistan was allotted to Russia. The plan, according to the promoter of the scheme, General Kuropotkin, is to settle 218 families of Russian agriculturists, who will be free of all taxes and all obligations, including military service, for the next ten years, and will receive 100 roubles a family from the Governor-General of Transcaspia, as well as other privileges.

IN 1891, the Scottish salmon sold at Billingsgate is valued at 138,389/., the total sold in the London and other markets is believed to be 276,778/. Considering that the fish is a costly delicacy in England, these figures are difficult of comprehension. They make the people out to be enormous ichthyophagists.

A PARSI had been passing off in England as an Indian prince. He paid for purchases with false cheques, and otherwise swindled. Bombay, which probably knows his identity and must be anxiously interested in his career, has learnt that he has been arrested by the Police.

IT is reported in the English papers that Mr. Gladstone is the owner of the largest lead pencil in the world, the gift of a pencil maker at Keswick, which he uses for a walking stick. It is thirty-nine inches in length. In place of the customary rubber cap, it has a gold cap.

THE *Advocate* says :—

"M. Asgar Hussain, of Taj Mahal fame, and a millionaire, has been fined annas 4 and his coachman annas 8 in that the latter gave a whip to a Thail-wala for his carelessly plying his hand cart. The *Jubilee Paper* says the fine on the Moulvi is unjust, because the Moulvi did not order his coachman to use the whip."

If a millionaire is to be fined, it is preposterous to fine him in annas. The man himself might well feel himself affronted. It is like putting Mr. Gladstone down on any programme of arrangements for a speech of ten minutes.

THE *Advocate* reports that

"Eighty Vernacular newspapers of any importance published in the United Provinces and the Punjab contained in last week 150 columns of matter on Hon. Mr. Dadabhai Nowroji, M. P. Many comic papers have given cartoons by mistake representing Mr. Maclean as his opponent."

WE read :—

"An old way of poisoning criminals used to be to compel them to swallow large quantities of bull's blood, and it is interesting to note how this acted as a means of causing death. Bull's blood (says the *Lancet*) is not a poison at all in the ordinary sense of the word, but when it enters the stomach it forms a coagulum, and instead of the organ being filled with liquid, which might be ejected by vomiting, it is filled with a solid mass. This mass presses upwards upon the heart and displaces it."

NOTES & LEADERETTES

with

OUR OWN NEWS.

THE Speech from the Throne was read in Parliament in the afternoon of the 8th. It simply announced that no business being left unfinished by the last Session, it was unnecessary to continue the sitting of the Houses at an unusual period of the year, and hoped that at the re-assembling at the customary season, Parliament would follow in the wake of useful and beneficent legislation of the previous session.

The same evening the Lords voted the reply to the Queen's Speech. In the discussion the Duke of Devonshire demanded an assurance that the Liberals would take no steps for the evacuation of Egypt without first consulting Parliament. Lord Herschell is reported in the London press to have said that the Liberals would continue the foreign

policy of Lord Salisbury. According to a later telegram in the *Indian Daily News* this is due to misreporting. What Lord Herschell said was that he hoped that the same reticence that has been observed in Parliament during the Conservative administration in regard to foreign affairs at critical junctures would be followed in the coming time.

The Premier prophesied that the House of Lords would be the centre of the struggle against Home Rule.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Asquith, seconded by Mr. Burt, moved an amendment to the Address. It only called for a vote of want of confidence in the Conservative Government. It was ultimately carried, on the 11th, by a majority of forty, in a full House—the fullest since the Home Rule debate in 1886. Three hundred and fifty members were for and three hundred and ten against the amendment. The division was taken amid a scene of unprecedented excitement—amid waving of hats and cries of "down with coercion!"

In the debate on the amendment, Mr. Goschen said he refused to believe that Mr. Gladstone was determined to hurry on a Home Rule measure, and announced that should a Home Rule Bill be brought forward, the Unionists would oppose it to the bitter end. On the other hand, Mr. Justin McCarthy demanded an assurance that the Home Rule Bill would be acceptable to the Irish and placed in the forefront of legislation, and that immediate effect be given to such a measure by governing Ireland in the meantime in the Home Rule spirit. He concluded with the threat that without what he demanded for them, the Irish members would not support Mr. Gladstone. On behalf of the Parnellites Mr. Redmond said they would support the amendment but oppose Mr. Gladstone, unless he satisfied their demands to the fullest.

Mr. Gladstone gave the assurance so repeatedly demanded. In his speech, he denied that the Government had succeeded in their Irish policy, and intimated that the first duty of the Liberals would be to repeal the coercing measures now in force in Ireland. He reiterated the Newcastle programme as regards Home reforms, but said that, nevertheless, Home Rule would be the first business of the new Government. He was unable to give details of the Bill now, the principles of which, he said, were known and were based upon fully upholding Imperial supremacy and the effectual transfer to Ireland of the management of her own affairs. As regards the position of the Irish members at Westminster, he said it was impossible to decide till a responsible Government deals with the question. He hinted that the rejection or mutilation of a Home Rule Bill by the House of Lords would impede their position.

Mr. Balfour said that the retention of the Irish members at Westminster meant that Great Britain would always be at the mercy of the Irish vote. He generally condemned Home Rule, which, he said, would prevent other necessary and much-needed reforms, and added that the country would soon be weary of Irish Nationalist dictation.

Mr. Gladstone's speech did not reassure the Parnellite members. Mr. J. E. Redmond, member for Waterford city, and Mr. W. Redmond, member for East Clare, said that they regretted that Mr. Gladstone had in his speech withheld all mention of his Irish programme and given no definite promise as regards the reinstating of evicted tenants or the release of Irish political prisoners. They renewed their threat to withdraw the Parnellite vote unless their demands were satisfied to the fullest.

MR. Dadabhai Naoroji has taken his seat. He made his affirmation, without being sworn in. He spoke on the amendment. He said that his election was a unique event in the history of India. The influence of Great Britain in India, he said, was beneficent, and the readiness of Parliament to listen to Indian grievances had secured the loyal attachment of India to the throne.

The official recounting raised the majority of his votes at the election by two to five.

SIR Charles Dilke has taken Egypt under his protection, and given notice that he would at the next session of Parliament bring forward a motion to call attention to the declaration made by successive administrations regarding that country, and to move an address to the Queen, praying for the resumption of the negotiations carried on in 1887 for the neutralization of Egypt under conditions enabling her Majesty's Government to secure the permanence thereof.

SIR John Edgar has retired from the Service. It was known when he last left India on leave, that he was not to return. The Bengal Government notice the retirement thus in the gazette :—

"The 6th August 1892.—The Lieutenant-Governor announces with deep regret that Sir John Edgar has resigned the Civil Service. The loss caused by this event is the greater, because it follows so closely after the deaths of Sir Henry Harrison, Mr. Boxwell, and Mr. Worsely, and no body of officers, however able, can fail to feel their strength impaired by the loss of so many men of such exceptional ability and character within so short a time. His Honour deems it proper to put on record a brief statement of the past services of this distinguished officer.

Sir John Edgar arrived in India in 1862, and spent from 1863 to 1872 as Assistant and Deputy Commissioner in the district of Cachar. The intimate knowledge which he there gained of the Tea Coolie Emigration question, and of the treatment of the savages on the North-East Frontier, has been of material assistance to the Government in subsequent years. When the Lushai disturbances of 1870 broke out, he was engaged in a political tour among those tribes, and was exposed to great danger, but he returned safely to Cachar and became the Chief Political Officer with the Lushai Expedition of 1871. For his service in this capacity he received the decoration of the C. S. I. From Cachar he was transferred to Darjeeling, where he was Deputy Commissioner for five years, and used his opportunities to acquire that knowledge which has made him a recognized authority in matters relating to Buddhist literature and religion, as well as to the affairs of Tibet. Between 1878 and 1884 he served as Magistrate and Collector in Shahabad and Champaran, and as Commissioner in the Patna, Chota Nagpur, Dacca, Chittagong and Presidency Divisions, thereby acquiring an extensive and varied acquaintance with all parts of Bengal. As President of the Excise Commission in Bengal he laid the foundation of the important changes which have since taken place in the working of that Department. In 1884 he became one of the Secretaries, and in 1887 Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in which capacity he has been the trusted adviser of two Lieutenant-Governors. In 1889 he was honoured by the Knighthood of the Order of the Indian Empire.

When Sir Charles Elliott became Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, his want of acquaintance with the *personnel* of the official staff, and with the past history of all current business, would have been a serious impediment to progress had he not found in Sir John Edgar a friend and a confidant whose judgment was never at fault, whose advice was always candid and far-seeing, and whose exertions to assist his Chief were unwearied. If the Administration of Bengal during the first year of Sir Charles Elliott's tenure of office maintained or advanced its old high reputation, it was chiefly due to the co-operation and counsel of Sir John Edgar.

H. J. S. COTTON,
Chief Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal."

So our rebuke to Government on the baldness of their obituary notice of Sir Henry Harrison, and the niggardliness of the tribute paid by them to the memory of so distinguished an officer has not, we see, gone for nothing. We congratulate them on the improvement in their literature. The foregoing notification is as it should be. It is a just tribute gracefully delivered. Sir Charles Elliott is unstinted in acknowledgment of his obligations to the late Chief Secretary.

THE retirement of Sir John Ware Edgar causes no disturbance in the Bengal Secretariat, Mr. Cotton being confirmed as Chief Secretary and Mr. Risley as Secretary in the Financial and Municipal Department. This is a matter of course. Both are officers of ability—the senior one of considerable experience, likewise, in various departments, while the junior one is a *savant*—and with better mutual understanding would make the Secretariat strong.

WE congratulate the ruling class on its recovering courage, however slowly. The Government of India has presented a "big cannon" to the Hon'ble Rana Sir Shanker Buksh, K.C.I.E. This is no doubt a special and high honor to a mere landlord, and we are not surprised to learn that in token of his joy the Rana gave a party to his friends. This present is not only a departure from the legislation of the Arms Act, but is in direct conflict with the policy which, since the misconduct of the Sepoy Army in 1857, withholds the artillery from the native soldiery. It is also in strange contrast with the recent refusal to enroll native volunteers. The British are reconciled to the Hindustanis, and are prepared to trust the sons of the barons who, in 1857, for many months, kept them out of Oudh. The Bengalis alone are now formidable.

WE are glad to find that the appeal of some of our contemporaries and our humble selves to our countrymen to come to the help of Mauritius, has not been utterly vain. Some of our Princes and nobles responded at once, specially Nawab Ahsan-ullah Bahadur of Dacca and the young Maharaja of Benares. Since then, in the Western Presidency, the Maharaja of Bhownugger gave Rs. 500 to the Mauritius Relief Fund. If our Chiefs and nobility more generally understood, as leaders of a nation calling itself civilized, their duty

towards suffering humanity throughout the globe, the aggregate contribution of India towards the relief of Mauritius might be a large figure and might go far to set up the poor little island again on its legs.

The Government of India discourages the practice, which has grown of late, of stamping advertisements on Government currency notes. It warns the public that when a note so disfigured is presented for encashment at a Currency office or Treasury, the holder may be put to inconvenience by payment being delayed while enquiries are made or by his being directed to present the note at the Currency office of issue.

GANJA is prohibited in the Indian Army. Officers Commanding Native Regiments are reminded by the General Officer Commanding Burma District, "that ganja is absolutely prohibited by the Excise Act 1881. All ranks are forbidden to have in possession, or to smoke, or to otherwise consume ganja." Any man so found guilty will be Court-martialed for disobedience of orders under the 70th Indian Article of War.

OLD Sir William Moore has come forward as a champion of the Contagious Diseases Act. His contribution in the *Lancet* of July 23 is nothing if not curious. His is a one-sided argument; ignoring every other consideration he is all for the military interest. The soldiers must be saved at any cost. But no one of our countrymen who remembers the working of the measure, will ever vote for its revival. It was a reign of terror among all classes of prostitutes when the C. D. Act was in force in India. The police and the medical examiners made a good harvest out of it in various ways. In Calcutta, Dr. Payne's creatures fattened on it. It was an engine of oppression to those classes of prostitutes who had not even any imaginary relation with soldiers. Soldiers and sailors, and indeed Christians in general, are not, in Bengal at least, allowed to mix with native women of the town of any respectability. It is only with the lowest scum of the order that they can associate. And yet all Norton Street and Covent Garden were dragooned in the name of the health of the British soldier! The law was a mighty instrument of extortion and persecution in the hands of bad men, and produced no desired effect, but only mischief. The oppression was so great that in any European country the result would have been disastrous.

THE *Lancet* of June 25, in noticing the "Leprosy Repression Act" of the Cape of Good Hope, writes of the neglect of the British Government to enact laws for the repression of leprosy in India thus :— "Many people are always eager to show with what calm, philosophical resignation they can regard the dangers and sorrows which, leaving them untouched, fall heavily upon their neighbours. Shall we be reproached for such an expression of opinion as this when to-day in British India lepers are allowed to act as salesmen in the Bazaars and to move about just as they please in the crowded thoroughfares of Indian cities?"

Our unsophisticated reason, not to say instinct, led us to regard leprosy as a contagious disease, but we were relieved by the assurances of many authorities to the contrary. There is division in the Faculty. Certainly medical men are not unanimous in their opinion. Still people have a natural objection to lepers handling provisions in markets and bazaars, and there ought to be provision in the Police and Municipal Acts against the nuisance. Both in the colony of the Cape of Good Hope and New South Wales, there is a provision for the segregation of lepers, but in India where there are more lepers there is no enactment to keep out of sight the varied forms of such a loathsome disease.

JAPAN is a most interesting land, and everything relating to it has a special significance to us, whose forefathers gave the Japanese religion, taught them arts and sciences, and altogether made them a civilized people. But though the Japanese received their first light from China, which itself borrowed the lamp from India, they contributed their own oil and produced a glorious illumination. To all intents and purposes the civilisation of the Western coast of the Pacific is original. The Chinese and the Japanese evolved each a system of art distinct from the other. Each has its special points. Of late years, Japanese art has attracted attention in Europe, from *connoisseurs* and artists as

well as collectors. The following account will be read with interest in India :—

"A meeting of the Japan Society was held on July 14, in the hall of the Society of Arts, when a paper on 'The Naturalistic Art of Japan' was read by Mr. Gowland, F. C. S., formerly of the Imperial Mint, Osaka. The chair was taken by Professor William Anderson. The lecturer said that the chief schools, or styles, by which the advance and development of Japanese pictorial art have been effected are four in number—the Chinese, including the Buddhist school, dating from the fifth or sixth century; the Yamato-Tosa, dating from the beginning of the eleventh century; the Kano, dating from the middle of the fifteenth century; and the Shijo, dating from the middle of the eighteenth century. There were no traces existing in Japan of indigenous pictorial art. The earliest paintings in the country were either Korean or Chinese. According to traditional records, Korean and Chinese painters came to Japan from time to time during the fifth and sixth centuries, but up to the ninth century, the time of Kanaoka, the first great artist of native birth of whose work any specimens exist, Japanese art was surrounded by haze and uncertainty. In the fourteenth century they had the advent of a famous painter of the Chinese and Buddhist school, Cho Densu, and from this period names and dates were more certain. After the death of Kanaoka in the tenth century the Japanese began to establish a truly Japanese school of painting, but it was not until the beginning of the eleventh century that the Yamato-Tosa School was founded by the Court noble and painter, Kasuga Motomitsu. This school represented the national feelings and spirit of the Japanese more fully than the Chinese school. The Kano was the third great school, and was originated by Kano Masanobu (born A. D. 1424, died A. D. 1520), and established by Montonbu (born A. D. 1479, died A. D. 1559). The paintings of this school were in two styles, the first in black and white, characterised by a few bold sweeping strokes, the action of living objects and the features of a landscape being thus indicated without much detail. The second style was one of brilliant colouring and more careful drawing. The name Shijo, given to the Naturalistic School, was taken from the name of the street in which the studio of Okyo, the founder of the school, was situated. It differed from other schools in its first principles, its motives, and its technique. Okyo was born A. D. 1733 and died A. D. 1795, and he was the first artist to make a really honest attempt to copy natural objects. In landscapes the painters of this school preferred to paint the scenery of their own country rather than the idealised and artificial landscapes of China. In its technique use of the old heavy body colours was discontinued and delicate tones and washes adopted. In black and white pictures deep black was avoided, and harmonious effects in light shades of grey combined with washes of brown were most successfully produced. All pigments were, in fact, delicately used."

Who will collect the traces of our ancient art, from past literature and extant specimens, and group them into schools in chronological order, and give us a history of the indigenous schools of painting?

THE *Hindoo Patriot* has an "our own correspondent" who, writing on the 5th instant, gives original news of a place unknown to the political geography of India. It appears that at the termination of the Sutna festivities, a few of the guests visited what the writer calls "the interesting model State of Dumraon,"

"where they were entertained in a right hospitable manner by the popular Dewan, Rai Jai Perakash Lal Bahadur, C.S.I. The Dewan is a gentleman of great culture, and under his able administration, the State may be pronounced second to none of the Native States of India."

We wonder where these festive gentry had been. Had they been beguiled to a Phantom Island and been the guests of a spectre Dewan? At any rate, no such Minister of a Native State as mentioned in the *Hindoo Patriot* is known to the Foreign Office; any more than such a Companion of the Star of India of anything like the same name is known to the Secretary of the Order.

Not content with announcing the miracle wrought by the extraordinary "Dewan of great culture and under his able administration," this impartial and intelligent witness adds the proof, saying—

"The Maharaja has three spacious garden houses, very magnificently furnished, for the accommodation of his guests and visitors. All these changes have been introduced by the popular Dewan, whose many acts of courtesy are always appreciated by those who have the honor of being the guests of the Raj."

—a fact very creditable to the gratitude of these guests. Hence, we suppose, the myth of the State of Dumraon which "may be pronounced second to none of the Native States of India," that is, presumably above Cashmere and Travancore and Baroda and Gwalior and Hyderabad. For all that, it might require a strong electric lamp to find this model Native State in the Surveyor-General's latest map, and even with this help the searcher might fail to make the discovery.

For the stirring events of the model State during the last seven months, our contemporary's correspondent goes as far back as February when Sir Comer Petheram, Col. Jarrett and Colonel Hamilton came there. We are not told their mission and they did nothing in particular, but hearing that a tiger had committed depredations in a village they went out in search of him. The writer seems familiar with

him, calling him by the pet name of "master stripes" without granting him the honor of capital letters. Here is another proof of the able administration of the model State. We are told that before the arrival of these "swells,"

"His Highness the Maharaja had purchased a large tract of ground, including the village of Deregaon, and especially reserved it for hunting purposes."

And another :—

"A Shikar party composed wholly of native Shikarees was recently organized, and they set off in search of stripes, they eventually captured one and brought triumphantly to Dumraon. The brute is now caged in the Maharaja's garden, and is carefully looked after. He is exhibited to all visitors, and is a sight well worth seeing. He would certainly be an acquisition to any Zoological Garden."

After that, it will not be long before "master" is deposited in the "zoo"—to constitute a crowning proof of the exemplary administration of the State of Dumraon.

The Maharaja of Dumraon is a respectable old Reis and his *factotum* Jai Prakash Lal is a successful manager who has kept his master straight and content, the tenantry loyal, and the British, official and non-official, effusively satisfied. Such foolish puffs can only tend to make their objects the laughing stock of society.

TURNING to the other departments of the *Hindoo Patriot*, we come upon the long extracts with which whole pages of the broad-sheet are filled. In the same number is an article purporting to be a review of Boulger's *Life of Lord William Bentinck* in Sir William Hunter's Series from the *Saturday Review*. Dipping into it we stumble on strange names and news. Thus :—

"The Raja of Coorg was a tyrant and profligate, combining the cruelty of Dominion with the licentiousness of Nero."

Dominion no doubt was a nasty brute from whose example his Rajaship of Coorg ought to have kept himself clear.

We wonder whether the *Patriot* office keeps a "reader." At any rate, the following result of "composing" from printed matter is far from creditable :—

"When two Rajas, refractory or incapable, had thus been taking in hand, when the murder of our Agent at Jaipur, Mr. Blake, had been avenged and the affairs of that Rajput State had been placed under a Resident aided by a council of Regency, and when the King of Oudh had been told in the plainest language that persistence in evil courses would infallibly led to his deposition, the Governor-General found ample opportunity to carry out those internal measures of reform which entitle him to an honourable place in Sir William Hunter's Series."

"Butta or bhatha, as Mr. Brulger tells us, means extra allowance."

The patience of our contemporary's readers is surely commendable.

ERRATUM.—P. 377, obituary notice of the late Mr. Justice Dwarka Nath Mitter's eldest son, para. 2, l. 11, for the boy. read the boy's way.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, August 13, 1892.

THE VAKIL RAJ IN BENGAL.

SINCE the "Vakil Raj in India" was heard of, this wonderful and mysterious kingdom has greatly increased in power, importance, and influence. Its capital has been fixed in Bengal and all its flourishing dependencies and estates have also been established in the said Province. Material changes have taken place in its administration, the scope of its utility has much enlarged, and its foundation has once for all been finally deep-rooted in this land. My observations will chiefly be confined to the province of Bengal of which I have personal knowledge, and if some of my remarks have a general application it will be unintentional. Three things appear to have been the principal causes of this improvement : (1) the Congress (2) the scheme of Local Self-Government and, last but not least, (3) the aggravation of law—the cumulative weight of a legislation which they neither appreciate nor understand, which now-a-days presses upon the people.

Our whole public and private lives have been circled by laws, local or imperial. We cannot sit

walk, sleep or eat without law. We were a law-abiding people, but now we live, and move and have, our being in law. The very air we breathe is full of law, domestic and foreign. We are a landed people. We have great landlords to be sure, yet in our blessed country the possession of landed rights is by no means a monopoly. From the rayyet up to the Maharaja and the Nawab, all in Bengal have connection with landed property, in some form or other. They have, in consequence, to do a good deal with hundreds of legislative provisions, otherwise it is not possible for them to keep their Zemindaris, Patnis, Darpatnis, Sepatnis, farms, and so forth. The more landed a man, the more he is law-enmeshed. Most of the princely Zemindari houses, both Hindu and Mahomedan, have unhappily disappeared. Because the Zemindars would not care to keep pace with the times and learn the laws, they were deceived by their own dishonest men, as also by the unscrupulous Government amla who were in power in those days. Now we see the descendants of these amla wealthy and well-to-do Zemindars, and the scions of those princely houses hard up for the necessities of life.

A wrong Government policy combined with the influx of law has linked the wants and the necessities of the people with the pleaders so closely, that it has become quite impossible for the former, whatever their grade or position might be, to do without the latter. Besides the Zemindar and the rayyet, every other citizen, whether trader, artificer, dancer or musician, requires, in successfully pursuing his respective avocations and in profiting well in them, the advice, assistance, or at least the sympathy of the pleader. An influential pleader is the centre of all power and the fountain-head of all good and evil (if he is inclined towards the latter). A pleader is not only a legal adviser and advocate but also an arbitrator (in all matters of importance), a money-lender, a loan-broker, a match-maker, a house-keeper, a political adviser, a Zemindari manager, an agent at head-quarters, a land-holder, a peace-maker, a peace-broker, a mischief-maker, *mosaheb*, and what not besides.

The great attraction these gentlemen have for our rich men and the unlimited influence they exercise over them, are simply astounding. Each Maharaja or Nawab, in fact almost every Zemindar, has a leading or good pleader at his elbow, who virtually guides him not only in all his legal matters but also in most of his private affairs, for which latter service his fee or reward, whatever you may call it, is unlimited, being governed by no rules of court—no law. These rich men are simply puppets in the hands of their pleaders, having no self-confidence and power of decision of their own. They cannot give a subscription, cannot see a high official, cannot patronize an institution, cannot borrow money, cannot engage a musician or a theatrical company on the occasion of their sons' marriage without consulting their pleader. All these transactions open new channels of influence and income to the legal adviser which can be better imagined than explained. For their public, legal, and private services, most of these vakils draw salaries ranging from Rs. 50 to 500 a month. It has often been seen that our wealthy Zemindars (if pressure be brought upon them), can remain without many luxuries—they can do without valuable music boxes, greyhounds, race horses, rich and expensive wines, charming and beautiful dancing girls—but they cannot do without a pleader. We

cannot approach our rich men generally but through the gate of the influence or recommendation of a pleader. Government officials are not unoften in need of his assistance in getting something for public purposes out of a Raja or a Maharaja. Thus each rich man has a pleader for his guide, whose influence over him and his household is simply a charm. One of such magnates is enough to make a pleader rich, and this is the reason why we constantly hear that such and such a Vakil Babu has made so many lakhs in the District A, B, or C. Otherwise, in these hard days the bar is not so lucrative at very Mofussil station as to allow pleaders to count their lakhs and lakhs within a comparatively short time. Rewards and presents from the high and the low are innumerable and in varieties; there is nothing useful or palatable which is not presented to a pleader by his clients and which is not most thankfully accepted. So they occasionally get princely rewards and presents from their Raja clients, seasonable fishes from the fisherman, and the best vegetables and fruits, ghee and rice from the Reis and the Rayyet. These are neither bribes nor perquisites nor blackmail, but merely presents by way of homage to ability, and in acknowledgment of good service done, and what honourable and sensible man can reasonably refuse them when voluntarily offered? If you have only property you must require money to maintain your rights. It may be you have to fight in the law Courts the Maharaja of Durbhanga or even the Secretary of State. You must have money enough at command—by thousands. No fear! You have only to select your pleader, and he will not only give you advice but lend you money as much as is needed (on pretty high interest), and if he cannot, another professional brother of his will advance the requisite amount on the security of your estate. In Eastern Bengal, Zemindaris are changing hands and a reference to the registers of the Registry office will show that the vendees and mortgagees of most of the valuable properties are pleaders. Professional moneylenders, for the most part, have lost occupation. The few leading bankers only still manage to maintain their ground and their services are required only when a very large amount has to be found which a pleader or a syndic of pleaders is unable to supply. Every matter of importance, every transaction, whether it relate to death or marriage or any other domestic occurrence, comes within the Vakil's knowledge, and therefore he is the best witness too in such matters. Who can give better evidence, I mean true and professional evidence, than a man of law who is never misled or does not "funk" under cross-examination? In some cases I have seen that his evidence also brings him a round sum in the shape of fees, which the court allows. Such, in fact, is the faith of the people, and especially of our rich folk, in the members of this honourable profession that they cannot do anything without their aid.

M.

A SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF THE PRESS IN INDIA.

By DR. SAMBHU C. MOOKERJEE.
[Continued from page 356]

The Press as we enjoy it, is not only a very modern but also a European institution. Yet Asia as the Hive of the nations and the mother of civilization may well claim priority in this as in other arts that contribute to, and indeed constitute, civilization.

The real obligations of Europe to Asia gave the latter a fictitious credit, and the tendency of many writers has

been to trace all European arts and appliances to the East without positive evidence; but some arts, it may be presumed, were derived from Asia, though the evidence of the fact may be wanting.

Indeed, not a few of the inventions on which modern Europe prides herself were, unquestionably, Eastern in their source: originally received by her from Asia, her elder and earlier civilized sister, though since improved and best and most earnestly utilized by the younger, more restless and energetic.

Sir W. Jones, in his Discourse on the Hindus, says that they have boasted of three inventions,—the game of chess, the decimal scale, and the mode of instructing by apologues. In the absence of any authority, Dr. Horace Hayman Wilson doubts of the boast. And Wilson had far and away a more extensive acquaintance with the Hindus and their literature—the men as they are as well as the writings of their forefathers and the records of the race—than the accomplished Judge himself who unlocked to the world the gates of Sanskrit lore. And his rejection of the charge of boasting against one virtually exonerates both. If my evidence—in respect of my people—is worth anything, I unhesitatingly assert that the Indians do not merit the reproach of international gasconading. The vapourings of idle writers and speakers do not represent national sentiment. Even these writers and speakers with their ultra-Aryanism have learnt their trick from foreigners. I am talking of the normal Hindoo—the nation in the mass. Of my countrymen in general I assert nothing which is not capable of proof. Indeed, I am surprised that any one with the least pretension to know the Hindoos should make such a grave mistake, not to say, blunder. The Hindoos are proud enough, but they are too proud to be vain. Boasting is out of the question with them. They do not recognise other nations. In the belief of the Hindus, they are the salt of the earth, and the rest are all barbarians.

I need scarcely say that it is a false and foolish notion. But it comes natural to all early civilised and powerful nations. The Hindus and Chinese share it with the Greeks and Romans. To the Hindus it has been a sovereign resource, preserving them from inevitable demoralization through long ages of degradation and disgrace.

They might boast of these as of many other things, such as the gamut and musical science, and astronomy. Between them and their neighbours the Chinese, half the rudiments of Civilization came into the world.

Thus the Chess is clearly an ancient Indian game. Dr. Forbes and Dr. Vander Linde have settled that point. Paper money,* similarly, belongs to China and Japan. It was introduced in India by Sultan Mahommed Tugh-lakh, in 1330. Fertile as was the brain of that mighty if crack-brained Emperor in all sorts of schemes, whether for raising funds or for other objects, he appears to have acted upon some information of its success in China. It had been in vogue there before, as his own Ambassador to that Empire afterwards testified. The existence of this curious fiscal device in China before it was introduced in any other country, has been proved by two unimpeachable witnesses, one Christian and the other Mussulman, Marco Polo and Ibn Batuta, the most famous travellers of their time. In China only of all countries in the East, has it had any degree of success. In Persia, as in Hindustan, it miserably failed. To this day it is regarded in the rest of the Continent with mysterious wonder as a peculiar Chinese trick of the diabolical kind. Sir Alex. Burnes† indeed mentions a tradition in Sind on the Beluch frontier of a Hindu having made money of paper, that is, I take it, having made paper coins (to speak necessarily in somewhat Hibernian language,) and passed them off as silver currency. His end was worthy of such a hero. Having been caught in uttering, to effect his escape he quietly sank in the earth. But almost invariably the ingenuity is attributed to the Chinese. Some of you, gentle-

men, may have heard the Indian legend of the ingenuity of a Chinese traveller in India taking up his residence at one of the great cities and passing counterfeit coins of paper exactly resembling silver money, the trick being exposed by a clever man (Indian, I believe,) by sprinkling water on them when presented in payment of goods. Such is the myth into which the tradition of the fiscal miracle of paper currency in China had shaped itself in other lands.

The Chinese, in fact, have been the greatest inventors. They manufactured silk, paper, porcelain, varnishes, bells and perhaps glass also, before other nations. Although, like other Asiatics, they received artillery and guns from the Portuguese, they were thoroughly acquainted with gunpowder, and their fireworks still surpass those of the Europeans.

Nor has their originality passed without acknowledgment. They have had the good fortune of not only being the pioneers in knowledge and arts but also of being recognized as the pioneers. The great Cham of European learning, Voltaire, was the foremost in admiring their ancient civilization and acknowledging their priority in the sciences and arts. Indeed, they had the singular fortune of arousing a fictitious enthusiasm. From simple appreciation to extravagant over-rate was but a step in that used up, *blasé* Eighteenth Century, which, having drained civilization to the dregs and found it bitter, had begun to rest its hopes for the future of the human race on simplicity and barbarism. A time arrived when, as if by conspiracy of the learned, distant nations were ennobled at the expense of Europe. India, Indo-China and Japan were in special favour. It was well that the Chinese did not read French, or else they might have been spoiled by a perusal of the Universal History and the Philosophical Dictionary of the Philosopher of Ferney.

The Chinese have likewise received the credit of practising printing before Europeans. And not without reason. Modern research has fully confirmed the information with which the earlier missionaries, merchants and travellers startled the Western world. There is no doubt that they were familiar with printing by engraving many centuries before the German invention of the thirteenth century. And they early applied it to letters, not only to literature in general but also to that department of it which is now-a-days specially understood by the term "the Press." As far back as 890 of the Christian era, the books of Kungtse were put to press, though the printing was not completed till 920. Then the Pekin Gazette is probably the earliest newspaper in the world. The assertion of Chinese priority in journalism made by travellers and merchants, was long disbelieved until Mr. Davis' full account of the Chinese *Moniteur* appeared in one of the early volumes of the Transactions of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain. But alas! their priority in the field availed the Chinese little. Less than twenty years ago, Sir Rutherford Alcock, than whom there could be no better authority, published an article in a London magazine in which he speaks of this venerable Pekin Gazette thus:—"It is the sole representative in China of the newspaper press of other countries."—Alcock, in *Fraser*, March 1873, p. 341.

THE ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT.

A JUDGE'S OBITER DICTUM.

ON Monday, July 25, Mr. Justice Mahmud made an order in the first case that appeared on his list, No. 134 of 1890, to the effect that the case should be put before him when notices had been served. He then asked Mr. Howard, who appeared for the appellants, if he knew how the case had come to be put on his list. Receiving a reply in the negative his lordship made inquiry of the Registrar and then made the following order:—

This case has come up before me by reason of the report of Kali Prasad who describes himself as F. A. Munsarim, dated the 23rd July, 1892, and this case was without my permission put upon my day's list for to-day, namely, the 25th July, 1892, to be heard, as that printed list showed between 11 A. M. and 4 P. M. for to-day.

I have made anxious inquiries to ascertain why this case was placed before me without my permission, and also why Mr. Percy Gray, the Registrar of this Court, in his official capacity allowed a printed list, such as the one before me, to be placed upon my list without my permission. So far as this case itself is concerned I have had the advantage of hearing Mr. Howard, Senior, who appears for the appellants, and at his request I have directed that the case be put before me as soon as the notices upon the opposite parties have been served.

* See Professor Cowell's Paper in the *Journal of the Asiatic Society* for 1860, which summarises and brings to a focus the information on this interesting subject. The original authorities to which I have had access are Marco Polo (Yule's edition,) Ibn Batuta (Lee's English translation of the abridgment, and the Paris edition of the full text with French translation,) and the Persian histories of India.

† Sir Alexander Burnes' *Cabool: A Personal Narrative and a Journey to, and Residence in that City, in the years 1836, 7, and 8.* Second Edition. John Murray, 1843, p. 18.

But the learned counsel, Mr. Howard, Senior, has expressly stated to me that he was totally unaware of the legal authority by which this case was laid before me upon my day's list, and that it was simply because of the print which is now before me and ~~called~~ the day's list he would have no legal information at all. Now Mr. Percy Gray, the Registrar of the Court, informed me that this day's list, namely, the one now before me, was not prepared either by him or by Sir John Edge, the learned Chief Justice of this Court, but that in accordance with the procedure required by Rule No 64 of the Rules of Court this was done. That rule runs as follows:—"The Assistant Registrar shall, subject to any orders of the Chief Justice, prepare or cause to be prepared for each bench for each day on which the Bench sits, a list of cases which may be heard by such bench on such day. Such list is in these rules referred to as the day's list and shall state the hour for the sitting of the bench."

I was one of those who, being a member of this Court, gave my full consent to this rule being passed, but as a matter of fact so far as I understand the English tongue, when I gave my consent to the phrase in this rule, namely, "any order of the Chief Justice," I did not then mean by the words "any order" anything other than a legal order; nor could I ever credit any Chief Justice of this Court with any feelings other than those which are understood as matters of courtesy, which is due from one Judge to another, namely, the courtesy of asking a colleague whether he does or does not desire to sit upon any particular day or at any particular hour with reference to any particular case in consequence of a printed sheet of paper called the day's list or the cause list, upon which as Mr. Percy Gray, the Registrar of the Court, informs me, neither is the signature of the learned Chief Justice nor of the Registrar nor of the Assistant Registrar, but beyond that I have no information.

The matter standing thus, I have been driven to the necessity of delivering this *obiter dictum* to explain how the law stands.

The law stands upon a very simple basis, so long as nobody misunderstands it, and so far as the chartered High Courts are concerned it is important not to misunderstand it.

Now it was impossible that there could exist any Court in these Provinces which could be denominated as the High Court of these Provinces, but for the Act called "An Act for establishing High Courts of Judicature in India," namely, statute 24 and 25 Victoria, Cap 104, which is denominated as the Charter Act, enabling Her Majesty to establish High Courts of Judicature in India. It is enough to refer to the first section of that statute to enable everyone who knows the rules of interpretation to understand that it is an enabling Act as distinguished from a declaratory enactment.

Then there is in this enactment a provision in respect of the salaries of the Judges of the High Court, namely, section 6 of that enactment, leaving alone the provision of section 2 of that same enactment as to the constitution of "The High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal and at the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay respectively," and the section goes on to say "that such Court shall consist of a Chief Justice and as many Judges not exceeding fifteen as Her Majesty may from time to time think fit and appoint." Then follow rules as to the persons whose qualifications will entitle them to be eligible for such office.

Now this enactment related only to the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal in the first instance, but by section 16 of that same enactment Parliament with the consent of the House of Commons, the House of Lords and Her Majesty passed the following section: "It shall be lawful for Her Majesty if at any time hereafter Her Majesty see fit so to do by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom to erect and establish a High Court of Judicature in and for any portion of the territories within Her Majesty's dominions in India, not included within the limits of the local jurisdiction of another High Court, to consist of a Chief Justice and of such number of other Judges with such qualifications as are required in persons to be appointed to the High Courts established at the Presidencies hereinbefore mentioned, as Her Majesty from time to time may think fit to appoint, and it shall be lawful for Her Majesty by such Letters Patent to confer on such Court any jurisdiction, power and authority as under this Act is authorised to be conferred on, or will become vested in, the High Court to be established in any Presidency hereinbefore mentioned, and, subject to the directions of such Letters Patent having reference to the High Court established in any such Presidency, and to the Chief Justice and other Judges of such Court and to the Governor-General or Governor of the Presidency in which such High Court is established, shall as far as circumstances may permit be applicable to the High Court established in the said territories and to the Chief Justice and other Justices thereof and to the person administering the Government of the said territories."

Now I may say, in passing, as a matter of law that I am not within the meaning of the statute "the person administering the Government of the said territories." But I am equally anxious to point out that the Chief Justice of any High Court in India is also devoid of the category of being "a person administering the Government of the said territories."

I wish now to follow out the legal aspect of this *obiter dictum*. It was because of the power and authority which the constitution of England conferred upon Her Majesty by reason of section 16 of statute 24 and 25 Victoria, that this very Court was established. I will come to this matter presently. But in the meantime it is important to state that this very enactment 24 and 25 Victoria, Cap. 104, whilst laying down such rules is very specific in drawing a strong line of distinction between those who are not Her Majesty's Judges and those who are.

The law describes the Chief Justice of any High Court to be nothing other than a colleague of other Judges of the High Court. His position is therefore no more than that of being a Judge of the Court to which he belongs, beyond one or two matters mentioned in the enactment itself. One is that under section 7 of the enactment 24 and 25 Victoria it is necessary to fill up a vacancy when it occurs in the office of the Chief Justice of any High Court for which the provision is made in that section, and that it is not necessary to fill up a vacancy caused by the retirement or death, or for any other reason of a Puisne Judge. This matter and this distinction was explained by me in the judgment which I delivered in the Full Bench case of *Lal Singh vs. Ghan Sham Singh* (I. L. R., All., 625) when the question of the propriety and legal efficiency of the constitution of this Court was concerned and was ably argued by the late lamented Pundit Ajudhia Nath.

Now I have to consider a most serious question for purposes of the proper working of this Court, and that question is this: Does the learned Chief Justice of this Court or any other Chartered High Court possess any authority to establish his own rules as to the working of his colleagues?

Now in this connection it is important to read out another section of this enactment, namely, section 14, which runs thus:—"The Chief Justice of each High Court shall from time to time determine what Judge in each case shall sit alone and what Judges of the Court, whether with or without the Chief Justice, shall constitute the several Division Courts as aforesaid."

Much doubt and difficulty has arisen as to the interpretation of this clause of the statute and I will presently endeavour to explain.

The Court then adjourned.

On Tuesday, Mr. Justice Mahmud, on taking his seat on the bench, resumed as follows:—

The *obiter dictum* which I delivered yesterday in regard to the office report in first appeal No. 134 of 1890 was intentionally not completed by me yesterday. But the case which was before me had the order which it bears, namely, that "At the request of Mr. Howard, Senior, who appears for the appellant let this case be put up before me as soon as the notices are served." This order dated 25th July, 1892, does not require me to finish my *obiter dictum* of yesterday and I direct that this order should be at once obeyed by the office. Further, I direct that as soon as notices have been served, if they can be served before the end of the tenth of the Mohurrum, that this case be laid before me for such orders as I may pass thereon. But even if the notices have not been received I directed that this case may be laid upon my day's list on the 9th of August, 1892, when I understand according to all calculations the Ashr-i-Mohurrum will be over.

This order I desire to be communicated to the Registrar forthwith, and also for him to obtain the orders of the learned Chief Justice and to give me official notice as to such orders.

Further, I am driven to the necessity of saying here that I have no conscientious objections to conduct any of the business of one of Her Majesty's Judges during the Mohurrum, nor do I entertain any superstitions in regard to the tenth of the Mohurrum at all similar in this respect to the Good Friday of the Christians.

I decline to hold that in regard to matters of holidays of any particular creed or nation any such requisition should be made necessary, namely, such as is required by the notice which has been hung up in the Court, and Mr. Percy Gray in his official capacity as Registrar of this Court dated the 19th July, 1892.

I desire, not with reference to any declaration as to my religious prejudices or as to superstitions, if I have any, that by dint of the authority which I possess as one of Her Majesty's Judges and as a matter of social propriety, as I understand it among gentlemen of my race and creed, I decline the power of any one in this court whether the learned Chief Justice (for whom I entertain high respect) or the Registrar, or the Deputy Registrar or the Assistant Registrar to force me to sit during the Ashr-i-Mohurrum in this court without my being first consulted. I intend to remain in Allahabad during the whole of this Ashr-i-Mohurrum and I shall during this period be available for any emergent work that may arise during that period and which may be required by my own sense of duty under the letters patent with which Her Majesty has honoured me as a puisne Judge of this Court, and which I have loyally accepted.

Let this file together with the Mohurrum notification dated 19th July, 1892, be submitted to me by the Registrar as soon as the Court closes for the Mohurrum.

Mr. Amir-ud-din asked that the appeal No. 400 of 1890, in which he represented the respondents might be allowed to stand

over till the close of the Mohurrum. Mr. Abdul Raoof, who appeared for the opposite party had consented to this.

Mr. Justice Mahmud—The difficulty is you have to make a declaration.

Mr. Amir-ud-din—We are to make nothing of the sort: we have determined.

Mr. Justice Mahmud—Have you any conscientious scruples?

Mr. Amir-ud-din—Our conscience has nothing to do with it. We have the right that this holiday should be allowed without any conditions, and if it is not allowed without any conditions, of course—

Mr. Justice Mahmud—Why should I not say now. You have to make a declaration.

Mr. Amir-ud-din—We are not to make a declaration.

Mr. Justice Mahmud—That is your look out. I have made mine now.

His lordship then dictated the following order:—

Mr. Amir-ud-din, who appears for the respondents in this appeal, has stated that without making any declaration as to conscientious scruples in regard to the Mohurrum holidays, and without intending to make any such declaration in regard to himself personally, he has obtained the consent of Mr Abdul Raoof, for the appellant, that this case may not be taken up till after the 10th of the Mohurrum as published approved by the Government.

Mr. Amir-ud-din said that the Government printed list gave sanction up to the 12th or 13th of the Mohurrum, that is to the 6th of August. He did not mean to come on a day sanctioned and approved as a holiday by Government.

Mr. Mahmud continuing said: Mr. Abdul Raoof expressly consents to this motion. I order accordingly.

Mr. Justice Mahmud then adjourned the sitting. He said:— I will not take up any case for to-day because I want to finish the English business of the Court, which I denominate as Registrar's files, now upon my table in my chambers in the Court house. I therefore adjourn the hearing of all the cases on my day's cause list to-day, which was prepared without my being consulted. I, therefore, rise for the day and the bench reader will inform the learned gentlemen of the bar that none of the cases in which they are engaged shall be called upon for hearing in my bench to-day.

The following is the notification relating to the Mohurrum holidays referred to by Mr. Justice Mahmud:—

1. The Court will be closed for the last four days of the Mohurrum.
2. The Court so far as applications of all kinds except emergent applications to admit to bail are concerned, will be closed during the other six days of the Mohurrum.
3. Upon the application in writing of any Mahomedan Advocate, Attorney or Vakil presented on or before the 26th of July 1892 setting out a list of the cases in the Court in which he is concerned, and stating that he has conscientious objections to conducting business in Court during the Mohurrum, the cases mentioned in the list will not be taken during the Mohurrum.
4. Cases in which any Mahomedan party is not represented by an Advocate, Attorney or Vakil will not be taken in the Court during the ten days of the Mohurrum.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE ON COURT HOLIDAYS.

The following important deliverance was made in the Allahabad High Court, on Saturday July 30, by the Chief Justice, Sir John Edge, sitting with Mr. Justice Blair:—

This is a second appeal which was presented in this Court apparently through one Mr. M. A. Rushid, who signed the memorandum of appeal as counsel for the appellants. It was admitted by our brother Tyrrel, and by him directed to be placed before a Bench, under section 551 of the Code of Civil Procedure. It has accordingly been put on the list for to-day and has been called on. The appellants do not appear, neither does Mr. M. A. Rushid. Whether Mr. M. A. Rushid received a fee for attending to this case we do not know; that may subsequently be a question between him and his clients. As this is one of the days of the Mohurrum which are observed by Shia Mahomedans, Mr. M. A. Rushid, if he is a Shia Mahomedan, and has conscientious objections to doing work in Court on this day, or, indeed, if he is of any other class of Mahomedans and has conscientious objections to doing work in Court on this day of the Mohurrum, which is not the tenth day, had the opportunity of filing an application in this Court, stating the cases in which he was engaged, and further stating that he had conscientious objections to appearing in Court during the Mohurrum. If he had taken that course this case would not have been placed on to-day's list, and would not have been called on for disposal. This Court made certain regulations before the occurrence of the Mohurrum this year by which any cases in which any Mahomedan gentleman who had conscientious objections to appearing in Court during the Mohurrum was engaged, should, on application by him, stating that such objections existed, be kept out of the list. It is obvious that this Court cannot be closed for the disposal of business

at the wish or suggestion of advocates, vakils or others whose only objection to do work at this time is the objection which probably most people have at this time of the year, and not an objection founded on conscientious scruples. It would appear from the report of an oral application lately made that a case should stand out of the list during the Mohurrum, that the gentleman who made that application was under a mistake as to the application of the list of gazetted holidays, gazetted under the orders of this Court. How it is possible that that gentleman could have been under that misapprehension it is difficult to understand, as, recently, when he attended, with a deputation, before the judges of this Court, it was explained to him that those gazetted holidays were gazetted under section 15 of Act XII. of 1887, under which this Court has jurisdiction, subject to the orders of the Governor-General in Council, to prepare a list of days to be observed in each year as close holidays in the Civil Courts subordinate to it. That section relates only to the Courts subordinate to the High Courts, and does not relate to the High Courts, as was pointed out to the gentleman in question, so that the fact is that in the list of gazetted holidays for the Civil Courts which has been published, not by the Government, but by this Court, acting under the powers conferred upon it by section 15 of Act XII of 1887, the 10 days' holidays allowed by it for the Mohurrum apply only to the Courts subordinate to this Court, and to those Courts, of course, only on their civil side. The vacations of this Court are not gazetted in that list, as is perfectly well known to every one practising in this Court. We mention this in order that other persons may not be under a similar misconception as to the Courts to which gazetted holidays, gazetted under the authority of this Court, apply. The Court regretted that owing to the deplorable condition of the files of pending cases it could not grant the whole of the Mohurrum as holidays in this Court. It was compelled by a sense of public duty to make arrangements for carrying on the work of the Court during six days of the Mohurrum, and for the discharge of the duties for the performance of which the Judges receive their salaries. We cannot, of course, say, as Mr. M. A. Rushid is not personally known to either of us, whether he is a Shia, and had good reason for abstaining from being present in Court to-day. He is not here. No one appearing to support this appeal, it is dismissed.

ACT NO. VI OF 1892.

An Act to amend the Indian Limitation Act, 1877, and the Code of Civil Procedure.

Whereas it is expedient to amend the Indian Limitation Act, 1877, and the Code of Civil Procedure; It is hereby enacted as follows:

1. After section 5 of the Indian Limitation Act, 1877, the following section shall be added, namely:

"5A. Whenever it is shown to the satisfaction of the Court that an appeal or an application for a review of judgment was presented after the expiration of the period of limitation prescribed for such appeal or application owing to the appellant or applicant having been misled by any order, or practice, or judgment of the High Court of the Presidency, Province or District, such appeal or application, if otherwise in accordance with law, shall for all purposes be deemed by all Courts to have been presented within the period of limitation prescribed therefor."

2. To Chapter XXII of the Code of Civil Procedure the following section shall be added, namely:

"375A. Nothing in this Chapter shall apply to any application or other proceeding in any suit subsequent to the decree.

"Explanation.—An application to the Appellate Court pending an appeal is not an application subsequent to the decree appealed from within the meaning of this section."

3. After section 582 of the said Code the following section shall be added, namely:

"582A. If a memorandum of appeal or application for a review of judgment has been presented within the proper period of limitation, but is written upon paper insufficiently stamped and the insufficiency of the stamp was caused by a mistake on the part of the appellant or applicant as to the amount of the requisite stamp, the memorandum of appeal or application shall have the same effect and be as valid as if it had been properly stamped: Provided that such appeal or application shall be rejected unless the appellant or applicant supplies the requisite stamp within a reasonable time after the discovery of the mistake to be fixed by the Court."

4. To section 647 of the said Code the following shall be added, namely:

"Explanation.—This section does not apply to applications for the execution of decrees, which are proceedings in suits."

5. The provisions of this Act shall apply to every appeal and review of judgment heard after the passing hereof, notwithstanding that the judgment appealed from or under review may have been passed, or the petition of appeal or application for review presented, before the passing of this Act.

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Babu Umacharan Banerji, M.A., Principal, Raj College, Burdwan,
Dr. Jagat Bandhu Mitra, Vice-Chairman, Burdwan Municipality,
Babu Saitkari Banerji, Member, Burdwan Raj Committee,
Babu Rajendra Kumar Bose, Sub-Judge, Burdwan,
Munsi Golam Azduk, Pleader, Burdwan,
Babu Jaganmohan Bhattacharyya, Deputy Magistrate, Burdwan,
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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 1892.

No. 538

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

IN AUGUST.

THE echo of a whispered word,
A fleeting cadence low and sweet,
Fresh as the songs the streams repeat,
Faint as the croon of nestling bird.

A deeper azure in the sky,
Fields gleaming gay with green and gold,
Closed wings that droning half unfold,
As summer passes slowly by.

A breath of sadness scarcely caught,
A minor note to swell the strain,
A blossom bowed by falling rain,
Gold strands with silver subtly wrought.

O, rare unfathomed August days,
Rich with the glories of the past,
What will you bring us forth at last?
What lurks beneath your hovering haze?

MAY LENNOX.

LOVE OVER ALL.

BY MARY AINGE DE VERE.

RICHES are naught. A jewel crown
May be undone, and gold will melt,
But an ended pain is long, long felt.

Kisses are sweet, but prayers are best;
Only the lips to a kiss are given,
While the soul goes, with its prayer, to Heaven.

Dreams are shadows, yet sometimes come
Like blessed curtains that drop upon
The scorching light of a noonday sun.

Hopes betray us, but Faith is sure,
Nor asks for an answer. She smiles and waits
A patient child at the heavenly gate.

Love over all! A jewel crown,
A pain that stays, and a prayer, a kiss,
Dreams, hope, faith, patience, are met in this.

IN HIDDEN WAYS.

BY C. H. CRANDALL.

STRANGE is it that the sweetest thing
Forever is the shyest;
The sweeter song, the swifter wing,
Ere thou the singer spyest.

The more the fragrance in the rose,
The more it hides a-blushing;
And when with love a maiden glows,
The more her face is flushing.

In depths of night, in gloomy mine,
In wildwood streams—in stories
Of lowly lives, unsung—there shine
The world's divinest glories.

As low arbutus blossoms rest
In modesty unbidden,
So man and nature hide their best,
And God himself is hidden.

LINES TO TRAVANCORE.

Oh Kerala! the garden of this world,
One grove of palms—a leafy dome, the shrine
Of vernal flow'rs, the temple of the gods,
My home—my sweet abode!—embraced within
The many-fountained bosom of the deep,
Crowned with the glittering hills—fair Cybele!
Thou!—dowried with the clouds that on the wings
Of Zephyr senest forth to quench the thirst
Of nations; but for thee, this earth had known
No rain,—no joy,—nor all the grace she wears:
It was lone Nature's ardent soul that wooed
Thy beauty here, thou!—Daughter of the seas,
Great Mistress of the seasons,—ever good!

—The Travancore Times.

WEEKLYANA.

H. H. BHAGWATSINHAJI, the Thakore Sahib of Gondal, received the honorary degree of D. C. L. at the Oxford Convocation on the 23rd June. This is the first honor of the kind obtained by an Indian.

THE Press has been gratified at the recent election to the Vice-presidency of the United States:—

"Mr. Whitelaw Reid, elected to the Vice-Presidency of the United States, for which he was nominated on Saturday, June 11th, began his journalistic career in 1856, as editor of the *Yenia News*, and in 1866 was librarian to the House of Representatives. The Vice-President of the Great Republic, in the case of the death of the President during his term of office, becomes the Chief Magistrate."

Apropos of journalist-statesmen, we read:—

"In August, 1871, Louis Adolphe Thiers accepted the title President of the French Republic. The son of a 'docker' at Marseilles, and educated as a 'Coursier,' or 'Sizar,' at the college of his native city, Thiers came to Paris when he was twenty-eight, with a few francs in his pocket; lodged in a garret, and began his journalistic labours as an art critic on the 'Constitutionnel,' and afterwards, in conjunction with Armand Carrel and Mignet, he founded the famous Liberal paper the 'National.' He gave up journalism after ten years' hard

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work to become a statesman, just as Mr. Whitelaw Reid has done; and if the French journalist was the historian of the Revolution, the Consulate, and the Empire, the American journalist, who has become the Vice-President of the United States, has written a 'History of Ohio during the War.'

THE Ven'ble F. R. Michell, Archdeacon of Calcutta, retired from the service from the 12th August 1892.

THE Rangoon College has been affiliated to the Calcutta University in Law.

SEVEN subjects of the Ulwar State are in confinement for the murder of Kunj Lal and will be tried before a special court presided over by British officers. The Council of Regency weakly applied to the Government of India for their assistance and Mr. H. F. Evans, Judge of Shahjahanpur, and Major Thornton, Officiating Resident of Jeypur, have been lent for the occasion.

THIS is how the wealth of England goes!

"A hunting-horn at a sale in London fetched 6,300 guineas. It was an ordinary cow's horn beautifully enamelled, the subjects depicted being hunting scenes. It was about 350 years old. A letter of Henry VIII. sold for £19, and a ticket of admission to the trial of Warren Hastings realized £2."

£2 for an old ticket of admission to a celebrated trial! Why, holy relics do not sell at this rate. But an enamelled cow's horn for 6,300 guineas!—it must be a bovine plutocrat who paid that preposterous price for the *bagatelle*!

THE Lucknow *Advocate* of the 5th August says:—

"The trustees of the King's (Nawab Naser-ud-din Hyder) Hospital have taken the large tract of land lying on the back of the Lunatic Asylum for building a Leper House at a cost of Rs. 20,000. The House will be maintained by the King's Hospital."

Of what country was this King Nawab Naser-ud-din Hyder sovereign?

ANOTHER questionable paragraph:—

"This being the 2nd Mohorrum after the death of Wajid Ali Shah, ex-King of Oudh, we can understand the marks of decay. In his lifetime Lucknow used to get at least a lakh of rupees from him during Mohorrum."

If the Government did not pay the lac and more, we wonder where the poor deposed king got all that money from.

Under the circumstances a lac or anything like it seems a preposterous figure. His Majesty never expended a lac on the Mohorrum which was celebrated under his eye at his Palace at Garden Reach. Would he send a lac and more to Lucknow to be looted out of sight without the possibility of enjoying the sight of the scramble? Was not the Hosseinabad endowment enough for the city?

HERE is a living king:—

"The Magistrate of Azamgurb has notified that if boys below 8 years of age are found playing on any public road, their guardians will be criminally prosecuted."

But under what law? And what of the street Arabs?

FROM a long time past, Najibabad had been torn by disputes between the Jains and Vaishnavas, till at length in November last Sahu Bhagwandas and Umrao Singh, two leading bankers of the place, succeeded in reconciling them and invited and brought them together to attend a marriage between the two families. Bhagwandas Sahu resolved to commemorate the doubly joyful event by endowing Rs. 7,000 to some religious purposes. He was since induced by the good Tehsildar, Thakur Jagannath Singh, to devote the funds to the establishment of a school. The sum, however, was obviously inadequate. Happily now arose a feud between Hindus and Mahomedans, and this likewise was suppressed by the leaders of both the communities and in commemoration of the latter event another sum of Rs. 8,000 was subscribed in aid of the contemplated school. With this Rs. 15,000 at command, the school was started under the name of the Bullock School after the Collector. Mr. Bullock is a truly sympathetic officer who not only takes a great interest in the school, but also earnestly assisted the sects to make up their differences.

THE *Mandalay Herald* notices the falling off in the *ecldt* of the Moharram in Upper Burma. The lions of the spectacle—the *tastas* or

taboots as they are variously called—have become reduced to limping jackals. As for the "tigers," says our contemporary:—

"The 'tigers' have been very tame this year, and were not of the man-eating species we remember to have seen in the days when the taboots were worth looking at."

THE same journal, we see, continues its crusade against the pariah dogs. Give a dog a bad name and hang him! Pariahs are pariahs, whether canine or human, and of course liable to be sat upon. The *Herald* gives an instance of the ferocity of the Mandalayan pariahs:

"Early on Tuesday (Aug. 2) morning a pig was attacked on 82nd street by about half-a-dozen of these canine pests, and had it not been for some gharry-wallahs lifting the pig up out of the reach of the brutes, the poor animal would have been worried to death."

On the strength of this the Municipality is invoked for relief. It was surely cowardly of the six to attack a poor little pig. It would seem as if these dogs had been brought up at Eton or Harrow. But there are pariahs and pariahs. If they have their Bully Dawsons, they have also their Sir Philip Sidneys. They are badly in need of literary friends. O for a Dr. John Brown for the poor Pariahs!

A FEW weeks ago, the *Pall Mall Gazette* produced a group of starving rayyets in the Southern Presidency, accompanied by a sensational account of the situation from a Madura missionary. The letter-press was immediately challenged and its statements have been disproved. To complete the exposure, it has now too turned out that the picture is from a photograph as old as 1877, in which year it was taken by Mr. Nicholas, a Madras artist.

DR. Keeley's "gold cure for inebrity," which has made such a name in England, is no better than it should be. To begin with, it is no gold cure at all, nor golden. At a meeting of specialists (the Society for the Study of Inebriety),

"Dr. Norman Kerer said an eminent English analyst had examined this 'gold cure,' which was found to consist of water 61·31 per cent.; sugar, 6·00; mineral salts, principally lime, probably from herbs; and 27·55 per cent. of pure alcohol! The decoction was described as 'double chloride of gold cure' and was dispensed in two bottles costing together nine dollars. It contained neither gold nor chlorides. Dr. J. E. Usher, of Melbourne, Australia, then described a visit he paid to Dr. Keeley's institution for the reception of patients at Dwight, Illinois, and, according to his statements, the alleged 'cure' is no cure at all and is calculated to do more harm than good."

And no wonder, considering that this formidable quack doctor poisoned patients suffering from the effects of long-continued habitual intemperance with doses of alcohol. Nevertheless, the "gold cure" is no misnomer as regards the first word of the designation. It is really a gold cure to the doctor. Dr. Usher saw marks of prosperity in the Illinois establishment.

THE *Morning Post's* Fyzabad news-letter of the 8th August contains the following:—

"To-day is the last day of the *Jula-ka-mela*, or swinging festival, which is held in Ajudhia during the second half of the Hindu month *Sawan*. Every devout Hindu is expected to put up a swing for the special enjoyment of one of the numerous deities of the Hindu Pantheon. Those dedicated to Mahadeo are the most expensive, and this year a swing put up by one of the Bundelkund chiefs takes the cake. It is made of pure gold and is estimated to have cost Rs. 15,000. There are other swings made of gold costing from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 10,000, and several of silver valued at from Rs. 10 to Rs. 500."

That is of course the *Jhulan Jatra* of Bengal! Here it is dedicated to Krishna, the popular incarnation of Vishnu. But is Siva the presiding deity of the occasion in Oudh? The *Advocate* ought to enlighten us. We have never seen the grim Destroyer with his capacious stomach swinging like the slim jolly god of Brindaban.

The writer adds a characteristic incident:—

"A Hindu tradesman, married a year ago, made a vow that if his first-born child was a son, he would dedicate a silver swing to Mahadeo. A son was born, and in fulfilment of his vow he brought the promised swing, which cost him Rs. 20. Mahadeo was comfortably placed on a velvet cushion and the swing began, but unfortunately, one of the suspending chains broke and the god was ruthlessly thrown on the ground. Horror of horrors! The poor tradesman was in an awful dilemma."

Then there is a laboured description of how the family priest was sent for, as if that reverend gentleman could have been out of reach while the important function of Mahadeo's swinging was going on, how he decided that his penitent tradesman must perform a distant pilgrimage by way of penance, the journey to be preceded by feeding a hundred Brahmins and to be followed by the feeding of a hundred Byragis only. This latter must be a mistake.

THE Indus is in high flood, but has not overflowed its banks or burst the Kashmore bund. The stream, after reaching within seventy yards of the trainage works of last year, has veered off to a channel four miles east of the bund.

A SEVERE cholera epidemic is reported from Teheran.

THE Rampur murder business is not yet quite over. Another supposed murderer of General Azim-ud-din Khan, by name Jamal-ud-din Khan has been arrested in Jodhpur territory.

ON the recommendation of the Local and Supreme Governments in India, the Secretary of State has granted one year's extension of service to Mr. F. E. Elliot, District and Sessions Judge of Allahabad. In Bengal, Sir Charles Elliott has set his face against such prolongation.

SIR Auckland Colvin's time will be up on the 21st November, but he continues in office till the end of the month when he makes over charge to Sir Charles Crosthwaite and leaves India on the 1st December. He visits Egypt on his way home.

THE military authorities are for removing the cantonment from Dinapur to a site adjoining Bankipur.

NOTES & LEADERETTES

with OUR OWN NEWS.

THERE is an end of the great Political Mission to Afghanistan headed by the illustrious Commander-in-Chief of India. It was determined before starting.

The Amir has replied to the offer of the India Government of a Mission to Afghanistan. He has great pleasure and satisfaction in accepting the proposal. In fact he had long wished for a deputation of British officers in his territory. The selection of Lord Roberts at the head of the Mission is peculiarly gratifying. But for the internal disturbances in his kingdom, he would at once have fixed the time and place of meeting. The Hazaras must be put down first. In any case, the Amir will again communicate with the Viceroy, whether the rebellion is stamped out or prolonged.

The Hazaras are not the only difficulty of the Amir. The insurgent Uzbeks in the neighbourhood of Maimana have, after their Tartar fashion, left in a body the Afghan territory and, crossing the boundary, have fallen back far within the Russian dominions. The Hazaras are as proud as ever, not having seen any reverses yet. The long talked of attack on the Oroozghanwalas has not yet been delivered. To add to the Amir's difficulties, the Firozkohi Char Aymaks, of the tract east of Kala Nao, between the Safed Koh and the Band-i-Turkestan mountains, are raiding into Sar-i-pool, a district east of Maimana.

IN the Black Mountains, the appearance of Hashim Ali, the exiled Hassanzai Chief, causes anxiety, even though he has received scant support. Accordingly, Major General Sir William Lockhart has been ordered to Oghi, to settle the difficulty and will shortly leave Simla.

Nearer home, the Waziris are showing signs of unrest. Near Fort Mir Ali Khel a patrol of the 5 Bombay Cavalry returning from Gul Kach was, on the 30th July, attacked by a party of Waziris armed with Martini rifles. On the following day also a party of about sixty Waziris stopped a small patrol of the Zhob Levy. Two of the Levy were wounded. After two of the Waziris were wounded the others decamped.

THERE is now no doubt about the reported Russian collision with the Afghans on the Alichoor Pamir. Our Government have received confirmatory intelligence from Gilgit. The particulars are still uncertain, though both the Chinese Envoy and Mr. Macartney, in charge of the British Consulate of Kashgar since Captain Younghusbands departure, have arrived at Gilgit. It is said that the new Chief of the petty State of Hunza will be installed on the 15th September by Dr. Robertson, in presence of the Chinese envoy.

INFORMATION has reached Simla that all Hindu residents in Russian Turkestan, many of whom are bankers, have been ordered out of Russian territory within six months. The reason is not given.

AT a meeting of the Central Mahomedan Association held the other day at Calcutta, it was resolved to send a congratulatory letter to Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji on his election as a member of Parliament and another letter of thanks to the electors of Finsbury for electing him. This is the first time that a Fireworshipper has been so honoured from the camp of the Believers. After the attitude hitherto maintained by the Mahomedans throughout the Empire against the Congress and its leaders, this welcoming of one of the earliest Presidents of the Congress is noteworthy.

THE Madras City Civil Court Bill was passed by the Viceroy's Legislative Council at Simla at its sitting of Thursday, the 11th August 1892. It received the assent of the Governor-General the following day and was published the day after in the *Gazette of India* as the Madras City Civil Court Act (VII of) 1892, coming into operation the same day, the 13th August 1892. The measure is intended, in the words of the Home Member in charge of the Bill, "to establish what may be briefly described as a District Munsif's Court in the city of Madras, and to transfer to it the cognizance of ordinary suits, not of the nature of small causes and not exceeding in value Rs. 2,500, which is the pecuniary limit of a District Munsif's jurisdiction in the Madras Presidency."

On the whole, we think, it is a move in the right direction. It is several years since we ourselves advocated a District Court for Calcutta. The expensive justice in the High Court in its Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction is telling severely on the public. A wise rule cannot shut its eyes to the ruin caused in the name of Justice, specially in partition suits. Oftentimes there is little to divide after the close of a case. The proceedings are tortuous to a degree. The attempt to curtail only enhances the costs, which have to be met by the sale of the divided property. The men may not always be to blame. The law must be held chiefly responsible. It is a bad law which can ruin the parties resorting to it.

THE representative of a historic ruling house has just passed away. On the night of the 5th, died at the age of nearly 90 years, from natural exhaustion, Maharaja Manavikrama Tamuri, Bahadur, K.C.S.I., the Zamorin Raja of Calicut. He had been ailing for the last few months, and aware that the end was nigh, he paid all his debts and provided for his priests and holy men and his gods. Then he sent for the members of his family, and bestowed on them estates, effects and money, not forgetting to exhort them all to live in peace and amity with one another and the world. Then, he summoned his Minister and settled on him a valuable landed property, over and above a previous similar gift. Finally, immediately before his demise, he paid up all his establishments, and gave a month's salary in advance to each employé. This is dying like a Prince—is it not?

Readers of Indian history will remember that the Portuguese under Da Gama first landed in India at Calicut and had audience of the then powerful sovereign, the Zamorin.

ACCORDING to the Commissioner, "there has been in Jorhat lately a regular epidemic of bad language; it is impossible to pass along the streets without hearing the vilest and most disgusting epithets used." Captain Gordon "thinks this should be put down and as fines do not seem to stop the nuisance," he sentenced a man who had abused another as "Sala," it seems at a private residence, to 14 days' rigorous imprisonment. We shall be glad to learn that the punishment has had the desired effect, and that the streets and houses of Jorhat are free from indecent language. We badly want such a Magistrate for Calcutta. At any rate, the Police should direct their attention in putting down the language of street boys and indecent disfiguring of walls in the native town. Sir Charles Elliott heads the purity movement of Bhai Pratap Chunder Mozoundar, for the moral training of our youths. He gave more than one entertainment to our boys in the interest of that movement. The next step is surely and more properly to purify the streets of "the vilest and most disgusting epithets."

THE *Indian Spectator* of Bombay shows a grasp of English politics second to that of no publicist in India, native or British, and which contrasts vividly with the uninstructed Liberalism and random remarks of the Native Press in general. Our contemporary's notices of the Finsbury election and the return of the Black Man are as justly conceived as brilliantly expressed. The number for the 24th July opens with a string of admirable paragraphs replete with acute remarks and valuable truths. The *I. S.* is not content, like our other contemporaries, to exhaust itself, in advance, in wild triumph at Mr. Naoroji's success but tries to draw the moral of the event.

After noticing the whole hog radicalism of desperation of the address to his electors with which Mr. Naoroji wooed Finsbury, the *I. S.* dwells on the phenomenal consensus of approbation which that address has experienced from the native politicians of India. The organs of all denominations and parties have vied with one another in applauding confession of faith which must have staggered many a sound old Liberal within the sound of Bu-bells. Well may our contemporary ask:—

"Is it not wonderful to see advocates of stagnation and monopoly going in raptures over Mr. Dadabhai's Finsbury address? They could afford to do it, good easy men; for it is not here that the shoe pinches. Mr. Dadabhai's radical principles are not to be enforced in their entirety in dealing with a Home Rule Bill for India. We have no such political bugbear to frighten us. All vested interests are safe so far."

Just so!

The mystery of success at Finsbury is the same as at any other place. There is no mystery in it, in fact. Perseverance levels down mountains. Brave Naoroji was determined to succeed and, though he repeatedly failed, he succeeded at last.

Our contemporary pays a discriminating tribute to the friends of India and of truth who stood by the Black Man. First and foremost are Miss Nightingale and Mrs. Josephine Butler, and as for the Liberal Leaders, there is

"Mr. Gladstone authorizing his Private Secretary to say how pleased he is at Mr. Dadabhai's improved prospects. Then, we have the hearty Sir Charles Russell, the earnest Lord Ripon, the coy hard-headed Lord Rosebery, the honest warm-hearted Lord Aberdeen, the circumspect and sincere Lord Reay."

The last five acted simply as friends, independently of party wire-pulling. The party itself had through long years behaved with such ineffable baseness towards poor Naoroji that his friend has not the heart to pay the management even a conventional compliment.

"It would be falsifying History to say that the Managers rallied round their Indian candidate, at last, out of love for him or for India. They wanted the seat, not the man, and cared not what became of the latter, backed up though he had been with all the pledges and promises that a Party could make. In the nick of time, however, they saw that only one man could wrest the seat for them; and they set themselves loyally to win through the man whom they had thought it quite within their rights to discard, to humiliate and to oppose."

Nor does our contemporary spare our own countrymen. They did not come to the struggling man's assistance, any more than his British fellow-Liberals.

"Only a few brief weeks before his victory we were all discussing the dead certainty of his defeat. The event, infinitely more valuable in its moral than its political aspect, is worthy of national rejoicings. But it has its dark side, too. It strikes one dumb with the force of the hideous truism, *nothing succeeds like success.*"

Cutting as that concluding sarcasm is, it is fully merited, by one and all of us. And yet not quite so merited, after all. There never was any absence in his fellow-countrymen of an earnest desire for Mr. Naoroji's success. Only the expectation was wanting. And there are ample reasons for that. Repeatedly as after each repulse Mr. Naoroji attacked Finsbury, his chances of success seemed to whittle away to nothing. And when did they ever improve? Never! perhaps. It may almost be doubted whether he has won at all. A winning by three or at most five votes after the disappointment of years, has very much the appearance of a fluke, which scarcely entitles the lucky man to crow over rivals and rebuke friends.

But of course, this, or t'other, is neither here nor there. There is a serious moral in the event, in the contrast between our easy pessimism and quick exhaustion and Naoroji's sublime faith and untiring perseverance and its well-merited reward, and our contemporary does well to remind our countrymen of it.

THE Anglo-Indian Press has thoroughly vindicated its patriotism by the interest it has shown in the issues of the political struggle in Great Britain. The papers were all full of the elections. Speculations on the elections and discussions on the merits and prospects of the several parties met us at every turn. The feeling in the

distance is quite as strong as at home. We have as great partisans among us as any within the bounds of Land's End and John O'Groat's. The *Mandalay Herald*, in its exasperation at the progress of democracy and Home Rule, bursts forth into Latin. *O Tempora! O Mores!* is the heading of its opening leader of the 23rd July. Enthusiasm drives our contemporary into lapses of memory in its English quotations. Here is a stream of eloquence in a couple of sentences:—

"The speeches of the several candidates, and of their supporters as also of their opponents, are, in many instances, samples of dashing rhetoric, in others, of envenomed vituperation, and in every case they exhibit to the full the skill of the orators in using language to mystify their audiences and very successfully to conceal their thoughts, but the palm for saying things that might mean anything, or nothing, and for serving up clap-traps in enticing and unrecognizable garbs and guises, must be given to the Octogenarian Leader of the Liberal Party, whom his famous political rival epigrammatically described as an 'unsophisticated rhetorician inebriated with the exuberance of his own verbosity,' but the Grand Old Man, as his admirers call him (a title which the most bigotted of his opponents are also forced to concede him) has even transcended his best efforts. When he was fishing for the Irish vote at the outset of the present electioneering campaign, he announced with such a flourish of trumpets as he alone can achieve, that he would devote the rest of his life to that 'distressful counthree' and, the average Pat, not being an actuary and accountant, and to whom the mathematical evolutions of the processes termed 'probabilities' are as sealed books, immediately swallowed the bait, but to the unimpassioned observer of this political strife, who has both the leisure and the desire to analyse its worth, the high sounding promise of Mr. Gladstone resolves itself into very little indeed: it is not the heroic act of self-denial and devotion he would have the world consider it, and which he could have claimed for it had he been, say a couple of score years less aged, but, in the place of seeing a young statesman who has only just won his spurs pledging himself to a life-long fidelity to some particular cause or some party creed, we have an ancient Tyro, who has long since passed the span of life allotted to ordinary mortals, making his avowals with the gush and enthusiasm of a juvenile suitor, and find too that his blandishments have been but too successful with lazy, illogical, discontented, and restless Ireland, who, if she had only the faculty of thinking out problems for herself, would ere this have been convinced of the hollowness of all the Venerable Leader's promises and that his fulsome assurances of affectionate regard and paternal solicitude were but the airy accessories of his own invention to be utilized for the purpose of wafting the barque of his Party into the comfortable haven that St. Stephen's offers."

Including these two, just eight such formidable sentences make one long article of full two columns.

The writer is scarcely conscious of what havoc his torrent of rhetoric commits, "achieving a flourish of trumpets," and so forth. "Epigrammatic" is, we are afraid, not a happy epithet for the quotation, whether as it is or as it should be. We make this latter distinction because our Burma contemporary has not only mangled a brilliant passage but actually made nonsense of it. Disraeli would scarcely have complimented his rival as an "unsophisticated" man, or rhetorician for that matter. He would have had less objection to the affirmative form of the word. Even with our contemporary's own text, so depreciatory of the Liberal leader, that word does not at all agree. The adjective used by the late Earl of Beaconsfield was "heedless." His description of the Grand Old Man was one of the finest things in the line ever heard in either House. Perhaps there is nothing like it in the whole range of oratory, ancient and modern. Most of the Great Parliamentarians are skilful in polite vituperation; there is no rising without it almost; but the late Earl of Beaconsfield shone above them all. Harry Brougham was grim and crushing, Dan O'Connell simply savage and mangling. More to the taste of a highly cultivated audience was Viscount Melbourne's razor-like despatch, but it was *caviare* to the general who, as they saw no gash, realised no execution. Disraeli was at once popular and fine. He was a master in the art of Parliamentary abuse. A master without serving articles of apprenticeship. For he showed his aptitude from the first. His unfinished maiden speech in the House of Commons attacked the giants of the day and hit them hard—the very reason why it was not listened to and not allowed to be finished. It is wellknown how, after a brief season of voluntary obscurity, he prospered by his brilliant invectives against the Conservative Premier, Sir Robert Peel. Even in later life, when he spoke as a responsible statesman or a parliamentary leader, he had neither abandoned his old style nor lost his former cunning. Once he descended to savagery, when he characterized the late Lord Halifax, then Secretary of State for India, as "an orator whom Providence had denied the gift of articulate speech," a most unmanly allusion to the Minister's natural stammer—which recalls O'Connell's chastisement of young Disraeli in a speech at a public meeting, which he wound up with calling the then aspirant for political honours "the lineal descendant and heir-at-law of the impenitent thief who died on

the cross. But the description of the G. O. M. is not open to any such reproach. Whether in literature or morals or manners, it is faultless. The victim himself could not help admiring it. Lord Beaconsfield characterised Mr. Gladstone as "a heedless rhetorician inebriated with the exuberance of his own verbosity."

THE Maharaja of Tipperah having dismissed his minister Baboo Umakanta Das, of the Subordinate Executive Service, formerly Assistant to the Political Agent of that State, it is said that he will be appointed to Alipore, the 24-Parganas Head-Quarters, in the room of Baboo Shamadhab Mookerjee, who has been permanently transferred to the charge of the Sealdah Magistracy. During Khan Bahadoor Moulvi Abdul Jubber's officiating charge of the Superintendence of Stamps and Stationery, Baboo Umakanta will preside at the Alipore Police Court.

This is a great lift for a comparative junior. But some special balm of the administrative Gilead was perhaps required for comfort to Baboo Das under the rather ignominious determination of his proud career as king *de facto* of Tipperah. The people of Tipperah themselves would probably raise him to any elevation to keep him out of their country. For our part, we shall always be glad to see his undoubted merits recognised and utilised in their proper sphere. Whatever may be the geographical situation of that tract in the administrative globe, such light as his ought certainly not to be hidden under the Tipperah bushel. But whether the destination to which he has been removed is fit and proper, is the question. Perhaps it is scarcely fair to the favorite of Government to draw him out of the Eastern jungles and set him up at the Head-Quarters of the Metropolitan District directly under the fierce light that beats upon the Magistracy at the capital. Babu Das is an officer of devotion, however. He has before experienced equal transitions and has always managed to satisfy his British masters, if not all superior officials. He will do so again. Only the public may have ground for complaint. It is at least a hazardous experiment to install on the bench of a British criminal Court a man presumably demoralised by long exercise of despotic authority. Our friend himself will not find his seat on the bench at Alipore as pleasant as that on the political's easy-chair at Agartala, or on Beer Chunder Deb Barman.

There is nothing extraordinary in this sort of transfer. To put the square man in the round hole is a hallowed institution in this country. The Empire has been won by filibusters and commercial agents and tradesmen and shady characters and consolidated by bad bargains of sorts employed at random. And there is always apparently a superstitious objection to any departure.

RAJA Rampal Singh, the wellknown Talukdar of Kalakankar, in the Partabgar District, made his own appointment of a village accountant (Patwari) in a village on his estate. This was quite according to law and custom and we may add reason too. But what was the Deputy Commissioner—the District Ruler—for if landlords took the powers in their own hands and filled the village vacancies? Accordingly, he sent his own man for the office and rebuked the Raja for his impertinence. The redoubtable Talukdar was, however, the last person to be bullied out of his legal rights. He quietly appealed to the Commissioner. But that functionary, in accordance with bureaucratic etiquette, supported his subordinate. Not content with that, the Saheb Commissioner Bahadoor—the Lord of the Division—with consummate diplomacy, dammed the possible currents of sympathy from the public in the appellant's favour by charging him with oppression of his tenantry. In due course the case came before the great Sudder Board of Revenue. We say the great Sudder Board advisedly. People living in permanently settled provinces in the down country have no idea of the importance of the Board in the Ryotwari Upper India. There it is the *Ma-Bap* of the landlords—the earthly Providence of the landed interest. The Lower Provinces department of the same name is not for a moment to be thought of in connection with it. The N.-W. P. Board is an unique institution with unbounded power for good and evil. Luckily, it is presided over just now by a just as well as able officer, Mr. J. R. Reid, Senior Member. On the 18th ultimo, he set aside the Deputy Commissioner's order and admitted the Raja's right to appoint the accountant (Patwari) of the village on his estate, according to the provisions of the Act in force. The Board's order has given much relief to the whole landholding class.

WHICH is the greater, grander, or higher—a monument or a Prince? If the latter, as most people we suppose will answer, then the Bengali

must try to console himself as best he might, in his position of inferiority. He is no better than a monument—a huge frippler—a sham and humbug—and must bow to the Prince.

A MERRY land is Burma, where language is given *not* to conceal one's thoughts. There a spade is a spade, without any ado in search of long-winded euphemistic substitute. Criticising the President of the Rangoon Municipality in regard to the proposal for increasing the Secretary's pay, the *Rangoon Gazette* calls Major Temple "the Prince of Liars."

OUR authority is the *Morning Post* of the 12th August. We have not the honour of receiving the *Rangoon Gazette* in exchange. And now, it may be easily imagined, we do not care for the honour.

BABU Kedarnath Mookerjee, the late Head Clerk of the Political Agent with the King of Oudh, who was under suspension for the last 2 or 3 years, has been dismissed from the service of Government.

WE are known to be thoroughly well-disposed towards the Southern and Western Press. Indeed, we lose no opportunity, according to our resources, of presenting to our people nearer home and to our publicists by way of examples to them, the good points of the more distant publications. But we have an unfortunate habit of "chaffing," sparing neither friend nor foe, though Heaven knows we never mean ill or ought but well. This way we have alienated our weaker friends. The *Madras Standard* has had its revenges upon us in its issue of the 15th instant, in a paragraph which, if it do not show a wilful failure of good faith exhibits an extraordinary degree of crass imperipacity. Says the *Madras Standard* :—

"There is a general movement writes the *Reis and Rayyet* among the Local Administrations against municipal management. This is not visible in the Bengal Legislative Council only. The Madras Government lately appointed a Chairman to the Municipal Board of Calicut, to the annoyance of the forward party in Malabar. They have now passed the following order: 'As M. R. Ry. M. Tillinayakam Pillai Avergal's duties in connection with the Revenue and Magisterial administration of the two important Taluks of Madura and Tirumangalam render it necessary that he should be relieved at the earliest possible date of the office of the Chairman, Municipal Council of Madura, and as no fitting Municipal Councillor can be found to take up the appointment, the Government considers it desirable to appoint a paid Chairman, but before passing final orders on the matter, the Municipal Council will be requested to submit as soon as possible any remarks it may have to offer on the proposal.' Fancy 'a forward party in Malabar' passing an order about the Municipal Chairman of Madura. It may interest our contemporary to know that Madura has nothing to do with Malabar except that they begin with the same letter."

What! have we said that a party in Macedon has passed an order against the Municipal Chairman of Monmouth? We are not so far gone yet. As yet we receive only an occasional issue of our contemporary. If the *Standard* overpower us hereafter with its full blaze from day to day, we may arrive at that state of imbecility. It is impertinent in a writer who does not understand the plainest English to impute ignorance to his betters. The Eurasians down South must be hard pressed to allow such an organ to represent them.

THE new Cabinet consist of

Mr. Gladstone, Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Lord Privy Seal.

Lord Herschell, Lord High Chancellor.

Earl Kimberley, Lord President of the Council and Secretary of State for India.

Sir W. Harcourt, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Earl Rosebery, Foreign Secretary.

Mr. Campbell Bannerman, Secretary of State for War.

Lord Ripon, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Mr. Asquith, Home Secretary.

Earl Spencer, First Lord of the Admiralty.

Mr. Arnold Morley, Postmaster-General.

Mr. Mundella, Secretary to the Board of Trade.

Mr. H. H. Fowler, Secretary to the Local Government Board.

Mr. John Morley, Chief Secretary for Ireland.

Mr. Acland, Vice-President of the Council of Education.

Sir G. Trevelyan, Secretary of State for Scotland.

The appointment which has met with universal approval, both in England and the Continent, is that of Lord Rosebery. The English Liberal Press regret the weakness of the Radical element in the Ministry. Conservative papers are pleased that Mr. Gladstone has

mainly adhered to his old traditions and chosen tried colleagues. The *Times* mysteriously avers that the new Ministers lack independence of character.

THE other changes in the ministry are

Lord Houghton, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.
Mr. G. W. E. Russell, Under-Secretary of State for India.
Mr. S. Buxton, Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.
Mr. Herbert Gladstone, Under-Secretary, Home Department.
Sir U. Kay Shuttleworth, Secretary to the Admiralty.
Mr. Burt, Political Secretary to the Board of Trade.
Sir B. W. Foster, Political Secretary, Local Government Board.
Mr. McArthur, Third Junior Lord of the Treasury.
Lord Sandhurst, Under-Secretary of State for War.

PARTIES have changed in the House of Commons. The Irish Members, however, remain with the Opposition, as also Messrs. Burns and Hardie.

MR. Keir Hardie's motion made on the 18th for an Autumn Session was dropped, the Speaker informing that it was contrary to usage to discuss a motion in the absence of ministers at Osborne.

MINISTERS' writs for re-election were moved and Parliament prorogued. Mr. John Morley is the only minister whose re-election at Newcastle-on-Tyne is opposed.

THE showers of honors by the out-going have been followed by those by the in-coming ministry. The latest creations are :—

Sir John Pender is created a Knight Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George. Colonel Charles Hotted Smith, a Knight Commander, and Mr. Christopher T. Gardner, British Consul at Hankow, a Companion of the same Order. Sir Henry Brougham Loch is created a Knight Grand Cross of the Bath, and Mr. Horace George Walpole, a Knight Commander of the Bath. The Earl of Zetland is made a Marquis and Lord Cranbrook an Earl. Eight Peers have been created, including Sir Archibald Campbell, of Blythswood. Five Privy Councillors have been appointed including Sir W. M. Ridely, Mr. Jesse Collings, Mr. A. Staveley Hill and Professor Huxley. Twelve Baronets have been created, including Mr. Edward Lawson, the Provost of Glasgow, and the following members of Parliament: Mr. Dixon Hartland, Mr. F. Seager Hunt, Mr. T. Lea and Mr. Mark Stewart. Eight Knights have been created, including Messrs. Ashmead Bartlett and Blundel Maple.

Lord Willoughby de Eresby has been created an Earl.

Mr. Douglas Straight has been Knighted.

THE Duke of Devonshire was privately married, on the 16th, to the Dowager Duchess of Manchester. Two days after, the Duke of Manchester, who had been confined to bed for some time, died. He was only 39 years of age and had succeeded to the title in March 1890. The next Duke is William Angus Drogo Montagu, a minor of the age of 15 years.

CHOLERA has appeared in Galicia and is spreading in St. Petersburg.

THERE was a meeting, on the 14th, in the Phoenix Park, Dublin, of fifteen thousand, to demand the amnesty of all the Irish Politicals sentenced for dynamite outrages. The speakers Mr. Redmond and others censured Mr. Gladstone for not yet having given any promise in that behalf.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, August 20, 1892.

THE EXCHANGE DIFFICULTY.

WE are afraid we have displeased many of our friends, specially in the European community, by our apparent indifference to the Exchange Question. We have not been really indifferent; it is impossible to be indifferent on a matter which so intimately affects every one—a matter of money in hard coin—mine, your, everybody's, the whole country's money. It were death to neglect such a matter. We were not neglectful but simply observant with anxious eagerness. We respected the subject too much to plunge headlong into the discussion. It was a technical subject and a confessedly difficult one.

We abstained from joining in the discussion for fear of making confusion worse confounded. It was a subject on which no man had a right to dogmatise—on which experts pronounced with bated breath, and we are far from being experts. What earthly use, unless in the way of prejudicing, would it be of, for us, to mingle our farthing rushlight with the general illumination attempted? The very gravity of the interests involved enjoined on us the utmost caution. With our Oriental habit of dependence on the Rulers, we were looking forward to the Government to pronounce on the subject from the vantage ground of impartiality and full information. Meanwhile, we confess, we were consoled amid all the evils of a depreciated currency that the Indian peasantry was gaining by the exchange difficulty.

The time has come, however, when it is impossible to keep quiet. The Government is even more cautious than *Reis and Rayyet*, as it has need to be, doubtless. The people are forced to cry out. As for the *rayyets*, their prosperity cannot be a legitimate object of desire when it clashes with the good of the whole community and the general interest of the state.

We are in a lamentable predicament. We stand before an awful state of things. We are on the slope of an Avernus and we have been beguiled down it without perceiving, until we are in hailing distance of the lowest depths of the valley—the pit of ruin.

The exchange on London which before the Mutinies was 2 shillings per Rupee showed signs of fluctuation against the latter after those events. As early as 1861, there was an appreciable loss to India on account of the first Railways from the depreciation of the Rupee—a loss which had to be made good from other sources. For many years, however, the figure remained much about the same, so no notice was taken of it. But of late years, there has been a progressive depreciation of silver which has enormously increased our payments to England on account of not only the Railways but of all our Home Charges. Nor is there any end to this depreciation. Those Charges cost India at the exchange of 1s. 4d. 25½ crores. At the present rate of 1s. 2½d. we shall have to pay over 31 crores. So

At 1s. Ex. 38¼ crores.

At 10d. Ex. 44¾ "

At 8d. Ex. 51 "

A fearful prospect! It means an ever-increasing burden of taxation without a recompense—a burden we cannot possibly bear. The scheme proposed by the Indian Currency Association is the only one yet that offers a means of relief. By going on a gold basis we shall be saved from the ruin that must result from such an increased taxation. No one doubts now that, when the Americans cease their purchases of silver at the end of this year, which now seems certain, and India is left to bear the entire burden of the accumulated silver, we shall see a fall to 8d. or lower! We trust our readers, native and European, will show their anxiety on the subject

INDIAN CURRENCY ASSOCIATION.

THERE will be a General Meeting of the Indian Currency Association in the Town Hall, Calcutta, at 5-30 P. M., on Thursday 25th August, 1892. Business to consider, and if approved to pass, the report of the Central Committee.

JAS. L. MACKAY,
President.

by largely attending the meeting of the Currency Association, which takes place in the Town Hall on Thursday. Those who will not bestir themselves now must not grumble later on if all the evils of a fearful increase of taxation fall on them.

THE MOHURRUM FESTIVAL.

FROM the accounts that have been published during the last few days, we are glad to find that no disturbance of any sort took place in any town in India, during the Mohurrum.

We are informed that the Shias of Bhagulpore had also applied to be allowed to take out an *Alam* with *Mashak* and *Tir*, but as it was an innovation and as the Sunnis strongly objected, the Magistrate rejected their application.

It appeared strange to outsiders why the Sunnis everywhere should make such energetic and persistent objections to the *Mashak* and *Tir* when there was a promise not to utter the *Tabarra* while carrying the *Alam* in procession, and we made enquiries on the point. A correspondent has sent us the following extract from a petition filed by the Shias in the Court of the Magistrate of Chupra on the 13th June last asking to be permitted to take out the *Alam* with *Mashak* and *Tir* :—

"In the battle of Kerbella Hazrat Abbas was the Alambardar, i. e., the standard-bearer of the Army of Imam Hosain. Strict guard was kept over a rivulet at Kerbella, and not a drop of water was, by the hostile army, for 3 days, allowed to reach the lips of the followers and children of Imam Hosain. Hazrat Abbas determined to bring water at any cost from among the Sunnis, went with his *Alam* (which consisted of a pole carrying an ellipsoid and overhung with a white cloth,—so banners in ancient times used to be,—and this banner according to the belief of the Shias was the one which used to be carried with the army of the Prophet) and a *Mashak* or water skin (used to fetch water), towards the stream, and when returning towards his camp with the *Mashak* full of water and *Alam*, Hazrat Abbas was severely wounded, and the *Alam*; and the *Mashak* was pierced with arrows, and the cloth of the banner was besmeared with his blood."

From the above the feeling of the Shias towards the Sunnis is evident, namely, that the Shias believe and declare that the hostile army who butchered the Prophet's grandson Imam Hosain and his children and followers with the greatest cruelty and heartlessness, on the plains of Kerbella, was composed of Sunnis. This the Sunnis stoutly deny, as they too entirely and strongly condemn the inhuman conduct of those who killed Imam Hosain and his people at Kerbella. The Sunnis therefore protest against the Shias indulging in any expression of their religious belief in a manner that is sure to be exceedingly offensive to the Sunnis.

The difficulty is, that the Shias firmly believe that it is a great virtue to abuse and curse the first three Caliphs and the leaders of the Sunni sect; and this is as strongly resented by the Sunnis throughout the Mahomedan world who form by far the largest majority among the Mahomedan population in comparison to the Shias who are only a fraction in number.

We suspect that the rising of the Hazaras in Afghanistan has been caused by some such dispute between the Shias and Sunnis. We believe the Shias uttered the *Tabarra* at some place, and offend-

ed the religious feelings of the Sunnis, and this coming to the notice of the Amir, he inflicted such heavy and indiscriminate punishment upon the Shia Kazalbashes, that the whole Shia community rose in a body against him in rebellion. And who knows how this rebellion may end?

It was after deep and patient consideration of the very bitter and acrimonious feeling which exists between the Shias and Sunnis, that the Shah of Persia, himself a Shiah and the majority of whose subjects are Shias, issued a proclamation, some years ago, throughout his dominions, strictly enjoining the Shias not to utter the *Tabarra*, or in any way to offend the religious feelings of the Sunnis.

While on the subject of the Mohurrum, we are glad to find that the Persian merchants of Calcutta have been celebrating the annual ceremony for several generations in the most magnificent and orderly manner, and at enormous expense. During the ten days of the festival, all visitors to the Imambarahs of Haji Mirza Abdool Kareem Shirazi and the late Aga Karbalai Mahomed are not only served with sherbet, tea, coffee and tobacco, but a limited number of them are also sumptuously fed with Pillao, &c. This hospitality is not more a characteristic of Hindu than of all Mahomedan festivals, which are always appropriated to open-handed charity. On these occasions the universal practice, among both sects, is to feed both rich and poor, without distinction of creed or race. These native festivals are redletter seasons to the denizens of the kintals, the sleepers in the *maidan*, the street Arabs, and all the other children of want of sorts. For then they are welcome guests and are regaled with delicacies.

In this connection we ought not to forget that during the ten days of the Mohurrum hundreds of persons are daily fed with Pillao, &c., at the King of Oudh's Imambarah at Garden Reach. Since the death of the king, the chief credit of the arrangements there belongs to Prince Jahan Kadr, who is every year entrusted by Government with the supervision of those arrangements along with two other Princes. The final orders of Government for completing the endowment of that Imambarah have not yet been out, and a large item in the expenditure will, we have no doubt, be allotted to the feeding of people.

Similarly, in Haji Mahomed Mohsin's Imambarah at Hooghly, hundreds and thousands of men are daily fed during the Mohurrum.

Even after the ten days of the Mohurrum, several Persian gentlemen hold evening *Mujlis* at their residences at the rate of ten days each, at which preachers and readers are employed to preach and read, and the visitors, both Shias and Sunnis, are served with tea, coffee, sherbet and tobacco. The first ten days were occupied in this sort of quiet gathering in the house of Mirza Mahomed Bakar Sherazi, (one of our Honorary Presidency Magistrates), the eldest son of Haji Mirza Abdool Kareem.

We have gone to some length in giving an account of this affair, as it concerns a very important section of the general community, and as it may interest many of our readers other than Mahomedans, who have but a hazy idea of the differences between the Shias and Sunnis.

THE VAKIL RAJ IN BENGAL.

ALMOST the whole management of Local Self-Government in its various forms—educational, medical and municipal, &c.,—is in the hands of the Vakil.

They are usually the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the mofussil municipalities, Education and Hospital Committees and Local Boards respectively. If in some places this is not the case, the majority is always on their sides or in their hands. The whole executive power of these bodies centres in them and they can do just as they like with the people. Their orders must be obeyed, their pleasure must be sought, their whims respected, otherwise no citizen can comfortably and peacefully live in a town or within a municipality. If unfortunately any man happens to occasion annoyance to any of them, he is surely undone. He is cruelly persecuted. The first attack is made generally on his privy or lane or the platform of his house or by increasing his tax. This is all done through the underlings. Such examples are in scores in every municipality, not excepting the very suburbs of Calcutta. The election is entirely in their hands both as regards the District Boards and the municipalities. Who can employ so many free agents to canvass for votes or to bring pressure upon the voters? Threats and temptations are freely resorted to. Regarding District Boards also, the Zemindars are all in their hands, and so they can easily manage to get their nominees elected. So they are in every way the masters *de facto* of the town corporations, as also of the District Boards in a great measure where the official Chairman cares very little to interfere. In what way these powers are exercised, whether for good or for evil, I will not say, but leave the task to the zealous supporters of Local Self Government. Suffice it to say that the pleaders have the supreme power over the towns, and none dare oppose them in their business, even though it lead to high-handed proceedings.

In almost every local newspaper, either vernacular or English, a pleader's finger can be directly traced. Either he or his brother or some one else of his kith and kin is the proprietor, part proprietor, editor, manager, or at least a contributor, and so the powerful local Press is in their hands and they can use it against any one and every one whenever they like to do so. If the paper belongs to some rich man, which is seldom the case, even then its guidance is in the hands of the pleaders or their friends. For every object, fair, selfish, or revengeful, this paper is freely used. If necessary, a Zemindar is relentlessly attacked to tone him down. If an officer proves himself obnoxious, the fire is at once opened upon him through the columns of the newspaper and kept on until he is smashed or brought to his senses as to how he should behave with this powerful fraternity.

All landlords and land-holders' associations, and everything belonging to them, in fact all political, social, and semi-political associations, are under Vakil management and control, and big magnates are allowed to preside over them only when the use of their purse, names and titles is required. In most cases, these lawyers pay all the expenses of such movements, not always willingly, and sometimes they subsidise some pleaders for this sort of work. The pleaders can drive people of every class to such meetings like a herd of helpless dumb cattle, under numerous pretences or threats. During the Congress agitation, I hear, people who were in need of borrowing money to save their properties, were told plainly that unless they joined the Congress they would not get money. What wonder that so many submitted? Necessity knows no blushing. Some persons were obliged to

change their political opinions in order to save their family from starvation. In some cases, the rate of interest was reduced in the borrowers' favor, for their political subserviency. This Raj is creating quite a social confusion, discrediting the established etiquette, and overhauling all ranks and conditions. It fixes its own hall-mark on men, in ignorance or wantonness, in pursuit of its own policy, and that mark is bound to be respected. Disreputable men and shady characters are treated with a strange consideration and those who cared for peace are obliged to treat them in the same fashion for the sake of the pleaders.

The political opinions of our big Rajas and Nawabs and gentry are always moulded by the pleaders. Each Reis belongs to the political creed of his pleader. He obeys him in the same way that a boy always obeys his teacher or guardian.

In some chief towns of Bengal, palatial buildings, once the property of a wealthy Zemindar, are now occupied by pleaders, or on their sites they have built large houses. The descendants of the old families now dance attendance at the *darbars* of these big *Hoozoors* who know how to treat them in their misfortune.

Most of the local scandals originate from the company of the Vakils or are freely discussed therein. Every one has a freedom of speech in the houses of these champions of manliness and independence. Nothing is sinful or improper if it arises from that celestial quarter—a tone of amiability and propriety is always given to it by their very touch. The Bar libraries and home circles of these gentlemen are alike the great shrines of wisdom where every subject is talked upon with a freedom peculiarly their own—where the character of nobles and Government officers are daily dissected, where sarcastic remarks and depreciatory observations are freely indulged in against any one and every one who have given any offence to that body, whether rightly or wrongly.

There is great unity among the members of this learned profession when they have to fight an outsider, though in their own internal quarrels the house is often divided. A painful but very instructive illustration was seen the other day in the Dacca Bribery case, which led to many ugly disclosures and the proceedings of which cannot be read without a blush by any member of a respectable profession. That case has at least given an insight into the private life of some of them and their capacity and power for offensive and defensive purposes.

There are no doubt a good many very learned, good, honest and patriotic persons in the Bar; none can deny the fact. But unfortunately their number is decreasing. Now-a-days we see rather a progressive increase of the black sheep in this learned and respectable fold, and this fact is not unknown to the better men among them. But the incomprehensible etiquette and inconceivable policy of the profession is such that these blacks are not discarded by the leaders. Their existence thus permitted, they prosper under the indirect or presumed patronage of their betters, to the great misfortune of the people of Bengal and to the detriment of public good generally.

M.

THE HARDSHIP OF THE LATRINE TAX.

TO THE EDITOR.

As the Bengal municipal law is about to be amended, I take this opportunity to draw the attention of the proper authorities to the inconsistency of the latrine tax on certain classes of holdings. As the law at present stands, there is absolutely no class of holdings within the municipal limits which is exempt

from its operation. Holdings without latrines are taxed as well as gardens, tanks, arable lands, places of public worship, public burial and burning grounds. The opinion of the Advocate General on the subject (*vide* Collier's Act, note under section 321) is as follows:—

"It appears that all houses and lands which have no latrines, pay, as well as those which have them and that all holdings including tanks, gardens also pay it."

Mr. Collier says "It appears then that there are absolutely no classes of holdings which are exempted from latrine tax and that it is, therefore, leviable not only on arable lands but also on those holdings which are exempted from house-rate under section 92, *viz.*, holdings used exclusively as places of public worship or duly registered as public burial or burning grounds."

Admitting that the Municipality has to maintain an establishment for the cleansing of latrines within its jurisdiction, surely those who do not get the least benefit or have no occasion to avail themselves of its service in any way, ought not, in justice and equity to be burdened with the rate. Then again the minimum tax is Rs. 3 and maximum Rs. 480, per annum. Supposing a cultivator has one bigha of arable land within the Municipal limits with an annual rental of one Rupee, he will have to pay Rs. 3 as latrine tax. The injustice and hardship are quite apparent and some kind of alteration of the provisions of the law seems necessary. I therefore invite you Mr. Editor to take up the subject for discussion and ask other gentlemen for their valuable suggestions reserving my own for a future occasion.

M.

THE MAHOMEDAN BARRISTERS *vs.* THE HIGH COURT AND THE "PIONEER."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "PIONEER."

SIR,—It is impossible that the leading article in your issue of the 2nd instant, regarding the attitude of the Mahomedan barristers in connection with the Mohurrum holidays, should be allowed to pass unchallenged. That article is so full of inaccuracies on points of fact that it is not a matter for wonder that you have been led to form erroneous conclusions in reference to matters which constitute the grounds of your criticisms. That article starts with the insinuation that the *obiter dictum* of Mr. Justice Mahmud was the cause of the absence of the Mahomedan barristers from the Court. That insinuation is totally destitute of foundation. The Mahomedans knew nothing of Mr. Justice Mahmud's views regarding the Mohurrum holidays until the *obiter dictum* was delivered. The absence of the Mahomedan barristers from Court was entirely due to their sense of what was the right thing for them to do during the Mohurrum holidays, and to nothing else. You are wrong when you say that "the most orthodox Mahomedan does not look upon all the days of the Mohurrum as rigorously sacred," but it is perfectly immaterial whether you are right or wrong on the subject when you admit that "in this, as in other religions, some no doubt take a stricter view of the obligations of a holiday than others." I will, therefore, abstain from dwelling further upon the religious aspect of the question. I must, however, state that meetings or congregations are held at several places, where legends, commemorative of the events which constitute an important epoch in the history of the Mahomedan faith are read and listened to with avidity, and a participation in the ceremonies performed at such meetings is considered to be of immense spiritual value to the members of the congregation, Soonees and Shias alike. Such congregations are held not only during the day but also at night; and not in one, but in several places. There are other rites performed during the Mohurrum which are too numerous to be mentioned in detail here. The man who cares for the spiritual benefits to be obtained from a strict discharge of the obligations peculiar to the Mohurrum will never stoop to do anything which is likely to interfere with the performance of the ceremonies binding upon his conscience, and this was the view taken by the Mahomedans of their obligations in connection with the Mohurrum holidays. The orthodoxy of the Mahomedan who "does not look upon all the days of the Mohurrum as rigorously sacred" must be an orthodoxy of a peculiar nature. That all the days of the Mohurrum are rigorously sacred, is a proposition the truth of which no Mahomedan, whatever the extent of his orthodoxy, will venture to deny. There may be some days of Mohurrum more sacred than others, but that is a matter of comparison, not affecting the general proposition that all the days of the Mohurrum are unquestionably sacred.

You say that "in the Bombay High Court only one day of the Mohurrum is observed as a holiday." But why travel so far as Bombay in order to search for a precedent? Why not look round nearer home? Look, for instance, at the practice of the Judicial Commissioner in Oudh. There, 13 days have been allowed for the Mohurrum vacation this year, *viz.*, 25th July to 6th August. In the Punjab they allow 10 days Mohurrum holiday. The circumstances of Bombay are altogether different. It would not do to cite the example of Bombay as a rule for the guidance of the

Mahomedan residents of these provinces. But the notice issued on the 9th July put even the Bombay example into the shade. The notice did not allow a single day for the Mohurrum holiday, although the contingency justifying the adoption of the practice prevailing in Bombay had not, according to your own view of the matter, yet arisen. The notice is transcribed below for the convenience of reference. Notice.—"It is notified that on the last four days of the Mohurrum festival, civil work will not be taken up, by the High Court. On all other days of the festival, shown as close holidays in the printed list, both civil and criminal work will be taken up, and on the last four days of the festival criminal work only will be taken up. Corresponding dates in the English calendar will depend on the day on which the moon is visible." This notice has been studiously kept in the background by those who have criticised the conduct of the Mahomedan barristers. That notice did not, as stated above, allow even a single day to be observed as a Mohurrum holiday; meetings of the Mahomedan barristers, &c., were therefore held to consider the terms of the notice, and to take such steps as might be considered necessary in order to vindicate their liberty of conscience, which had been rashly assailed by the High Court. The High Court could easily have avoided the necessity for the issue of the notice if it had chosen to do so. The Mohurrum could have been included in the long vacation. There was an interval of only five days between the end of the Gazetted holidays and the commencement of the long vacation. The High Court might have been closed and opened a few days earlier than under the existing arrangements. The Court preferred to stop the Mohurrum holiday, and left the long vacation as it stood. The Mahomedans addressed a letter to the Registrar, protesting against the hardship of not a single day being allowed to them as a close holiday. The letter was laid before the English Meeting on the 18th July, and the signatories were asked to attend the High Court the following day (19th) at 10:30 A. M. "when the matter will be discussed." They appeared accordingly—all the Mahomedan barristers and the only vakil in the station were there. The Judges were holding an English Meeting. The discussion of the matter now commenced, and in the course of the discussion one Judge asked whether the Mahomedan barristers expected the Judges to believe that they were the only Mahomedans who had conscientious scruples. Another Judge suggested that they desired the High Court to be closed in order to go to the Subordinate Courts to conduct cases there, and an attempt was made to improve upon the suggestion by asking a question of one of them whether he had not conducted cases in the Subordinate Courts during the Mohurrum in previous years; they forget that all the Subordinate Courts are always closed at the same time with the High Court for the Mohurrum vacation. This incident of the discussion will give some faint idea of the refined politeness shown by some of the Judges to the Mahomedans during the interview—a politeness which is sure to be remembered by them with a lively sense of gratitude. The conclusion eventually arrived at was that the Mahomedans must forego their Mohurrum holiday, or observe the Mohurrum and pay the penalty involved in transferring their briefs to others, or run the risk of having their cases dismissed for default. It was represented to the Judges that the object of the signatories was not to make terms for themselves but to take care of the interests of the litigants in the High Court; that the barristers could hand over their briefs and stay at home if they liked during the Mohurrum holidays, whether the High Court was closed or not; that they were not prepared to give any written guarantee of conscientious scruples; that they had been in the habit of getting the Mohurrum holiday without any condition; and that they did not see why the practice which had been in force for a long series of years should be departed from this year. The Mahomedans left the Judges' chambers after repeating more than once the most positive expression of their determination to file no written guarantee of conscientious scruples. Why the clause regarding conscientious objections was introduced into the notice which was issued subsequently to the interview between the Mahomedans and the Judges, it is difficult to understand. The notice of 9th July made no provision for any case. How came the notification of the 19th July to make a "provision for every case?" The explanation is to be found in the circumstance that the notification was issued after the barristers had had an interview with the Judges. As I have given the text of the earlier notice above, I think it necessary to copy the later notification, bearing date the 19th July, here.

"Notice.—1. The Court will be closed for the last four days of the Mohurrum.

2. The Court, so far as applications of all kinds, except emergent applications to admit to bail, are concerned, will be closed during the other six days of Mohurrum.

3. Upon application in writing of any Mahomedan advocate, attorney, or vakil, presented on or before the 26th July, 1892, setting out a list of the cases in the Court in which he is concerned, and stating that he has conscientious objections to conducting business in Court during the Mohurrum, the cases mentioned in such list will not be taken during the Mohurrum.

4. Cases in which any Mahomedan party is not represented by an advocate, attorney, or vakil will not be taken in the court during the ten days of the Mohurram."

The preceding notification, which has supplied you with materials for praising the High Court and condemning the Mahomedan barristers, announced that "the Court will be closed for the last four days of the Mohurram." A copy of this notice was specially sent to each of the Mahomedans who had joined in remonstrating against the discontinuance of the practice of closing the High Court for the Mohurram holidays. The Mahomedans had not since been furnished with any notice superseding the notification dated the 19th July. What the Court meant by the phrase "the last four days of the Mohurram" is evident from the notice of the 9th July, which explicitly refers to the days "shown as close holidays in the printed list." The last four days of the Mohurram, according to the printed list, corresponded with the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th August. Several cases of Mahomedan barristers were ordered to be put up for hearing on the 5th and 6th August, notwithstanding the assurance given by the notification that the Court should be closed on those dates.

The remark made in the judgment of the 30th July published in your edition of the 2nd instant "that the Court cannot be closed for the disposal of business at the wish or suggestion of advocates, vakils, or others, whose only objection to do work at this time is the objection which probably most people have at this time of the year, and not an objection on conscientious scruples," is hardly just or fair, or even relevant. The advocate or vakil who expects that the Court will be closed for business at the mere expression of his wish or suggestion must be an idiot, and not deserving the appellation of advocate or vakil. The Mahomedan barristers entertained no such expectation; they had already worked during the most unfavourable season of the year, compared to which the Mohurram is a remarkably pleasant month. The Mahomedans desired the Court to be closed, not because they had a wish to see it closed on account of the weather, but because the period during which they desired the Court to be closed was the Mohurram holiday, because the Court had always been closed for the Mohurram during previous years, and because the Mahomedans had been led to believe up to the date of the first notice (9th July) that the practice of closing the Court during the days shown as close holidays in the printed list would not be departed from, especially as no other close holiday entered in the printed list had been disallowed by the Court at any previous time. That the High Court should be constrained to have recourse to arguments of the nature above noticed in order to defend its action, is a circumstance much to be regretted. It is perfectly immaterial for the purposes of the controversy that the printed lists of holidays were prepared for the Subordinate Courts. The High Court used to be closed for a long series of years without any printed list, and it should have been closed this year also.

The case of the Mahomedans is made much stronger by the absence of printed lists for the High Court holidays. If a man in the Subordinate Court wants a holiday he has to prove his right or title, if it is denied, by the production of the printed list. He proves his title by the evidence of the express grant furnished by the entries made in the printed lists. But the man who wants a holiday in the High Court need not produce any documentary evidence of his right. His case is one of a lost grant—a case of prescription title. The High Court might curtail the holidays in the Subordinate Courts. The printed list is the charter of the Subordinate Court holidays, renewable each year; but the holidays in the High Court cannot be curtailed with any pretence of fairness or justice. But it is idle to deny that the printed list of holidays prepared for the Subordinate Courts is a list of holidays to be observed in the High Court. The draft list of holidays is shown to one or two Mahomedan barristers each year, to see whether the Gazetted Mahomedan holidays are correctly entered therein, before the list is sent on to be printed. They take the trouble to examine the draft with care, because they know that if they make a mistake they and their co-religionists in the office and elsewhere will have to suffer. But the statement that the printed list of holidays for the Subordinate Courts furnishes a rule for the guidance of the High Court in granting holidays to the people connected with the court, is confirmed and supported by the very notice which has put an end to the Mohurram holiday this year. The particular passage in the notice I refer to is as follows:—

"It is notified that on the last four days of the Mohurram festival, civil work will not be taken up by the High Court. On all other days of the festival shown on the printed list, both civil and criminal work will be taken up," &c., &c.

If the printed list is not a guide, why refer to it at all? A further confirmation of the statement will be found in the judgment delivered in the second appeal filed by Mr. M. A. Rashid, and dismissed for default on the 30th July. The passage in the judgment bearing upon the particular point under discussion runs thus: "The Court regretted that, owing to the deplorable condition of the files of pending cases, it could not grant the whole of the Mohurram as holiday in this court." If the judgment did not

mean the whole of the Mohurram as shown in the printed list I am at a loss to understand what the phrase quoted meant. The same judgment takes an exception to the statement that the Mohurram holidays have been sanctioned by Government. But that statement is apparently confirmed by the observation made in the judgment itself. The passage containing the observation is in these terms:—

Under section 15 Act 12 of 1887 the High Court "has jurisdiction, subject to the orders of the Governor-General in Council, to prepare a list of days to be observed in each year as close holidays in the Civil Courts subordinate to it."

Now what does the phrase "subject to the orders of the Governor-General in Council" mean? The printed list is not a legal list until it is confirmed by order of the Governor-General in Council. It is in the power of the Governor-General to sanction or to refuse to sanction the holidays; the statement, therefore, that the Mohurram holidays have been sanctioned by Government, appears to be correct.

The second appeal filed by Mr. M. A. Rashid was dismissed for default on the 30th July, which was one of Mohurram days. Mr. Rashid is one of those who refused to accept holiday on the terms proposed by the High Court. Mr. Rashid had, I believe, made arrangements for his appeal to be argued in his absence, but somehow the arrangements were not carried out, and the consequence was that his appeal was dismissed for default. Mr. Rashid's appeal is the first case of a Mahomedan barrister dismissed for default during the Mohurram. Cases in which Mahomedan barristers appeared had been put up for hearing regularly during the Mohurram holidays, and not a single case had been found in which sufficient provision had not been made for the protection of the interests of his client by the Mahomedan barrister engaged by him. M. Rashid's case is the only exception. The order dismissing Mr. Rashid's appeal is *ultra vires*. The Court has no power to dispose of civil cases on a day which is a close holiday, without the consent of the parties concerned. "The Court regretted," as has already been observed in connection with another point, "that owing to the deplorable condition of the files of pending cases it could not grant the whole of the Mohurram as holiday in the Court," and you said in the course of a leading article in your issue of the 28th July that "in the interests of public business the Court is to be kept open during part of Mohurram," and a little further on in the same article you added that "the plain and evident intention of the Court was that part of the Mohurram holiday should be foregone, for the purpose of making up lee-way." Now when was the discovery of the deplorable condition of the files made? Was it made for the first time on the 9th July, the date of the first notice which was issued in reference to the Mohurram holidays? Or was it not well known before that date that the arrears had been steadily accumulating for a long time past? Was it not known long before the last Christmas vacation that the files of pending cases were not in a satisfactory state? If it was, why did not the Court direct part of the Christmas holidays "to be foregone, for the purpose of making up lee-way?" Why was the Court closed for a whole week for the Easter vacation last year, and for more than one day this year, when the printed list showed Good Friday to be the only close holiday recognised by the Courts? Why were not the Christians put upon the terms similar to those which have been imposed upon the Mahomedans, before the former were allowed to avail themselves of the Christmas holidays? Why of all the gazetted holidays should the Mohurram have been pitched upon as the only holiday, part of which should be foregone for the purpose of making up lee-way? If the pressure of work in the High Court was too great, why was not the practice of allowing vacation for an extra month to the Judge who had done judicial work during the vacation in the previous year put a stop to? If the files of pending cases are in a deplorable condition, who is to set the example of the self-denial necessary to improve the state of the files? The Bench or the Bar? But why touch the gazetted holidays of short duration at all? Why not cut a large portion off the long vacation? Let me put the sincerity of the professions for the interests of public business to the test, by suggesting the expediency of curtailing the long vacation by 4 or 6 weeks. A month, or a month-and-a-half ought materially to promote the processes of making up lee-way.

I am unable to follow you when you say that "if the Mahomedans of the High Court refuse special treatment on the ground of their religion they *ipso facto* destroy any claim for special treatment at all." But what special treatment did the Mahomedans refuse? Did the notice of the 9th July offer any terms of special treatment? None whatever, and that notice was the chief cause of their complaint. The subsequent notification demanded a written warranty of conscientious scruples—a demand which was deemed to be so unprecedented that the Mahomedans, after the most serious and anxious consideration that they could bestow upon the point, could not persuade themselves to comply with the demand.

Lxx.

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 Babu Kisori Lal Goswami, M.A., B.L., Zemindar, Srirampur,
 Lala Bangsagopal Nandey, Burdwan,
 " Banbehari Kapur, Burdwan,
 Babu Satya Kinkar Sen, B.L., Government Pleader, Burdwan
 Ray Nalinakha Bose Bahadur, Chairman, Burdwan Municipality,
 Babu Umacharan Banerji, M.A., Principal, Raj College, Burdwan,
 Dr. Jagat Bandhu Mitra, Vice-Chairman, Burdwan Municipality,
 Babu Satkari Banerji, Member, Burdwan Raj Committee,
 Babu Rajendra Kumar Bose, Sub-Judge, Burdwan,
 Munsif Golam Azduk, Pleader, Burdwan,
 Babu Jagannathan Bhattacharyya, Deputy Magistrate, Burdwan,
 Babu Taraprasanna Mukerji, Pleader, Burdwan,
 Thakur Govinda Prasad Tewari, Zemindar, Burdwan,
 &c., &c., &c.

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Pretty Canadian Gold Chain, Pencil, Complete Shirt Buttons, and Ring set with scientific Diamonds, Rubies, Emeralds, at Re. 1-8-0 each. Mr. G. Smith, Salt Inspector, from Sanikutta, says:—"A German valued the diamond ring at Rs. 50 and ruby at Rs. 30." Rs. 5 Sewing Machine, does all sorts of work from thickest to the thinnest. Surg. H. J. Kambata, Health Officer of Poona, says:—"It works as good as any Rs. 30 machine." Sweet-toned, self-singing Music Box, Rs. 6.

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Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 1892.

No. 539

CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

DATES AND DATES.

"Fable has not been a favorite form of composition with modern poets."

—*The Athenæum*; 14 February 1874.

[On the appearance of *Fables in Song*. By Robert, Lord Lytton, author of "Poems by Owen Meredith," in 1874, the book was attacked as an anachronism. Even the more fair-minded critics, while acknowledging the parts and accomplishments of the author and his progress from the Owen Meredithian stage, contended that it was a mistake to attempt to revive the Fable. The noble bard was accused of intending to rival Æsop—a gratuitous assumption which was contradicted by the difference of his treatment from that of the Father-Fabulist. This little fable of "Dates and Dates" was Lord Lytton's genial reply to the critics. It is thoroughly effective. Certainly, no one of the genus irritable has shown such command of temper under provocation. Tennyson himself, early in his career, took savage revenge in rhymes which have been withdrawn. Traces of the Poet's passion may still be discerned in his authorized works in subdued tones in the little pieces "The Spiteful Letter," "Literary Squabbles," and, above all, in the scornful address to the enemy in Hendecasyllabics, beginning—

O you chorus of indolent reviewers,
Irresponsible, indolent reviewers.

—EDITOR, *Reis and Rayyet*.]

I.

DATES! how we schoolboys loved them! Dates,
Not such as those Kenealy hates;
Nor dates of chronologic things,
Laws, battles, and the deaths of kings;
O'er which, alas! with aching brains,
Our masters made us spend such pains!
But those the grocers' shops supply,
Whose golden skins, if somewhat dry,
Have in them hearts still full of honey;
On which we spent our pocket-money.

II.

Not one of all our youthful band
But long'd to see the mystic land,
Of whose enchantments manifold
Our loved Arabian stories told,
Where grew, 'twas said, in sunburnt strength
The golden fruit which here, at length,
The commerce of the East and West
Had, for our special sakes, comprest
In clammy pennyworths of joy.

III.

One, I remember well—a boy
Somewhat the eldest of us all,
Whom we pert youngsters used to call
Cato the Censor (heaven save him!)
Jack was the name his parents gave him,
A worthy lad, without a vice,
And conscientiously precise.

'Twas for the Navy, as we knew
When first he join'd our merry crew,
That Jack was destined. That career
Begins in boyhood. One sad year,
With sighs of boyish envy, we
Bid Jack good-bye. He went to sea.
The man-of-war on which he found
His sea-legs was for Egypt bound.
And when the ship's cook went ashore,
Jack, mindful of the joys of yore,
Besought the cook to bring him back
A good supply of dates.

IV.

Poor Jack!

Conceive with what dismay'd surprise,
Fresh dates, as plump as plums he eyes,
When back the ship's cook came with these,
Dewy and dripping from the trees.

V.

"What are these things?" in wrath began
The shock'd Catonian midshipman.
"I ask'd for dates. These are not dates.
Dates should be dry as candied cates,
And press'd, and squeez'd, and closely pack'd
In compass small, with care exact.
These fruits are fresh. Such freshness suits
Mere common, ordinary fruits,
Cherries and currants. But things rare,
Old, famous, and remote, should bear
Upon their outward form the sign
And impress of their origin.
In short," he added, waxing hot,
"Dates should be all that these are not."

VI.

Thus Jack, who judged of things by rule,
From reminiscences of school,
Wrote to his friends, disconsolate,
That not a single genuine date
Was left in Egypt. "Sad!" he said,
"The age of genuine dates is dead."

MORAL.

"Revere the ancients, and their art!"
Revere them? Ay, with all my heart.
What they have done will ne'er again
Be done so well. But why disdain
All fruit that's fresh from living trees,
Even tho' inferior far to these
Choice classic dainties, time hath prest
And pack'd with care, since even their best
Time-ripen'd sweets were raw one day?
With grateful hearts (we fain would say)
Due honour to the ancients give:
But to us moderns leave to live.

LYTTON.

Paris, 25th February, 1874.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, and other means are unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

WEEKLYANA.

ERRATA.—Page 401, column 2, line 6, add *s* to the end of substitute. L. 23, drop *s* from revenges. P. 403, c. 1, Article "The Mohurram Festival," para. 4, l. 17, for wounded, and the Alam; read wounded and slain;

THE King and Queen of Portugal have arrived at Colombo from Lisbon.

JUSTICE Mr. Telang has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the Bombay University. The right man in the right place, beyond all others.

THE young Chief of Gondal in the Bombay Presidency has set an example to the Princes and aristocracy of India. He has not been entirely fortunate in Europe, but he never lost sight of his aim—the quest of science. His life and pursuits are proclaimed by the numerous titles he has earned—titles far more interesting and creditable than the decorations of any quasi-feudal order of knighthood. To us, we confess, it is immensely gratifying to find the Reis of an Indian Principality figuring in the English newspapers in the following connection and guise:—

"In the recent Examinations of the University of Edinburgh, His Highness the Thakore Saheb of Gondal, G. C. I. E., D. C. L., LL. D., Ahmed Miiza, and D. A. Turkhud have received the degree of M. B. and C. M."

Nothing could be better than such a beginning. Go on and prosper, and make prosper I we say.

SO much for the Thakoor Saheb. Lucky man! his noble consort bravely keeps him in countenance. The Thakoorani Saheba has had her share of glorification, according to her sphere and opportunities.

The Queen-Empress has conferred upon Rani Saheba Nund Kunverbai of Gondal the insignia of the Crown of the Indian Empire.

HERE is a record of the movements of the Indian students in England:—

The following were called to the Bar on June 29th: *Inner Temple*.—Abdul Majid Khan; Phillip R. Valladares; Syed Mahdi Hassan, B. A., Cambridge; Manekji Pestonji Modi. *Middle Temple*.—Muhammad Shafi, Middle Temple International Law Scholar; Mahtabuddin Ahmed, Calcutta University; B. J. Mozoomdar; Mahomud Zahoor, St. Xavier's College, Calcutta; Syed Hassan Imam; Peary Chand Dutt; Mahomed Ahmed Uddin, B. A., L. L. B., Cambridge; Ali Hosain Khan; and Abdul Hakim Khan. *Gray's Inn*.—Piabhi Dial, B. A., Cambridge; W. Burton, University of Madras.

The Benchers of Gray's Inn have awarded to M. Manmohan Lal Agarvala the Bacon Scholarship of £45 per annum, tenable for two years, and also a second prize of ten guineas.

Miss Cornelia Sorabji, B. A. (Bombay), who has studied at Somerville Hall, Oxford, was allowed by a special decree of Convocation to appear in the B. C. L. Examination, which is the highest Law Examination of the University of Oxford. Miss Sorabji passed in Honours, and the examiners expressed surprise at her having, in two years, prepared for this very difficult examination.

Mr. S. B. Mitra has passed the M. B. Examination of the University of London.

In the Primary Examination of the Society of Apothecaries Part II., Rukhmabai (Royal Free Hospital) passed in Anatomy and Physiology, and C. Bussan (Middlesex Hospital) part I. in Materia Medica, Botany and Pharmacy, and Part II. in Physiology.

Subhan Ali (Lahore Medical School, Punjab), has passed the Second Examination of the Conjoint Board in Anatomy and Physiology.

Arrivals.—Mr. Hukissen Das Badra from the Punjab.

Departures.—Mr. Syed Mahdi Hasan and Mr. Hari Singh Gour, for the Central Provinces; Mr. M. Shafi and Mr. Parbh Dayal, for the Punjab; Mr. Syed Emam Hassan and Mr. M. Zahoor, for Behar; Mr. M. P. Modi, for Bombay.

THE N.-W. Provinces Government have ordered an inquiry into the dispersion of the Hurdwar fair. An agent of the British Indian Association attends it. He lately telegraphed to Sir Auckland Colvin against the appointment of Babu Narain Singh, Deputy Magistrate, as one of the officers charged with the inquiry, that officer having been one of those who had broken up the Fair and dispersed the poor pilgrims. The Lieutenant-Governor has promptly ordered that if Narain Singh had been concerned, some other officer should be appointed in his place.

A TELEGRAM from Bunn states that three men, who were buried in the Emerald mine on the 4th ultimo, were rescued alive on the 22nd, after being deprived of food for seventeen days.

It is reported that a few days ago a tailor of Calicut took ill with the cholera, and in a fit of delirium went and threw himself into a well. He was hauled out, but died a few minutes after.

Upon this the *Tribune* adds:

"We remember three instances in Lahore last year in which cholera patients threw themselves into wells."

It is the extreme torture of thirst and of the burning sensation in the body that drives the patient to plunge into water. Nothing allays either this thirst or this burning, even for a moment, except iced-water and ice. There ought to be provision for ice in every municipality and every market town, specially during the cholera season.

WE read:—

"The correspondent of the Central News, to whose remarkable energy we owe the interesting details of recent events in Morocco, turns out to be a young American journalist, Mr. Stephen Bonsall, who was for some time connected with the *New York Herald*. He performed the journey from Fez to Tangier in three days, being in the saddle for eighteen hours out of each twenty-four, and resting only during the heat at mid-day. On arrival in London he interviewed Mr. Barrington, Lord Salisbury's Secretary, to whom he gave full information of the events that had taken place in Morocco. He states that during the attack on the Mission at Fez he himself was six times fired at. He lodged a remonstrance with the Sultan, who offered compensation of 5,000 dollars. He refused this, but accepted a jewelled sword of honour."

MR. Labouchere writes in *Truth*:—

"Sir Charles Euan-Smith in his Mission to Morocco has been accompanied by a conjurer, who has greatly astonished the natives in an entertainment given before the Sultan and his Court. This is at once cheaper and more humane than the old methods of impressing the untutored savage with a due sense of the might and resources of Britain, and I am now in hopes that the next time our Jingo friends desire to teach a lesson to an African potentate, they will place Mr. Maskelyne in command of the expedition instead of Lord Wolseley."

THE recent British Mission to Morocco under Sir Euan-Smith as been far from fortunate. At one time the British consulate, when the Mission were staying in it, was surrounded by an infuriated mob of fanatics. At that hour of peril how were the party within employed? Why, Lady Smith amused herself by photographing the angry crowd, and practising with her repeating rifle. Her niece, Miss Kerrison, wrote a formal application to Sir Euan-Smith (the Elchi) to be allowed to take part in the defence of the Mission, should it be attacked in force. At this juncture the War Minister of the Sultan and the other Viziers rushed into the Mission, and was astonished at the peace and quiet and perfect composure which reigned throughout, apparently also in the minds of all its inmates. The old Arab hero exclaimed, "Allah burn the devil, [whatever that may mean] what soldiers these Englishwomen make."

A SOCIETY paper says:—

"Shabby, ill-fitting gloves have always been a characteristic of Mr. Gladstone's dress. Mr. Lucy speaks of 'one of those convenient gloves which he affects, in respect of which it does not matter whether you put the right one on the left hand, or the left one on the right. The fit and general appearance are much the same, and a good deal of trouble and forethought are spared.'"

SAYS "Pen" in the *Times of India*:—

"Whatever may be the fault of the present elections as regards the monotony of party denunciations, they are at any rate conducted on principles of great probity. No one takes bribes—perhaps because no one gives bribes; and no one gives bribes because apparently no one dares. But how different from the good old days, as exemplified in the history of Bridgwater, which appeared three or four years ago. This is how they did things in the ancient and loyal borough of Bridgwater:—

At one election a voter was heard to boast of his selling his pig to a candidate for a hundred guineas, and his being allowed to eat it himself; while another sold his parrot for the same sum, and the candidate never claimed his purchase. A writer in the *Spectator* tells of a local Blacksmith who charged fifty guineas for shoeing a horse belonging to one of the candidates, but the other candidate wanting two shoes for his horse, the honest blacksmith charged him one hundred guineas, and, of course, gave him his vote.

Those were indeed golden days for which the electors of to-day must sigh and sigh in vain. In the year 1835, the constituency of Bridgwater numbered about four hundred voters, and the election cost between £20,000 and £30,000."

THE Vakil Raj is not confined to this country. It extends to the very heart of St. Stephen's old Chapel:—

"From an analysis of the professions and occupations of the mem-

bers of the new House of Commons made by Mr. Lewis Appleton, Westminster, it appears that the class most largely represented is the legal profession. There are 164 lawyers in the new House. Of these, 143 are barristers and 21 solicitors. Trade and commerce is represented by 156 members. While the capitalists have 156 representatives, there are only 15 workmen in the House. There are 53 naval and military officers, and in addition there are 52 officers of the auxiliary forces. There are no fewer than 35 newspaper proprietors and press men in the new House. The medical profession is represented by 16 members and 9 University Professors are members of Parliament. In the last House there were 24 brewers and distillers. The number has now been reduced to 18."

It is satisfactory to know that Beer is going down. The number of newspaper owners and press men given represents, we suspect, a fraction of the members connected with the Press, more or less.

**

WE read :—

"The Vienna newspapers report that an unusual phenomenon occurred on Aug. 2 at Trieste, an enormous waterspout being observed in the harbour between the Giuseppino Mole and the lighthouse. An omnibus passing along the quay at the time was lifted in the air and overturned, seven passengers being injured. Several tramway waggons were also thrown off the line, and some buildings were injured. The phenomenon, which resembled an immense dark grey pillar of cloud, lasted ten minutes, and made the atmosphere so dark that it was found necessary to resort to artificial light in the houses in the vicinity."

**

SIR George Dibbs, the Premier of New South Wales, was once cast in a civil libel suit for over £7,000. Considering the judgment unjust and the sum extortionate, he wanted to evade the mulct if possible. So he declined to pay and went to prison instead, being advised that if he served his twelve months he would not have to pay the £7,000. As ill luck would have it, the judges, in his case, held this to be bad law, and Sir George had after all to pay when he came out. His prison by way of protest went for nothing.

**

THE Marquis de Veragua, a descendant of the discoverer of America, will preside over the opening of the World's Fair at Chicago, from his residence at Madrid. He is too old and infirm to make the journey. The arrangement, therefore, is that he will press an electric button fixed in his apartments and the current set in motion, traversing the Atlantic by submarine cable, will start the machinery at the Exhibition.

**

In a suit for divorce, an English wife obtained a decree *nisi* against her husband for cruelty and adultery, but omitted to have the decree made absolute. Two years after, she took another mate. That husband died, and seven months after she resumed marital connection with her first and discarded husband. They again fell out and the wife, to rid herself of her cruel and adulterous lesser half, sought the protection of the court on the decree *nisi*, by applying to have it made absolute. The Queen's Proctor was satisfied as to the *bona fides* of the petitioner in contracting the second marriage with her husband, on his representation that the contract of marriage still subsisted in the absence of the decree *absolute*. Mr. Justice Barnes too inclined to the same view and granted the petitioner's application.

Is not the wife open to a charge of bigamy in taking a new husband during the continuance of the decree *nisi*?

**

THE Carbolic Smoke Ball Company advertised themselves by offering a reward of £100 to any one who could show that he or she had caught influenza, or any kind of cold, after having bought and used their "carbolic smoke balls." A literary lady, named Carlill, caught the bait, paid half-a-guinea for the nostrum, used it as in the directions accompanying and caught the influenza. She was not, however, to be befooled. She claimed the £100, which of course was refused. She went to court. Mr. Justice Hawkins decided in her favour. The matter being taken to the Court of Appeal, that judiciary confirmed the order of the lower court.

This is a warning against false advertisements. Yet the papers are flooded with such.

**

In a note on the prize distribution on the 12th August, at the local Government High School, the *Moulmain Advertiser* says :—

"Some objection has been taken to the half salaam and half military salute that the boys had to make on presenting themselves for their prizes. Both the salaam and the salute were out of place; we were not present and cannot say whether we are correctly informed, but it seems to us a pity to depart from the usual Burmese custom of 'shikoing' with bare feet. It seems to us a grave error in teaching Burmans the English language to instil into them English

customs that will in after life be as unpleasant to them as it will be intolerable to their English masters."

**

THE Dewan Bahadur R. Raghunath Rao assisted at the marriage of a Hindu widow at Mylapore, but did not dine with the married couple. The *Indian Spectator* with knowing quaintness calls that a great But. The Brahman Reformer explains :—

"In social reforms, as well as in religious reforms, eating and drinking form no important elements. That they are important is an idea for which India is indebted to Europe. . . . I fully believe that my nondining with Iyengars would not cause the slightest harm to the progress of events for bettering Hindu sociology or religion, which I expect to happen by my preachings. Indeed, drinking and eating with all was never advocated by me or by my friend Rau Bahadur Ranade. . . . I have found from experience that the dinings with remarriage parties have not improved matters a bit, and that they might have very probably hindered the progress of improvements."

**

BABOO JOYGOBIND LAW has offered to the Hon'ble H. H. Risley Rs. 15,000 to provide for the construction of a Laboratory in connection with the new Reptile-house in the Zoological Garden, Calcutta, "as it appears to him that the scheme is one of universal importance and of special interest to his countrymen, as promising to advance scientific knowledge, with a view to discovery of a remedy for the deadly poison." The sum is intended "to provide a building and fit it with the requisite appliances on a suitable scale." It seems he would have offered more if necessary. The Committee of Management of the Garden has thanked the Baboo for his "generous help to the garden."

**

A PRISONER in Duke Prison at Glasgow, under remit to the High Court, has volunteered a startling confession. It comes to this that he took part in two Irish agrarian murders, *viz.*, that of Lord Leitrim and that of Lord Mountmorres. Lord Leitrim was assassinated on April 2nd, 1878, while driving with his clerk and another person about three miles from Milford, and not far from Manor Vaughan, his lordship's residence, county Derry. All three were attacked by a party of men and were shot dead. The criminals were never brought to justice, but a man who died in America some time since left circumstantial confession of having assisted in the crime. The Glasgow prisoner also confessed to complicity in the murder of Lord Mountmorres, who, on September 25, 1880, was found near his residence, Ebor Hall, county Galway, with six revolver bullets in his body. He was hired to assist in both crimes by the man who afterwards shot the informer Carey at the Cape.

NOTES & LEADERETTES

with

OUR OWN NEWS.

~~~~~

ACCORDING to popular belief in India, the Gladstonian rulers chose a bad day for their start. On Saturday, the 20th August, the new ministers were formally installed in charge of their respective departments and entered upon their duties.

DURING the last week, the temperature on the Continent of Europe has been awful. Never was the heat so great. With the atmosphere the soil too has been parched up, and a cry for water has been heard in the more unfortunate tracts. No wonder that the very rehearsal of war has been saddened by casualties, with repeated cases of poor soldiers dropping down dead in the course of the manoeuvres of the German and Italian Armies.

SO in the New World, on the Atlantic shores, In New York, on the 29th July, the temperature was 99 deg., 101 deg., and 102 deg., in the shade. On the 28th there were twenty-seven deaths from the heat, on the 29th—ninety-eight, on the 30th—ninety. The tram horses died in hundreds and the traffic was suspended. Many shops were closed on the 30th. In other cities deaths from the same cause were numerous too. The heat abated on the 31st.

THE secret is out. Her Majesty would not have that disagreeable man of Truth, Labouchere, stare at her in her own house, and so that independent and righteous statesman, the G. O. M., swallowed the humble pie and struck the man of his choice out of the cast of the Ministry. Mr. Labouchere's cobblers were in a rage and in public meeting at Northampton protested against the royal squeamishness.

Mr. Gladstone then, with his weakness for negotiation, sent an ambassador to Mr. Labouchere to soothe him and show him that it is all right, that his sacrifice is necessary in the country's interest, and that he should not only take it uncomplainingly but patriotically offer his life a voluntary sacrifice and cut his own throat. His Excellency the Ambassador said that in a monarchy the wishes of the monarch should be considered, and wound off with the suggestion that the antimonarchist should, like a good boy, smooth the Grand Old Man's path to power by himself writing to Mr. Gladstone that he did not care to join the Ministry. The man of Truth refused to write a lie, even to serve Mr. Gladstone and his friends. Such is Mr. Labouchere's account in his paper, in which elsewhere the Ministry is characterised as a mixture of the old gang of Rozencrantzes and Guildensterns.

Yesterday's telegram reports that Mr. Gladstone has addressed a letter to Mr. Labouchere in which he takes the entire responsibility of the latter's exclusion from the Ministry.

THE *Times* has taken up the cry of the Indian Currency Association. It is of opinion that a gold standard is the most complete remedy for the currency difficulty and that a bimetallic currency is inconsistent with England's sympathy with India.

In the same journal, Mr. William Fowler, in a letter to the editor, considers that the cessation of the free coinage of silver in India would be dangerous, and might be considered the first step in the direction of demonetisation.

Our Finance Minister, Sir David Barbour, in a letter to Sir W. Houldsworth, regards a common standard for England and India as essential, the best method for its attainment being the adoption of a double legal tender by international agreement.

Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji has not been silent on the subject. Writing to the *Times*, he objects to the Indian rayyet being squeezed either to compensate Indian officials or to establish a gold standard. He attributes the present currency difficulty to the heavy Home charges.

Sir Seymour King, in the same journal, suggests the sovereign remedy for all evils—a small Royal Commission of experts to examine the several schemes for a gold standard.

The *Financial Times* sees no permanent solution of the difficulty in the suspension of free coinage. That would, it thinks, only put off the crisis for a time.

MR. John Morley has been re-elected with 12,983 votes against his rival Mr. Ralli's 11,244. In Derby, Sir W. Harcourt scored a majority of about five thousand votes over the Conservative Atkinson.

THE new Government will inaugurate itself with fresh taxation. Speaking at Sheffield, on the 23rd, Mr. Mundella said that new taxation would possibly be necessary, but assured his hearers that it would not affect the industry of the country. There was no fear, he said, of Government abandoning free trade.

THE cotton warehouses in Lancashire are glutted, and many mills have stopped work.

THE week has been clouded by news of a shipping disaster. The British barque *Roma*, bound from Bombay to Hull, was wrecked off Algoa Bay and all the crew drowned.

THE Ministry of Finance has proposed an Income Tax for Russia. Incomes above 1,000 roubles (say 100/ or 1,000r) will be taxed. The other exemptions are the imperial family, the provincial and town councils, the assemblies of the nobles, archbishops, convents, scientific, scholastic, and benevolent institutions, the members of the foreign Diplomatic Body, and foreign consuls of foreign nationality, if they do not derive any portion of their income from real estate or industrial or commercial undertakings in Russia. Commencing at 1 per cent. on

incomes between 1,000 and 2,000 roubles, the tax will increase at the rate of one-tenth per cent. on every additional 1,000 or fraction thereof.

ENDEAVOURS are being made in Russia to win back from the sea a foreign ship sunk near Balaclava during the Crimean War. The vessel is supposed to contain a considerable sum of money intended for payment of troops fighting the Russians.

WITH the completion of the second volume, the *Epigraphia Indica*, under the editorship of Dr. Burgess, will cease as an independent publication, but will be continued as an epigraphical supplement to the *Indian Antiquary* under its Editor Dr. E. Hultach, Government Epigraphist, Madras.

IT is notified in the *Calcutta Gazette* that the Court of Wards having declined to retain charge of the Chanchra Raj Estate under their management, it will be released from the Court's control from the 1st September 1892.

IT is proposed to establish a toll station at Chetla on the boat canal leading from Kidderpur to Tolly's Nullah. Tolls will be levied at Chetla on boats which have not already paid toll at Kidderpur, Russa or Panspotta at the rates payable at Kidderpur. Boats entering the Docks will be considered to have entered the river Hooghly.

THE sensational trial of Sangam Lal, Pragwal, and eleven others, charged with having, at Daragunj on the 30th March last, caused hurt to sub-inspector Ram Kishen Singh and other police officers while in the execution of their duty, before Mr. F. E. Elliot, the District and Sessions Judge of Allahabad, began on Tuesday. The first investigation had been made by the Joint-Magistrate, who made light of the matter, but on a representation to the High Court he was directed to commit it. So he did. The prosecution called the Sub-inspector and a constable whose evidence was to the following effect:—Sangam Lal's house and *baithak* being searched on the 30th March by the city inspector and Ram Kishen Singh, two swords and some axes were found. While Babu Lal and other police officers were attacked in their cab (*ekka*) off to the Police station, they were set upon by Sangam Lal and others who wanted to recover their arms. Babu Lal was grievously hurt. When the report reached the Sub-inspector Ram Kishen Singh, he at once informed the District Superintendent of Police, and with a force proceeded to the *baithak*, where he found Sangam Lal sitting with some twenty-two men. Sangam Lal, being told that they had come to investigate the assault case, replied he would allow him no such thing and began to abuse the Sub-inspector. Suing the action to the word, the redoubtable Pragwal came down from the *baithak* with all his following and assaulted the Sub-inspector and the police. He struck three blows at the Sub-inspector. This was too much of a good thing, so the long suffering Ram Kishen then drew his sword and knocked him on the head and severely mauled the Pragwal, who beat a hasty retreat, followed by his companions, who meanwhile had injured the constables and two hangers-on of the police. The case was investigated by Inspector Khwaja Mahomed Hussein. Sangam Lal was hiding with Captain Whitehead, of the South Wales Borderers, when he was arrested. Mr. Kumar Paramanand, the Government Pleader, prosecuted on behalf of the crown, and the accused were defended by Messrs. Doorga Charan, Moti Lal Nehru, and Madan Mohan Malaviya, vakils, Mr. Sharpe, District Superintendent of Police, watching the case for his department.

IN England there were several deaths lately from swallowing artificial teeth. The latest reported is of a constable who, on hearing the whistling of a comrade to secure a prisoner, came running and took hold of his arm and instantly fell to the ground and died before he could be conveyed to King's College Hospital. The post mortem examination disclosed the fact of the impaction of a set of false teeth just above the larynx, producing suffocation and death. The teeth were of inferior make and somehow or other they loosened and produced the fatal result, most probably through his act of running. This is a warning to wearers of false teeth, especially to those who have in their artificial teeth ill-fitted plates with the constant danger of being easily displaced.

Mr. Frith was a famous artist, as fortunate as famous, having realized probably the highest price for a picture by any living artist. No body of course thought he could achieve anything like the same success in literature. But his "Reminiscences" was a hit and brought him a large profit. And no wonder. There is in it at least one anecdote of breathless interest which at the same time brings out in bold relief a singular character and mode of life which would float a good deal of common-place matter. Here is it:—

"This eccentric gentleman lived at Fonthill Abbey, a few miles from Bath. Every picture in the Abbey was a gem, and the gardens were unrivalled by any in England; but the owner was a recluse, and this palace of art was surrounded by a formidable wall seven miles in circuit, 12 feet high, and crowned by a *chevaux-de-frise*, and the gates were kept carefully closed. At last Mr. Frith's cousin, an ardent connoisseur in art, found them unguarded. He slipped in, and wandered about the enchanted domain till he met a man with a spud in his hand, presumably the head gardener. This personage politely showed him over fruit gardens, hot-houses, &c., then the house, with its pictures, *bric-a-brac*, spits of armour, and other glories, and ended by asking him to dinner. 'No! really, I couldn't think of taking such a liberty. I am sure Mr. Beckford would be offended.' 'No, he wouldn't. You must stop and dine with me. I am Mr. Beckford.' The dinner was magnificent, served on massive plate, the wines of the choicest vintage, rarer still Mr. Beckford's conversation. They talked till a fine Louis Quatorze clock struck eleven. Then Mr. Beckford rose and left the room. The guest waited for his return till he started to find the room in semi-darkness, and one of the solemn powdered footmen putting out the lights. 'Mr. Beckford has gone to bed,' said the man. The guest rose and followed the footman to the front door. That functionary opened it wide and said, 'Mr. Beckford ordered me to present his compliments to you, sir; and I am to say that, as you found your way into Fonthill Abbey without assistance, you may find your way out again as best you can; and he hopes you will take care to avoid the bloodhounds that are let loose in the gardens every night. I wish you good evening.' The guest spent the night in the branches of the first tree that promised a safe shelter, and it was not till the sun showed himself that he made his way, terror attending each step, through the gardens into the park, and so to Bath."

After that, who will not cry, after the reporters, "great sensation"? Beckford was a genuine original. He came of a good stock, as the son and heir of the famous Alderman Beckford of the last century, a contemporary of Wilkes and Junius and the Reverend poet Churchill and the Reverend politician Horne, who bullied the king in his palace into allowing him to answer his Majesty's reply to the deputation, and then with perfect coolness and fluency delivered a remarkable speech. Beckford II. was so little of a philanthropist or a patriot that he was a misanthrope. For all that, this plutocrat of the middle class was no Philistine, being a man of large and liberal culture and of refined and esthetic tastes. He wrote just one book to speak of, in one prodigious sitting of three days and nights, but that book still lives—no little matter considering the cartloads of prose fiction every year produced to be forgotten in a quarter. It is an Oriental romance called "Vathek." He was, in almost everything *sui generis*. He had a resemblance, perhaps, in some respects, to the founder of the Hope family. Thomas Hope too was an esthetic banker who surrounded himself with the rarest pictures and statues, medals, virtu, china, enamels, ancient furniture and drapery and jewellery. He, like Beckford, was a single-book author and his book was an Oriental romance. To complete the resemblance, Hope's "Anastasis" is of equal interest and fascination with Beckford's "Vathek."

THE *Hindoo Patriot* had hitherto been the Court Journal of the elder branch of the wellknown Pir Ali Tagores. It is now the loyal Bhat—Encomiast—of all and sundry who are or may, might, shall, should, will or would be somebodies. It has not only developed a new style of journalism but has invented quite a new species of literary composition. Both the style and the species are simple. The former consists in laying the butter on thick with a ladle. The speciality of the latter is to pile up to agony the titles of the object of the attentions, or, in the event of his having no more than one title, to repeat it *ad nauseam*. That surely must be confessed to be an original substitute for the wit and eloquence of compliments. Here is a sample of the method from the *Hindoo Patriot* of Aug. 23:—

"Maharaj Kumar Benoy Krishna is now the lessee of the Gungamundla pargana belonging to his family. The Maharaj Kumar had fitting preparations made for the reception of Sir Charles Elliott in Comillah, when His Honor visited the district the other day. His Honor inspected the Maharaj Kumar's charitable dispensary and was much pleased with what he saw. The Maharaj Kumar has subscribed Rs. 2,500 to the fund of the permanent memorial in honour of Sir Charles Elliott's visit, and other subscriptions are pouring in."

The paragraphical arrangement does injustice to the genius of the writer. The condensed typography squeezes out all the flavour of

the *morceau*. Analysing it, we discover that the precious paragraph consists of sentences nearly each of which begins with the same respectable personal noun with full title, and certainly every one of which contains the said respectable one in all titular glory. Thus—

Maharaj Kumar Benoy Krishna is now.....  
(The) Maharaj Kumar had fitting.....  
(H. H. ins... the) Maharaj Kumar's charitable dispensary.....  
(The) Maharaj Kumar has subscribed Rs. 2,500.....

In fine,

The Maharaj Kumar, Maharaj Kumar, Maharaj Kumar, Maharaj Kumar. Such is the formula of the literary beadsman.—Nothing like Maha Raj Kumar.

AN Urdu biography of the Prophet Mahomed, published by the Rev. Mr. Williams, Missionary of Rewari, near Delhi, containing most disrespectful language towards the said Prophet, has caused great agitation among the Mahomedans of the Imperial city. They met in large numbers, said to be 2,000, at the Futtehpouri Mosque, and resolved to send up a strong representation against the Missionary, to the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab. Not content, however, with simply forwarding a memorial, a representative deputation of the Panjab Mahomedans proceeded to Simla, to protest against the publication of the Missionary in question. The deputation has had an interview with Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick, who has promised to consider the matter. The Mahomedans state that they refrained from taking the matter into Courts, on account of the popular excitement, which the reading of the passages complained of in Court would arouse.

The Mahomedans are extremely touchy in matters like these, and as a body strongly resent the use of irreverent language towards their Prophet. We have every hope that Sir Dennis will pass such orders as may allay the agitated feeling of the Mahomedans.

It would almost seem as if, in his well-meant advances to the school-boyhood of Calcutta, Sir Charles Elliott was playing into the hands of the tribe of wealthy outcastes called Pir Ali. The Lieutenant-Governor gave more than one party to the students and professors of the Colleges at which a sprinkling of other gentlemen too were invited. The boys made the most of the occasions and of the hospitality of the host. Sir Charles Elliott addressed the young men present in the following manner:—

"You, my young friends, have been invited to attend these readings and recitations in order that you may spend a pleasant hour and get some benefit therefrom. Lady Elliott and myself take a warm interest in your welfare, and I may say the Government does the same. We shall always watch your career, and take pleasure in your advancement. It is not only your literary progress that interests me, but also the advancement of your moral character. This matter has been taken in hand by that worthy Society (the Society for Higher Training), of which Mr. Risely is the President, and my friend the Vice-Chancellor, a member of the Committee. I hope this gathering will result in a series of similar meetings called by the leaders of your own society, as the garden parties here were followed by a similar party given by my friend Maharaja Sir Jotendra Mohan Tagore. These occasions, I hope, will encourage you to pursue your studies with zeal, and to select a worthy career afterwards."

Of course, the good Governor has no idea of what all this leads to, or how the people in their heart of hearts regard it.

WE learn that in fashionable circles in London, no sort of food is now in better esteem for the complexion than oatmeal and oranges. Ladies desiring to acquire and preserve a good complexion, are subduing their carnivorous propensities. The diet of many of them is simplicity itself. Already, some are living almost entirely on oranges—the next thing to ambrosia. Here is their bill of fare. Half a dozen for breakfast, with a cup of coffee, a dozen for lunch, with a glass of milk and a saucer of oatmeal, finishing with a dozen more for supper, with a crust of bread and tea. This, we suppose, is the ostensible fare. For this, though possibly sylphs may live by it, will scarcely support human life.

In India, too, this fruit is employed for improving the complexion; but our wiser people do not starve themselves on it. They eat the orange and rub the peel on the skin for assimilating the hue! For science, both methods, British and Indian, are at par.

THERE was another meeting at Sobhabazar on sea-voyages by Hindus. We hope to notice it next time.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, August 27, 1892.

### THE EXCHANGE DIFFICULTY.

THE Indian Currency Association had a very successful meeting on Thursday evening at the Town Hall, under the lead of its Chairman, the Hon'ble J. L. Mackay. There was a large attendance of respectable Europeans of the mercantile, trading, planting, land-owning, official, and professional classes. The natives are not of active habits, and for such a forbidding abstruse subject if they have any sympathy they are content to show it by their signature. Accordingly, while they have signed the Association's Memorial by hundreds and thousands, they attended its meeting by tens. Those tens, however, contained many of the flower of the community. In spite of national peculiarity and the dryasdustiness of the subject, we have reason to believe there would have been a far larger native audience but for a misunderstanding. It was, to begin with, understood that the meeting was to be a close one, confined to the members of the Association, and, moreover, that it was to be a formal meeting, just to receive and adopt the report, without any feature of general interest. No doubt the advertisement in the newspapers, including *Reis and Rayyet*, justified this view. There was in it no room for expecting to hear such speaking as really enlivened the meeting. There was certainly no invitation to the public at large. Thus, it was those alone who were in the secret who could go to the Town Hall with a light heart, while others were kept back from what, they feared, might be regarded as intrusion. We believe that, limited as is the European population of the city, it would have mustered in still greater force if this unfortunate misimpression had not so largely prevailed throughout the whole community, of all races, creeds and classes.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman with one of his lucid addresses. Though a Scotchman with an idea, Mr. Mackay has none of the disagreeable peculiarities of a hobby *sowar*. On Thursday at any rate, he was far from a bore.

He commenced with securing the good will of the audience, who were put in the best humour by his assurance that there was no voluminous technical discussion in store for them. His previous speeches had not only exhausted the subject, but also answered objections taken. It remained for him to fight some new arrivals in the field, and notice some fresh proposals. This he did in his usual straightforward and thorough style. He shirked no difficulty, ignored no danger, misrepresented no point. We have never seen more fair-minded a disputant or more honorable an agitator—if that word of evil suggestion may at all apply to him. Even in recounting the support the movement has obtained, he scrupulously eschewed exaggeration.

The Maharaja of Bettiah seconded the Chairman's motion for the adoption of the report, which was unanimously carried.

Mr. J. A. Anderson (Anderson Wright & Co.) in a neat speech, took up the handful of respectable firms who are making a good thing out of the depreciation and the planters and millers who, in their short-sightedness, have no sympathy to spare for the distress of their fellows. They will all come round yet, he suggested, or at any rate the necessary change will be effected in spite

of Lombard Street itself, when all India is roused. Before taking his seat, he vividly presented the hastening doom of the country from the currency anomaly under which it is labouring.

Babu Jadu Lal Mullick, the wellknown native millionaire, made an excellent speech. Speaking with all the moderation and the authority which belongs to one with his stake in the country, he gave his full support to the movement to come to a solution of the difficulty. He showed how the brunt of the taxation falls on the natives.

Mr. W. J. M. McCaw, in moving a vote of thanks to the Chairman, paid an eloquent tribute to Mr. Mackay, recounting his services to the Association and the cause—services which were simply invaluable. Mr. David Lyall, C.S.I., seconded the vote in a few well-chosen terms.

After all, the real *venue* of the Currency Controversy is not India. However much breath may be expended in this country,—whatever engagements may take place here, the decisive battle will be fought in England. Accordingly, the friends of the movements will note with satisfaction that the Indian Currency Association is steadily gaining ground at Home. It has acquired a great alliance this week. If the *Standard* and the *Economist* have early declared against it, it has found the support of the *Times*. This is sufficient compensation—more than sufficient, perhaps. The *Standard* is the leading member of the Conservative Press and withal a good journal. Happily, in consequence of the political change brought about by the result of the late General Election, it has ceased to be the mouth-piece of the Ministry. The other journal has always stood on its own bottom. Established and conducted by a remarkable hatter, who afterwards rose to be Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury and finally the first Financial Member of the Viceregal Council, and since his departure for India and, by that way, for that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveller returneth, continued and conducted by his accomplished and acute son-in-law, the *Economist* has been the principal organ of the great banking interest. But, we believe, since the death of Mr. Bagehot it does not command anything like its old influence. Even before that sad event, the note of discontent had been heard and several competitors had appeared to contest the supremacy of the financial oracle. So much the better for the Indian Currency Association. And better still that the great *Times*—great for a' that, and a' that—now declares in its favour.

The Association has already borne fruit. It has forced this long neglected question to the fore front. This is obvious from the men of light and leading who have in this very week contributed to the discussion.

Not the least interesting of the contributions made comes from a member of Parliament who does not pretend to be an economist in especial. We refer to Sir Seymour King. He calls for a Royal Commission of experts on the different proposals and schemes.

That is at once adroit and modest of the most junior Knight, who knows that the world knows that his sympathies are virtually pledged to the European servants of Government in India, who are suffering wofully from the fall of the Rupee, and who have clutched the Indian Currency Association as the only plank that offers a prospect of safety.

Be that as it may, the proposition is a good one and deserves to be pressed upon Government and Parliament.

### THE MOHARRAM.

IN our issue of the 30th July, we gave, at some length, an account of the application which the Shias of Chupra had made to the Magistrate of that District. They solicited permission to take out in their Moharram procession a standard (*Alam*), and a water skin (*Mashah*) pierced through by an arrow (*Tir*), as emblems of the circumstances of the death of the Martyr-Saint, Hasan, the grandson of the Prophet. This the Magistrate disallowed on the ground that it would be an innovation. The Magistrate's order runs thus:—

"I have heard Mr. R. P. Ghose, Barrister-at-Law, in support of this petition, and he has filed a large number of papers, which he considers relevant to this case; they refer for the most part to the question, whether in other towns the *Alam* may be taken out or not, and to the general and abstract question as to the propriety of its use. All this is entirely beside the point. It is perfectly clear that taking the *Alam* in procession is an innovation here, and that whether rightly or wrongly it is likely to cause a serious breach of the peace. My duty as Magistrate of the District is to prevent such a breach of the peace, and I therefore reject this petition, support Mr. McIntosh's order of the 17th September last, and hereby warn the petitioner and his friends, that if after this intimation, they persist in taking out the *Alam* as proposed, either as part of the Moharram, or in procession on some other date, they will be liable to prosecution under sections 298 and 504 of the Indian Penal Code."

Thereupon the Shias moved the High Court to reverse the order of the Magistrate. The Criminal Bench of that Court issued a rule calling for the papers. Considering the importance of the question to the Mahomedan community, it was not surprising that the decision of the Court was awaited on both sides with eager interest not unmixed with some anxiety. The High Court has at length spoken. Yesterday the matter came before the Criminal Bench, and was finally disposed of. We give the report of the proceedings below:—

"The rule obtained by Mr. Gregory, vakil, on behalf of Nawab Lateefuddowlah, calling upon Mr. Bourdillon, Magistrate of Sarun, to show cause why his order, dated the 13th June, prohibiting the petitioner from taking out *Alams* (flags) during or after the Moharram procession on pain of prosecution, under sections 298 and 504 of the Penal Code, came on for hearing yesterday. Babu Saligram Sing appeared on behalf of the appellant and Mr. Kilby for the Crown. The learned vakil, in opening the case, stated that his client belonged to the Shia sect of the Mahomedan community which observed the rites of the Moharram festival. On the 25th August last year, the petitioner applied to the then Magistrate of the District for permission to take out *Alams*. On the following day, the Magistrate said he would hold an enquiry into the matter, and on the 14th September, he rejected the application, prohibiting him to take out *Alams*. On the 16th, the petitioner again applied to have that order cancelled, but the application was refused. Since that time, petitioner had applied from time to time to have the previous order revoked. In this year, he put in another petition before Mr. Bourdillon who, without rejecting it, in so many words, passed an order on its back to the effect, that as the permission prayed for was an innovation, and as it was likely to break the public peace, the petitioner should be warned that if he or his friends should, at any time, persist in taking out the *Alams*, he would be prosecuted under sections 298 and 504, I. P. C. The vakil submitted that this order was entirely illegal. The petitioner had applied to the Magistrate for protection, and he, without affording that which he was asked for, passed a prohibitory order without enquiring whether there was any ground for it or not. He would, therefore, ask their Lordships to set aside the order.

After some discussion, their Lordships passed the following order:—

Pigot, J.—We are bound to deal with this rule, and we think it was one of those matters, in which as little should be said, perhaps, as is possible, consistent with the discharge of a judicial duty. Upon the best consideration we can give to the matter, we cannot say that the language of the Magistrate's written answer to the petition of the applicant was an order at all, or that it purported to be an order. We think that there is really nothing more to be said. It is not a judicial order or a judicial act with which we can interfere. We have come to that conclusion after the best consideration of the matter. Nothing more remains for us now than to discharge the rule."

### EARLY IN THE CENTURY.

THE current number of the *Calcutta Review* contains a curious paper headed "Passages from the Autobiography of a Bengalee Gentleman of Sixty Years Ago." The *Statesman* in its notice of the new number of the magazine has given a very disparaging account of this particular contribution. This was scarcely deserved. The *Calcutta Review* has never been distinguished for the equality of its contents, and admitting that the article in question is not a brilliant production, we frequently see inferior things admitted. In point of fact, this article is by no means so worthless as the *Statesman's* scribe thinks. That writer by his opinion only discovers his insular incapacity for sympathy with what does not touch him or his. This article in the *Review* recalls the olden days and long forgotten occurrences. It revives before us a dead Indian world, and gives interesting information respecting the ways of the magnates of that period and the personal relations between the British Chiefs and natives. Such information is not to be gathered from the standard histories, or, for that matter, the non-standard ones, so that the most learned of us still need to learn. The critic does not care for these things. Perhaps he would have been more reconciled to the article had its writer thrown in a plentiful profusion of tropes into his composition. He complains of the writing as bald. The writing is not bad, but the critic evidently has not quite shaken off his schoolboy taste for fine writing, in which no doubt the article is deficient, and it is all the better for it. Consisting as the article does of a string of short extracts from the diary of a little Bengali boy kept in English, at a time when that language was a rare accomplishment among our countrymen, it is difficult to see how the style could be improved. We are far from insinuating that the article is above criticism. But our contemporary misses the true remark, in an irrelevant attack on the style of a composition which were awkward and absurd with a more conscious endeavour at elegance. Indeed, its publication makes against the critic. Had it been so worthless it would scarcely have appeared in the *Calcutta Review* and been admitted to it by so able an editor as Mr. Furrell. Talking of style, there is not such a master of style in the Indian Press as Mr. Furrell. Surely, no writing objectionable on the score of style could have passed through his hands except to drop into the Balaam-box.

The value of the paper lies in its facts and suggestions. These are undoubtedly fair game for the critic. But our contemporary's writer was not up to that criticism. Nor was he willing to receive in good part the light which the *Calcutta Reviewer* does really present, specially to griffs like his critic. There are a few mistakes which are discreditable to the writer—a veteran ex-official and member of the Asiatic Society as he is—as well as the periodical and its veteran editor. The first blunder is about the time of the founding of the Hindu College, the first public school in Bengal for the education of native youth in Western knowledge. The writer in the *Calcutta Review* would give it an earlier start than it is entitled to. He makes other blunders too. We better quote him:—

"In 1818, when in the Upper Provinces in attendance on the Governor-General, Dewan Ram Sunker wrote to his eldest son in Calcutta to get Sree Narayan enrolled in the Hindoo College, which had been established, some years before, under the auspices of the Government through the exertions of the Hindu community, headed by the Raja of Burdwan and aided by Sir Edward Hyde East, Chief Justice, Mr. H. H. Wilson, Mr. David Hare and others, and of which he was a subscribing member."

Here is a cento of blunders compressed in a single sentence! It is doubtful whether the late Boden Professor of Oxford was

associated with Sir Edward Hyde East, Mr. David Hare and others in establishing the Hindoo College. This is the first time we see Horace Hayman Wilson's name among the founders.

About the date of the Hindoo College the writer is completely and almost confessedly at sea. He indicates it by a vague suggestion which shoots wide off the mark. In 1818—we are told—the College had been established some years before. What is the arithmetical value of "some?" How many years are understood by the phrase "some years?" It does not mean two or three years. It certainly means more than a few years. "Some years before" implies, we take it, at the least five or six years. Taking it moderately at five, the Hindoo College, according to the reviewer, was established in or about 1813—a preposterous suggestion. It was in the middle of November of that year that Sir Edward Hyde East first took his seat on the bench of the Supreme Court. If the writer's "some years" means four years, it was founded in 1814. Under no possible laxity in the use of language, can "some years" mean less than three years. If such is his meaning, the College was started in 1815. In that year, however, the very idea of it had not been broached. The proposition was made in the following year (1816), and although there were no orators in those days to impede work, it took sometime to raise funds and make the preliminary arrangements. The men were in earnest and proceeded to work with extraordinary celerity, so that by the beginning of next year they were ready.

The College was opened on Monday, the 20th January 1817, at Gora Chand Bysack's house in Garanhatta,—the house in Chitpore Road long and still occupied by another educational institution of mark founded and conducted by native energy—the Oriental Seminary. But the College was barely opened on that day. It was shunted from place to place for want of proper accommodation, and it took at least two years to bring it into tolerably full operation.

The Hindoo College was the first and the greatest agency for the modern civilization of the Hindus of Bengal. The date of such an institution is so important in the chronology of our national life that we have taken all this trouble to set our *Calcutta Reviewer* right. Nor is he the only writer who has confounded it. Mr. Kerr, formerly of the Bengal Education Service, and once a popular Principal of the College, in his elaborate work on Public Instruction in Bengal, in giving its history, writes:—"The Hindoo College was founded in 1816." The late Baboo Kissory Chand Mittra, himself a distinguished *alumnus* of the College, in his Paper read at the Nineteenth Hare Anniversary, 1861, on the Hindoo College and its Founder, gives the same date. He is, however, contradicted by his elder brother, the late Peary Chand Mittra, in his *Biographical Sketch of David Hare*, published in 1877, in which the same date is given that we give.

### THE OMNIVOROUS BUDDHISTS AND CHRISTIANS.

THE *Mandalay Herald* desires the Municipal Board to note that

"Rats, cleaned ready for cooking, are now being sold in the Fish Market, Ziygue Bazar. Perhaps the Inspector will favor us with the selling price so that we may insert the same in our Bazar Price List."

And what wonder at rats in the Land of *Nyappi*, and in a part of the globe where the Dorian is the fruit of fruits? Our contemporary seems quite a Hindu. Has the ubiquitous Baboo penetrated to the last capital of the Alompras and has got himself installed in the editorial chair of the *Herald*? Be that as it may, with such nice notions no man has any business in India beyond the Ganges.

We suppose our Mandalay man is long enough in Burma to be familiar with the delicacies of Burmese cuisine and the pickles and sauces and wonderful relishes of the banks of the Irrawadi. If he does not indulge in them himself he may allow others to indulge themselves. Why, then, this straining at a gnat?

On what principle, as a Christian man, does our contemporary object to the rat? Objection to the mole we could understand, but the rat is a decent, sweet-smelling, little quadruped. A Hindu cannot touch the favorite of that elephant-headed God of Success who has precedence in worship of all Olympus; but what does a Christian care? If precedent be wanted, it will be remembered that the rats of the Paris sewers supplied the game for the tables of the restaurants during the siege. Then, there are rats and rats. We have in our neighbourhood a colony of grain-fed rats bred in the

granary of the old stables of the Dutt Family—noble fat animals, looking more like small pigs than rodenta. They are fine game, in both senses. They must be excellent eating, we suspect. And they are easy to capture, we know. For the lordly little fellows, weighty and rich in fat as they are, have not the activity of the sneaking ignoble classes of their race, and move at a measured pace. Our feline friends, of Bengal Bengali, and humanized, not to say Hinduized, by feeding at the Brahman's table, are naturally afraid of meeting their majestic natural enemy. One Tommy Atkins of our feline camp had the other day the daring to attack, and the pluck to kill, a muscipular minor so large and plump that Professor Wood-Mason himself might mistake it for a specimen of a newly-discovered enormous species of the *mus* order. But our Tommy is too much of a *Bhakat* or far too civilised to eat his victim without the ceremony of cooking, and left the carcass in our bed-room, thus compelling us to accord to it the rites of a—Parsi funeral. Those who are not particular in their feed may well think it a pity that so much fine meat should go to waste.

The Jews and Mussulmans are forbidden not only many animals but whole tribes and extensive classes of animals; such as the web-footed beasts and fowls, the scaleless fishes. John the Baptist's food was locusts and wild honey. That is orthodox bill of fare according to both the Mosaic and the Mahometan dispensation. But none but Prophets, Saints and Hermits can stand such nourishment. Fortunately, the two sects are better provided, specially the Jews. Even the regimen prescribed by the Law for the Moslems is liberal and amply sufficient for all the needs and yearnings of the flesh, so far at least as solids are concerned. Still there are many restrictions. The Faithful must not think of any unclean animal. Ducks and the whole web-footed tribe are not for them. Alligators, turtles, crabs, frogs, snakes, and hundreds of the same characteristics, are forbidden. The camel is pure eating, but hippophagism is an unsettled point in Orthodoxy. Even the permitted meats are not permitted unless the necessary conditions are fulfilled. Christians, we believe, have no diatetic code, no alimentary *index purgatorius*. Of course, people live according to custom, but some are prepared for utilising almost anything for their table. The late Captain Burton, the traveller, was wont gaily to relate his feat in cannibalism. That was a grim joke of Dick's, but these travellers have stomach for anything. Even a traveller in civilised Mahomedan countries, Sir Alexander Burnes, we find voluntarily inviting himself to a feast of crocodile-steaks. Here is his own account:—

"Near the ferry of Bara we found the fishermen actively engaged in sharing amongst themselves an immense alligator (seesar) which they had just caught. The monster had been cut up into joints and bits, some of which they were about to eat, assuring us that the steaks were delicious. I asked if these animals did not eat men, but the fishermen boldly got rid of this objection by assuring me that alligators and crocodiles lived entirely on fish! Having partaken of frog, horse, shark, and camel, I resolved to add a new item to my list of gastronomic experiences, and to try my hand at crocodile-steaks; but I found the food to be poor, close-grained, dry, and deficient in flavour, and I was very soon satisfied. Probably the art of cooking crocodiles may be yet in its infancy."

### NATIVE VOLUNTEERS.

#### GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

#### MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 20th June 1892.

To the Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

General Department.

SIR,—In February last memorials were addressed to the Viceroy and Governor-General of India by a number of native gentlemen, students, and professional persons in Bengal, asking that sanction might be given to their being formed into a corps of volunteers as a Second or Bengal Battalion of the Presidency Volunteer Rifle Battalion. As there was no particular person to whom these memorials could be returned for transmission to the Government of Bengal, they were, in accordance with the rules on the subject, forwarded to you for the opinion of the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor.

2. The memorialists state that they are animated by a true and genuine devotion to the Crown and love for their country; that they long to be permitted to bear arms in the service of their Queen

and country, and feel it to be a solemn duty to the Crown and Government under which their native land has so long had a career of peace, security, and prosperity; that their self-respect would be enhanced; and that, if it were possible, their loyalty would be deepened by being permitted the privilege enjoyed by all other sections of Her Majesty's subjects in India of fitting themselves to take part in and, if need be, to die in the defence of the Empire.

3. In your letter No. 1161 of the 19th April 1892, the Government of India are informed that the Lieutenant-Governor has given the subject his most careful consideration; but that, with every wish to recognise and respond to the loyal spirit which underlies the applications, His Honour cannot recommend that the Government of India should do "anything more than" be done under the present rules, according to which, although volunteer corps are, as a whole, European or Eurasian, still it is possible for a native of this country to be enlisted if any corps will admit him." The Lieutenant-Governor, after fully considering the question, advises that no change should take place in the attitude which the Government of India from 1861 to the present time have adopted towards applications for the formation of volunteer corps such as those which are now under

consideration. The Governor-General in Council is not prepared to depart from the policy by which the Government of India has hitherto been dealing with this important question. A reference to the Acts by which the volunteer force has been regulated, and the Regulations issued under those Acts, shows unmistakably that the intention of the Legislature has from the first been that the ranks of the volunteer force should, with the exception in which reference will hereafter be made, be recruited from the European population of this country. Thus, the Act of 1857 under which the volunteer corps were first called into existence, specially provides that members of the corps shall be subject to the "Articles of War for the European officers and soldiers of the East India Company," a statement which renders it evident that the classes of persons to be organised as volunteers were those to whom the European, and not the Native Articles of War, were applicable.

Soon after the passing of the above Act, an important declaration with reference to the eligibility of persons not of European origin for enrolment as volunteers was made by the Governor-General in Council, Lord Canning. These statements run as follows:—

"That the Governor-General in Council has no objection to the admission of Parsis, or of any other Native Indian subjects of the Queen, into volunteer corps, but that he does not think it advisable that separate corps, or even companies consisting solely of natives, should be formed.

"That the object of the Governor General in Council in aiding the formation of volunteer corps in India has been the same as that of Her Majesty's Government in England, namely, to provide an efficient supplement to an Army which, as in the case with the English Army, cannot, in the event of its being called into active service, be largely and effectively recruited at very short notice. But that the same difficulty of increase does not exist in the case of the Native Army of India. The supply of recruits for that Army will always be practically unlimited, and that, therefore, Native volunteer corps are not required, either as an addition to it, or as a substitute for it.

"That, nevertheless, if any natives, whether Parsis or others, should desire to take their place amongst the European members of a volunteer corps, understanding sufficiently the English language, adopting the uniform of the corps, and being willing and able to share in its duties, the Governor-General in Council would be glad to see them enrolled in it."

This declaration has, from the time when it was made, guided the policy of the Government of India in dealing with applications such as that now before it.

Act XX of 1869, by which the Act of 1857 was replaced, was framed upon the assumption that the force to which it applied was substantially a European force, and in the Regulation, framed under this Act the volunteer corps are specifically described as a European force, and are required to take precedence on parade accordingly. Similar provisions are to be found in the Indian Army Regulations, in which it is distinctly laid down that volunteer corps will consist of Europeans, or those of European descent, and that "on all parades the Indian Volunteers, being a British force, rank next, after British troops."

5. The authorities referred to above must be held to govern the case now under discussion, and to establish that the conditions and Regulations subject to which the Indian Volunteer Force is maintained, contemplate its existence as a supplement to the British Army in India, upon the understanding, laid down by Lord Canning in 1861, that individual natives may be admitted to volunteer corps in cases where their enrolment is acceptable to the corps concerned, but that the establishment of Native volunteer corps, or Native

volunteer companies in existing corps, is not within the intention and scope of the law or the Regulations at present in force under it. It would be impossible to grant the request of the memorialists, unless the Government of India were prepared to extend concession to all other applicants. A decision to this effect would involve a fundamental alteration in the character and composition of the volunteer force; and I am to say that, in the opinion of the Governor-General in Council, the time has not come for so signal a departure from the principles and policy hitherto accepted by the Government of India.

6. I am to request that when explaining to the memorialists the reasons why the Government of India finds it impossible to accede to their prayer, you will convey to them the acknowledgments of His Excellency in Council for the loyal sentiments which they have expressed, and his regret that, for the reasons which I have given, it should be impossible to meet their wishes.

I am, &c.,  
(Sd.) E. H. H. COLLEN,  
Secretary to the Government of India.

## THE EXCHANGE DIFFICULTY.

### THE PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament Assembled.

The Petition of the Indian Currency Association, comprising all classes of the inhabitants of the Indian Empire,  
HUMBLY SHewETH,

That your petitioners suffer severe and increasing loss and distress in consequence of the present condition of the Indian Currency system, and that some remedy is urgently required.

That the condition of the system and its results to the people of India are described in the subjoined paragraphs of this memorial:

1. In 1835, by a law passed by the Government of India, gold was demonetised and the silver rupee established as the monetary standard of value. From 1835 until 1872 the rupee exchanged with but slight variation for about two shillings, and so trifling indeed was the variation that in the official accounts, for all purposes, the rupee was invariably reckoned as equivalent to two shillings.

2. During all this period silver was freely in use for currency, and as a standard of value, by all the European nations but England; and it is undoubtedly the truth that the maintenance of the par of exchange during this period, and even during the large production of gold following the discoveries of that metal in California and Australia, was due, firstly to the free use of silver as current full legal tender money by the European nations, and secondly to its unrestricted coinage by them.

3. At the end of 1871 Germany demonetised silver and established a gold standard. To prevent an overwhelming influx of the demonetised German silver France restricted the coinage of silver and every other nation speedily adopted the same course. Many of the European nations have adopted gold as the standard of value, as Germany did; and, though some have retained silver as full legal tender, they have either greatly restricted or absolutely ceased the coinage of the metal. Those who have retained silver as the standard have no active circulation of metallic money, whether gold or silver, the currency consisting of inconvertible notes.

4. The result of this ejection of silver from use as currency is seen in the fall in the price of silver. From 60 pence per ounce the price has now fallen to between 39 and 40 pence, a decline of about 35 per cent., and the exchange value of the rupee has similarly declined from 24 pence to 15·25 pence, a fall over 36 per cent.

5. This heavy fall has been a cause of great concern to all interested in the maintenance of stability in the ratio of value between gold and silver, and the subject has been repeatedly discussed in view to the application of a remedy.

6. On every occasion the discussions have been fruitless because England declined to join in the concerted action which alone could provide a remedy.

7. An International Monetary Conference was held in 1867, with the object of increasing the number of countries comprised in the Latin Union and establishing an international monetary system on the basis of the free coinage of both gold and silver. England refused to adhere to the Union on any terms but the abolition of the double standard and the adoption of gold as the single standard. No practical results, therefore, followed this Conference.

8. Another International Monetary Conference was held in 1878, on the proposal of the United States, its object being to maintain the employment of silver, with that of gold, as a standard. England was represented in this Conference only on the condition that she was not to be bound by its decisions, because she was determined not to permit the adoption of silver as a standard in her currency.

9. A third International Monetary Conference was convened by France and the United States in 1881 to concert measures for the full use of silver as a standard of value in conjunction with gold. England was represented at this Conference also, but declined to promise more than that Her Majesty's Government would recommend to the Bank of England that one-fifth of the reserve held against the note circulation of the Issue Department of the Bank should consist of silver. This proposal was insufficient in itself, and it was also doubtful whether the Bank would consent to carry it into effect. The Conference therefore adjourned to meet the following year, but never met again.

10. In 1876, the question was discussed with no practical result by a Select Committee of your Honourable House.

11. It was again further discussed in 1885, by a similar Select Committee on the depression of Trade and Industry, and finally the question was considered by a Royal Commission in 1886. The members of that Commission were unanimously agreed that a Double Standard was practicable, but were equally divided as to the necessity of its adoption. They were further unanimously of opinion that, in the circumstances, the Government of India should be left free to adjust matters in the way that seemed to it best. No action was taken on their report.

12. Meanwhile the price of silver has fallen still further, and the exchange value of the rupee is at present only 15½ pence, and it is probable that, if left to itself, it will fall further and more heavily. It has been repeatedly prophesied by eminent economists that the rupee could not fall below 20 pence, then that it could not fall below 18 pence, then that it could not fall below 16 pence. All these prophesies have been signally falsified, and, from the best information available, it is clearly useless to prophesy that there is any limit approaching its present value below which the price of silver cannot fall. There appears to be no reason, when silver is abandoned as regards its principal function—to serve as a material for currency—why the rupee should not fall to a shilling and still lower.

13. The consequences of this persistent depreciation of the metal which still remains the standard of value for the Indian Empire, and of the violent fluctuations which are constantly, indeed daily, occurring in the exchange value of the rupee, have been of the gravest kind.

14. The loss to the Government in paying its sterling obligations in England may be reckoned at eight hundred millions of rupees, or eighty million pounds sterling at par of exchange, since the commencement of the depression, and at the present rate of exchange the loss is upwards of eighty millions of rupees, or eight million pounds sterling, at par of exchange, annually. Each fall of a penny in the exchange value of the rupee aggravates this heavy burden by the addition of more than ten millions of rupees, or one million sterling at par.

15. It is evident that the payment of sums of from eighty to one hundred millions of rupees annually, on account of exchange, is a burden which would tax the financial resources of the most flourishing country in the world. The Government must find the money, and, to find it, additional taxation must be levied of a grievous and harassing character.

16. The people of India are content to pay to the State in taxation all the money that is required for the due and orderly administration of the Empire, for its defence from foreign enemies, for the maintenance of internal peace and tranquillity, and for the progressive development of communications, public works, and the general resources of the country.

17. But the taxation of eighty millions of rupees now annually taken from the people of India is applied to none of these objects: it serves no useful purpose; and it is wrong from the people merely because the Government of India has not been permitted to regulate the currency system of the Empire with reference to the interests of the country.

18. If the currency had been so regulated there would either have been no necessity for such heavy taxation, or, if the money had been raised, it would have been applied to the reduction of debt, the more rapid extension of railways, of irrigation works, or other permanently useful objects.

19. While all classes of the people suffer from the imposition on them of a load of taxation, the receipts from which are not applied to any useful or necessary purpose, each class suffers in its own particular way from the condition of the currency.

20. The trading community are harassed by the uncertainty and the fluctuations of exchange to such an extent that legitimate trade is often replaced by speculative and gambling transactions; the importer is at a loss how to meet his engagements when exchange falls day by day; and the exporter is no gainer, for each fall in exchange is followed by an equivalent fall in the gold price of the commodities he exports.

21. It may be said indeed that, but for the fortunate accident that the Suez Canal was opened just as the depreciation commenced, enabling Indian goods to be taken expeditiously and cheaply to Europe, and but for the development of railway communications

which has enabled goods to be taken expeditiously and cheaply to the seaports, the trade of India would have been paralysed by those fluctuations and this depreciation, and the Empire would now have been in hopeless financial disorder and embarrassment.

22. The investment of English capital in the development of the material resources of the Empire is discouraged; for, both as regards the remittance of interest and the final transfer of invested profits and economies, the continuous fall in exchange imparts to the investment of capital in this country a speculative character and a risk which the capitalist is naturally unwilling to face.

23. The credit of the State is heavily injured by the depreciation in value of the rupee securities of the Government of India held in England, and the uncertainty in the amount of interest in gold which may be obtained by their holders. English capitalists are naturally as reluctant to invest their money in these securities as they are to invest it in India.

24. To the European officers of the Government, civil and military, and to all Europeans on rupee incomes, the depreciation of the standard has brought severe distress.

25. To the European who has retired, whether from the service or from business, and whose pension or income is paid in rupees, the continued depreciation has brought the greatest sorrow.

26. It may be said generally that the retention of the silver standard, while it has been rejected by the Western nations, has been productive of nothing but evil to every class of the population in India, the only persons who may have benefited from some time being those who have speculated for the fall.

27. It is not urged that the silver standard is in itself unsuitable to India. If the silver standard were adopted by other nations, its retention in India would be desirable. But it is entirely undesirable to retain the silver standard in a great empire such as this whose annual revenues amount to nine hundred millions of rupees, while its foreign trade amounts to nearly two thousand millions of rupees when the standard has been rejected and repudiated by most of the nations of the world. For it must be borne in mind that a considerable proportion of the revenues is raised to meet obligations incurred in England, a country with a gold standard, and much the largest part of the trade is conducted with England and other countries with a gold standard.

28. The people of India have long desired a re-establishment of the gold standard. Proposals for the introduction of that metal, as the standard of value, were pressed upon the Government of India as far back as 1859, and from that time onwards were repeated with persistence by the Chambers of Commerce and other public bodies for about fourteen years. Since 1873 the Government of India has repeatedly urged the acceptance of the double standard (gold and silver) by international arrangement, in view to its introduction into India.

29. None of these proposals were accepted, Her Majesty's Government having consistently declined, first to permit the introduction of a gold standard, and afterwards to aid in the international arrangements required for the effective introduction and maintenance of the double standard.

30. The result is that India is still compelled to retain as her monetary standard a metal which during the last twenty years has been rapidly and continuously losing the characters that should attach to a standard of value, and which now possesses them no longer in any degree. Indeed, silver is now hardly more fit than tin or copper to be a standard and measure of value, and it is unjust to the inhabitants of this Empire that its retention in that character should be insisted on.

Your petitioners, therefore, humbly pray that, in view of the considerations set forth above, Your Honourable House will be pleased to direct the application of a remedy for their grievances by the introduction of a speedy reform in the Indian Currency system.

Your petitioners represent that the introduction of the double standard can only be effected by international arrangement, but that international concert has hitherto been found impossible, that another international conference is now about to meet; that it is of the most vital importance to the interests of the Government and people of this Empire that an agreement should be arrived at; and that, therefore, every effort should be used on behalf of India to secure its success. If, however, the Conference should fail, like its predecessors, to arrive at a satisfactory solution of the questions referred to it, your petitioners pray that the Government of India may be fully empowered to take such measures as may to it seem fit for the adoption of the only remaining effectual remedy, namely, a gold standard; and your petitioners, having regard to the probability that the Conference will, like its predecessors, reach no practical issue, and that the price of silver will then be still more and incalculably depressed, further pray that the grant of power to the Government of India may be made now in view to its exercise without delay after the termination of the Conference.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c., &c.

Dated 13th June 1892.

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DROIT ET AVANT.

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY.

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1892.

No. 540

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### A KNIGHT OF RHINELAND.

CROWNING the steep his castle stood,  
Where Nature, with her deftest skill,  
Had traced the windings of the flood,  
And cleft the vale, and built the hill.

Above she spread her softest skies,  
Around she breathed her purest air,  
Bestowing freely what the wise  
Might seek with fasting and with prayer.

On slopes where most the south wind blew  
That subtle alchemist, the vine,  
Distilled from sunshine, cloud, and dew,  
Rare juices with the amber's shine.

Westward, great hills a curtain drew  
Before the sun, whose sinking beam  
Touched all their pinnacles, and threw  
Their lucid shadows to the stream.

But elsewhere, from his battlement,  
For leagues he saw the champaign spread,  
Verdure, with spires and roofs besprent,  
Till Rhine flashed out, a silver thread.

Ah! if the poet's dream were true  
That Nature, in such language, can  
Find suasive utterance, and imbue  
With her own soul the soul of man;

Peace in the hills' repose impart,  
Love on the fragrant winds dispense,  
And breathe in sunshine through the heart  
The gracious sky's beneficence;

Then had this Knight, so fraught with her,  
Lived large of heart and free of hand,  
And stood, as Nature's almoner,  
A fount of blessings in the land.

But, sooth, if he her scholar were,  
His inspirations' well might flow  
From wasting floods and deserts bare,  
Fierce hurricanes and polar snow.

His sway was as the eagle's sway,  
He, from his eyrie, round him saw  
A vassal race, and he and they  
Held might for right, and will for law.

The abject eye, the servile stoop,  
Told how the children of the soil  
Had lost all memory of the hope  
That sweetens thrift and lightens toil.

Stored in his cellars with his wine  
Were weary peasants' sighs and tears,  
The curses breathed above the vine,  
The pinings of the hopeless years.

The traveller through that land so fair,  
Who marked those towers against the sky,  
Crouched o'er his steed, put up a prayer,  
A whispered prayer, and hurried by.

On a peaked hill, a league away,  
A lordlier castle rose to sight;  
Its turrets caught the earliest day  
And latest kept the evening light.

Fair part it was of that fair scene,  
But to the Knight a hateful spot;  
A rival's prosperous state had been  
In bowers of Paradise a blot.

Nor vain his hate; a night there came  
When din of arms the stillness broke;  
When towers went crashing down in flame,  
And all the stars were veiled in smoke.

And morning lit a dreary waste  
Of shattered wall and ruined roof,  
Lawn, bow'r, and vineyard all defaced,  
As if the fiend had stamped his hoof.

The Knight laughed low to see the sky  
At rift and broken arch look through,  
And marked with well-contented eye  
The blackened rafters bar the blue.

And so he lived;—and when he died  
His spirit flourished in his line,  
And still were dreaded far and wide  
The robber-chieftains of the Rhine;

While o'er them, pleading all in vain,  
Hung the soft beauty of the sky;  
Vines clothed the hill, and corn the plain,  
And the great stream flowed stately by.

—Blackwood, May, 1874.

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## WEEKLYANA.

THE following has been circulated throughout the Anglo-Indian Press with much glee as if it were crushing :—

"The *Madras Mail* writes :—The Bombay papers devote no less than seven columns to the report of the proceedings at the meeting held in Bombay the other day to congratulate Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji on his election as a Member of Parliament. One speaker remarked that the action taken by the Central Finsbury electors had drawn 'the people of the Indian Empire' nearer to England and nearer to the throne than ever they were drawn before. This is rather high falutin stuff, for 'the people of the Indian Empire,' as a whole, have probably not the slightest idea that Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji has been elected, nor do they probably even know of the existence of that gentleman."

That is the remark of rage at the success of the Black Man. If the Bombay speaker's utterance was not high falutin exactly, it was certainly effusive, and effusiveness was natural to the occasion. As for the sneer at Mr. Naoroji being unknown to the people of India, if by people is meant the lowest masses, how many of the people of England in that sense know of the leading politicians of the land? There are thousands who do not know of Queen Victoria.

THE full answer to those who are still gnashing their teeth at the election of a native of India will come by and bye, when Mr. Naoroji has been sometime in the House. Meanwhile, the prospect is foreshadowed in the reception already accorded to his maiden speech. The London Correspondent of the *Indian Daily News*, writing of the debate on the Address in the new House, says :—

"One feature of the debate on Tuesday night was the maiden speech of Mr. Naoroji, the first native Indian member ever returned to the House of Commons, and who has, by reason of the very small margin of votes which secured his return (his majority now turns out to have been five, and not three) and by reason of the difficulty which the English tongue finds in pronouncing his unfamiliar name, become known in the lobby as 'Mr. Narrow-majority.' His speech, which was delivered with an easy fluency, which took the House by surprise, so accustomed did he seem to the art of public speaking, did not address itself at all to the current topics of British politics, but confined itself to a grateful and somewhat gushing expression of almost wondering thanks that he should have been selected to fill a place in the Parliament of the Empire. He produced a distinctly good impression upon the House, and is expected to be of great service to it when subjects affecting the interests of our Indian fellow-subjects come up for consideration."

Not a doubt of that. But more than that, he will be of distinct service in purely English questions.

THE interest of the public has been centred during the week in Hyderabad. On Monday, the case of Nawab Mehdi Hassan against Mr. S. M. Mitra for defamation was regularly opened in the Residency court before Mr. Bosanquet, C. S. The public attendance was unprecedented. Special arrangements had been made for seating visitors, nevertheless many people had to stand both in the room and in the verandahs and outside.

Mr. Inverarity, of Bombay, instructed by Mr. Forbes, pleader, appeared for Nawab Mehdi Hassan, Mr. Eardley Norton, Madras, instructed by Mr. Edgelow, Solicitor, of Bombay, and Moulvi Karamet Hassan, Barrister-at-law, Law Lecturer at the Aligarh College, appeared for Mr. S. M. Mitra.

Mr. Inverarity opened with a statement and some remarks about the defamatory nature of what is now known as the "Scandal Pamphlet." He then examined nine witnesses, eight belonging to the Record Press. Connor, a native Christian, and Manager of the Record Press, said he had printed 300 copies of the pamphlet for fifty *halki* rupees, of which Mr. Mitra paid him Rs. 30 by cheque in advance. He only knew the contents of the pamphlet after it was printed, as he was ill in hospital, and had deputed his friend, Fisher, to print it. He gave Mr. Mitra six copies on Sunday evening.

Fisher, a native Christian, proof-reader of the Residency Press, said, he distributed MS. to compositors in the Record Press and corrected the first proof, Mr. Mitra correcting the rest. The other seven witnesses said that they printed 300 pamphlets in the Record Press on Sunday the 13th March, which was also the *Holi* festival day. The witnesses contradicted each other on some important points.

Mr. Eardley Norton reserved their cross-examination till he had heard from the complainant his story. Nawab Mehdi Hassan entered the witness-box in the afternoon. Examined by his counsel, he said that he first met his wife Gertrude Donnelly in 1872, when she was fourteen years old. Her father objected to the marriage. After her father's death he corresponded with Gertrude and married her in 1873, according to Islamite rites. She had told him she was a

Mahomedan. The marriage contract was here put in as an exhibit. It was in Mehdi Hassan's handwriting, with some corrections by Gertrude about her age and the spelling of her name. Mehdi's family is Sunni, but his father became Shia, and Mehdi is also Shia of the Akbari sect. His "wife" has always been received as his married wife. He always believed her to be his lawful wife. As far as Mehdi knew, Gertrude was never a prostitute. Her being a prostitute had never even been suggested to Mehdi before he read the pamphlet. She lived as a Mahomedan about ten years and observed purdah. She had always been an affectionate and faithful wife. Mehdi never prostituted his wife by young Salar Jung. He denied all the allegations of the pamphlet. Gertrude had led a pure life since her marriage, and also before marriage. About a year or two after their coming here, Gertrude began mixing in society.

Nawab Mehdi Hassan, in reply to Mr. Norton's questions, said that the Hyderabad Government permitted him to utilise the Government officers to make an enquiry. He did not think that enquiry has been reduced to writing except the statement of witnesses for publication. Colonel Ludlow, Inspector-General of the Nizam's Police, had made some enquiries through Inspector Stevenson. Mehdi did not know if Colonel Ludlow made enquiries in Northern India. Nawab Asman Jah did not communicate with Colonel Ludlow except about Stevenson's services. All official papers between Asman Jah and Colonel Ludlow had to pass through him, as Home Secretary.

Here Mr. Eardley Norton dictated the following sentence to Mehdi Hassan. "Smith and his wife have quarrelled. His interest is opposed to that of the lady's." This being written by Mehdi Hassan was put in as an exhibit by Mr. Norton. All sorts of speculation are rife as to what this strange exhibit means.

On Tuesday, Mr. Norton resumed his cross-examination of Nawab Mehdi Hassan, who remained under it the whole day. He said he offered a reward of Rs. 5,000—through Hurmosji, the Government Solicitor, for tracing the author of the pamphlet. He did not think it advisable to publish the reward. In addition to Hurmosji, Messrs. Roughton and Byrne, of Bombay, were his solicitors. They are also the Nizam's Government solicitors.

Mr. Norton read the following passages from a letter of Yusuf Zaman to Nawab Mehdi Hassan :

"The scandal has spread far and wide. She must be a bold woman if she still persists in moving in high circles. Who is the fool who advised you to press for a commission to investigate the scandal without any preparation? Her previous conduct in Nenpara and Lucknow was no secret from you or her. Many persons are still living who knew her intimately; and as you raised your head above the common level she acquired greater notoriety. I am sure I have seen her photo. in Hindustani dress, but I cannot tell you in whose possession. That secret treasure could be surely (?) It is not in my hand or I would send it to you to destroy it. It is true that 20 years have passed away; but she did not pass those days in oblivion. Your enemies must certainly be behind the bush in ambush, to spring upon you when you were least prepared."

The name of Yusuf Zaman is mentioned in the pamphlet. Some photos of Mrs. Mehdi Hassan in native dress were then produced by Mr. Norton. One of them deponent admitted to be his wife's, saying that for ten years after marriage she was in seclusion and wore native clothes. He confessed that the Resident, Mr. Plowden, had asked him about his alleged marriage, but he refused to proceed to details, unless he got the Resident's permission to disclose such official communication.

After some discussion between Mr. Norton and Mr. Inverarity, the Magistrate telegraphed to the Resident at Bolarum whether he had any objection to Nawab Mehdi Hassan's disclosing the official communication. Mehdi Hassan denied that Mr. Morton Frewen, who introduced him and his wife in London society, on hearing that Gertrude was not his married wife, wanted to horsewhip Mehdi for cheating him.

Witness denied having seen articles in the now defunct *Record* about his alleged marriage.

At 3 P.M., when the Court assembled after tiffin, Mr. Norton applied for a process for Nawab Sarwar Jung to attend the next day.

Though no reply was yet received from the Resident Mr. Plowden, Mehdi Hassan voluntarily said that he had shown a printed copy of his marriage document to the Resident. Mehdi Hassan admitted that his wife's sister, Mrs. Hodges, was a woman of ill-fame, but said Gertrude, his wife, was pure. He denied Gertrude's having been kept by Hyder Hussain, Ladlay Sahib, &c. He also denied that Miss Thoburn, sister of Bishop Thoburn, or the Reverend Rajab Ali had

tried to persuade her to lead a good life in Lucknow in 1872. Mehdi Hassan admitted having kept Gertrude before their marriage in a house of his alone; and that he and his three intimate friends used to go there every day, but not at night. He said Gertrude's living under his protection before marriage in this way did not seem strange to him. The Court closed after 5 P. M.

ON the 1st instant, the cross-examination by Mr. Norton continued, Nawab Mehdi Hassan being in the witness box the whole day.

He deposed that he wrote to the Minister to get copies of Nawab Sarwar Jang's letters on reading the article and telegrams in the *Indian Daily News*. In explanation, he said he always thought the *Indian Daily News* was Sarwar Jang's organ, and therefore he relied upon it about the pamphlet case matters. His petition for permission to prosecute Sarwar Jang had gone to the Nizam, but no reply had been received. Sir Asman Jah always gave him evasive replies to his petition.

The extracts from the *Indian Daily News*, quoted by deponent in his petition, were read out.

Nawab Mehdi Hassan admitted that Mr. Stevenson, of the Nizam's Police, Finglass and one native Christian schoolmaster, named Norton, were helping him in the inquiry. He said Mitra confessed to Superintendent Stevenson that he had published the pamphlet. He had offered Mitra Rs. 5,000 or more if necessary, to give the real author's name. Raja Murli Monohar's private secretary, Vasudeva Row, B.A., had asked Rs. 1,000 to give evidence against Mitra, and Rs. 5,000 to incriminate Syed Ali Bilgrami. Deponent said that in Police Superintendent Stevenson's opinion, the prime movers were Sarwar Jang and Syed Ali Bilgrami, with Sir Khurshed Jah at the back. He also considered Colonel Dobbs an active mover, and a minor mover was the Reverend Rajab Ali, but he did not think that the Club clerk Amraya was a mover. Nawab Mehdi Hassan did not know that Sarwar Jang had stated to the Minister that Gertrude Donnelly and her sisters were notorious prostitutes in Lucknow.

The Nawab has retained Messrs. Jackson and Woodroffe of Calcutta; he was not sure if he had retained Sir G. P. Evans also. He retained them through Mr. Saunders. He has engaged Messrs. Jardine, Inverarity and Lang of Bombay, and also Messrs. Roughton and Byrne, Hormasji, Forbes, Fitzpatrick, &c. all from his own purse.

Here Mr. Eardley Norton introduced a great sensation in court, asking Nawab Mehdi Hassan plain and plump whether he was an agent for procuring women for young Salar Jung's lust. The astonishment of all may be imagined at the audacity of counsel. Mehdi, of course, was most affected. He denied the far from soft impeachment.

Mr. Norton was fully prepared for the boldest mendacity. He now read out a letter from Mehdi Hassan to young Salar Jung inviting him to come to Mehdi Hassan's house.

Mehdi Hassan said in that letter that "his bedroom was ready," and that "his room was far separate from the lady's." It was also written that "all arrangements were made" (the word arrangements was underlined in the letter.)

How this Nawab Saheb looked at the discovery that his private correspondence had fallen into the hands of the enemy, may be better imagined than described.

Mehdi Hassan admitted the letter to be his, and made desperate attempts to explain it away. He swore that he never meant anything improper.

Mr. Norton said he would prove it.

Mehdi Hassan admitted having attempted to arrest Mr. Mitra by telegraphing to Mr. Crawford, and writing to Police Commissioner Akbar Jang, but said that he did so in his private capacity.

Mr. Norton here said he would postpone further cross-examination till Sarwar Jang was examined, but Mr. Inverarity declined to re-examine till the whole cross-examination was over.

ON the 2nd, Mehdi Hassan, without permission from the Court, while he was in the witness box, gave his turban to Mr. Gribble to put on the table. Mr. Gribble put the turban on the table; but the Magistrate ordered Mehdi Hassan to wear his turban.

Mr. Mitra's counsel, Moulvi Karamet Hassan, put a question on Mahomedan law which quite puzzled the Hyderabad ex-Chief Justice. Mehdi Hassan showed considerable ignorance of Mahomedan law, and could not cite any authority.

As soon as the Magistrate sat, Raja Murli Manohar's private secretary Vasudeva Row, addressing the Magistrate, said that he

had heard that yesterday Nawab Mehdi Hassan had attacked his character, and he therefore offered to give his evidence, and craved permission to enter the witness box.

The Magistrate said he could not help him that way, unless Mr. Inverarity or Mr. Norton called him as a witness, but neither of these gentlemen would call Vasudeva as a witness.

Mehdi Hassan voluntarily entering the box, said that his previous statement that he did not write about his wife's precedence in State entertainments was wrong. He admitted having written to the then Resident, Mr. Cordery, about his wife's precedence, and Mr. Cordery granted it. Mehdi here read a telegram that his wife was at Gaziabad on the way to Hyderabad.

The Minister's private secretary, Fardoonji, was then examined. He admitted having heard disagreeable rumours about Mehdi's wife in 1888; and that he had a discussion with the Minister about it. But he refused to answer almost all the questions put, on the plea of privileged communications.

Thereupon, Mr. Eardley Norton requested the Court to serve a process upon Sir Asman Jah, the Minister, to give evidence as a witness for the defence.

The Nizam's private secretary, Syed Hussain Belgrami, and Mustaq Hossein will also, it is surmised, be summoned as witnesses. Sarwar Jang was not present to-day, no process having apparently yet reached him.

Shujat Ali, the Rai Rayan's manager, Zaki Ali of the Court of Wards, Ameer Mirza, without any occupation, Mahomet Hussain, Director of Agriculture, and Sadulla, a renegade school teacher or usher, were examined. Shujat Ali and Ameer Mirza were present at Mehdi's marriage; Mahomet Hussain believed Mehdi and Gertrude Donnelly to be man and wife and always received them as such. Sadulla, the husband of the woman murdered in the notorious city murder case, deposed that he had helped Mitra in translating the pamphlet into English from Urdu. He said the original Urdu manuscript was in the Reverend Rajib Ali's handwriting, and the addresses were written in his presence by Amraya, the clerk of the Hyderabad Club and supposed to be Colonel Dobbs' man. He admitted changing his religion like a coat, he having from a Mahomedan become a Methodist and then a Roman Catholic. As a Roman Catholic he now gets twenty rupees per month as a teacher in the Roman Catholic school.

The case will be resumed on Monday. The summons on Sir Asman Jah as a witness for Mr. Mitra has frightened the intriguers.

BABOO Joygobind Law will disburse his own donation to the Zoo. He is gazetted a member of the Committee of Management of the Gardens.

THE Lieutenant-Governor left for the summer retreat on Thursday. He reaches Darjeeling this day, having halted one day at Jalpaiguri.

BY a new rule, the holder of a junior scholarship is left, with the sanction of the Director of Public Instruction, to hold it at any one of the affiliated colleges or at any Government Medical School of his choice.

LORD Cross goes out of office with an Extra Knight Grand Commander-ship of the Star of India.

## NOTES & LEADERETTES

with

### OUR OWN NEWS.

THE ravages of cholera in Europe continue. Already one hundred and fifty thousand deaths are reported from Russia. In Hamburg, the number of fatal cases has come up to one thousand. The hospitals there are full of the diseased and the dead. As many as four hundred corpses are said to be lying unburied in one shed, the corridors of hospitals being entirely blocked with the dead and their clothing. In the French capital too the malady has made its appearance, attacking several nurses in hospitals. In England, the excitement of the general elections has been followed by the panic of cholera. There have been deaths from that disease at Dundee, at South Shields and at Islington. Orders have been issued on owners of ships and steamers to detain on board filthy and destitute aliens till they can furnish

exact details as to their destination, which they generally cannot. The theory is that the cholera is an importation from Hamburg. The panic has crossed the Atlantic. In the New World, they too are guarding the ports against the invasion of cholera. A twenty days' quarantine and longer, if necessary, has been imposed on vessels carrying immigrants, practically stopping immigration. The panic has affected the New York Stock Market.

A CONSERVATIVE heifer attacked Mr. Gladstone in his own Park at Hawarden, and knocked him down. The Premier was, however, unhurt. He took refuge behind a tree. The brute had, however, to pay for its folly. It was shot before it could do any harm beyond severely shaking its victim.

IN New Zealand, they have passed a law allowing female suffrage.

OWING to an explosion, over one hundred miners have been buried alive at Bridgend.

THE Australian merchants Redfern and Alexander have suspended payment with a liability of a quarter of a million sterling.

THE London and General Bank has failed. Its paid up capital is £8,00,000.

THERE was a rumour that the questions of the Arabic Examinations had leaked out from the custody of the Head Moulvi of the Calcutta Medressah, and that Dr. Hoernle was holding an enquiry. How has the enquiry ended or what orders have been passed by the Director of Public Instruction?

To what extent bitter feelings could be excited between the Shias and Sunnis, and what amount of mischief could be committed by the utterance of the *Tabarra* by the Shias, and why the Shah of Persia, himself a Shia, has considered it advisable and desirable to issue a proclamation throughout his dominions interdicting its use will be evident to all non-Mahomedan communities, from the following paragraph:—

"Telegrams received from the Frontier report more fighting on the 21st between Shias and Sunnis at Killa Miraskur. The Sunnis burned fifteen Shia villages and twenty two were killed on both sides."

The general community of the Lower Provinces ought to be thankful to Sir Charles Elliott for the suppression, with a strong hand, of all causes for such bitter ebullition of feeling between the two sects, in several places, where it had recently manifested itself. Justice Pigot's decision in the Chupra case will also shew that the judiciary are not inclined to interfere in the arrangements which the executive consider necessary for the preservation of the public peace.

We trust that the combined action of the executive and the judiciary will succeed once for all in putting a stop to similar attempts to break the peace in future.

It seems from a News-Letter dated Chupra, August 29, appearing in the *Indian Daily News* of August 31, that the Magistrate of the District had recommended the Municipal Commissioners to introduce section 337 of the Bengal Municipal Act with a view to prohibit the sale of perishable provisions on the roadside, and nowhere but in the new municipal market. A resolution to that effect was moved and seconded but not carried. The correspondent says:—

"For want of votes it was negatived, the native members arguing that there was no necessity existing to disturb the present arrangements, and to continue to allow the dealers in vegetables and fish to sell from house to house in the town, and that it would be inconvenient to *purda nashin* women to make their daily purchases of vegetables from the market."

The Commissioners were certainly right in not passing the resolution. Such a step in the interest of a new market cannot but be a constant and daily hardship on the community at large and sure to end in failure—a rule more honored in the breach than the observance. The Commissioners proved themselves wise and practical men and no mere theorists. They might as well decline to take up the matter, inasmuch as the law sought to be enforced did not apply. Section 337 runs thus:—

"The Commissioners at a meeting may order that, within such limits as they may fix, no land shall be used as a market for the sale of meat,

fish, butter, ghee, fruits, vegetables, and similar provisions, otherwise than under a license to be granted by the Commissioners."

Is this provision open to the construction that the Commissioners of a Bengal municipality are competent to compel itinerant vendors of articles of food to give up their trade? It is hard to believe that one solitary vendor can make a market of any and every place. The municipal law itself does not pretend to lay down such a rule. Section 336, Part X. Regulation of Markets, enacts:—

"No place shall be deemed to be 'a Municipal market' within the meaning of the last preceding section, and no place shall be deemed to be a market to which the following sections of this Part apply, unless at least thirty shops, stalls or standings are erected therein for the sale of goods."

The prohibition of section 337 to use a place as a market cannot possibly apply to peripatetic dealers of perishable goods. Other sections and laws must be brought into requisition to stop the sale of unwholesome food. That kind of food is equally to be condemned whether sold at the municipal market or anywhere else. The article sold and not the place where it is sold ought to be the chief object of the sanitarian. When the article is allowable, then comes the question of eligibility of the place of sale.

ON Tuesday, at the Suburban Police Court at Alipur, a princeling of the Oudh Family was accused of a truly princely prank. The victim was a venerable looking man of 85 years, by profession a confectioner, named Ahmad Hussein. He was sleeping in his open verandah in perfect confidence under Her Majesty's protection, without a thought of princes or princelings. On awaking, he felt himself distinctly light in the upper story. He shook his head and recognised a sense of disburdenment, but was at a loss to discern the cause. He handled the top of his head and found it the same as before. Then he mused in mute astonishment, when on a sudden mechanically handling his beard he touched his chin without feeling his beard. Horror of horrors! Was it possible that there was no covering to his old wrinkled face beyond the bare skin? that he had lost during the night his magnificent hisute appendage of eighty-five long years? He repeatedly searched with his palms and fingers but felt only some stunted stumps—that was all. He hurried to his glass. But that true witness so far from relieving his anxiety, revealed to him the whole extent of his disaster. The treasure of his life—his pride in this world and his hope in the next—was gone or reduced to a mockery. Who could be the thief—the heartless man—that filched from him his good beard, robbing him of that which not enriches the robber, and makes him poor indeed. He was about to rush out in quest when a thought struck him. How could he, a respectable hoary-headed man, appear in public in his nakedness? With what face could he meet his neighbours? Indeed, he would not be recognised! A great beard, like a great book, may be a great evil, as the great Akbar the Great insisted, when, at the instance of the Hinduis in the Harem, he wanted the Mahomedans to go clean shaved. (*Vide* the celebrated *Muntakhabat Twarikh of Mahlana Abdul Kader of Badaon*, commonly known as the *Tarikh-i-Badaoni*) But it was unquestionably a great thing. If not necessarily a thing of beauty and a joy for ever, it is a prominent landmark in the continent of the male human form divine. It is the most important feature for fixing the person. A change in mere costume confuses identity—how much more the absence of a copious beard! What dire calamity to the man of sweets to the sweet ungrudging payers of cash to be precluded from complaining and appealing to the sympathy of his neighbours! So, before venturing out, he proceeded to disguise his enforced dis-guise—to cover the shame of his new condition. Then in the apparition of an Egyptian Habarah rather than an Indian Burka (as these are differentiated side by side in two columns of the same page in Hughes' great book on Mahomedanism), the poor man sallied forth in quest of the enemy. The appearance of an old male in that wonderful plight, with his whole face carefully hid, except the eyes, created a sensation in the neighbourhood and attracted all the little urchins. What with the interrogatories of the amazed inhabitants and the persecution of the street Arabs, he was scarcely allowed to make known his own business. In despair, he went straight to the criminal court, where, of course, another scene took place. The Magistrate granted summons.

The reporters of the morning press speak of the laughter which was excited in court. It may be fun to others but to the sufferer it is very far from a joke. It is a serious matter—an irreparable calamity.

Any man who has successfully cultivated a fine mustache or stylish mutton chops or a noble beard, will understand that. Samson was not the only man whose strength lay in his hair. In many cases, the hair is the best part of the man. Certainly, people without number have owed their success in life to a lucky bush or tuft on the head-piece.

THE *Hindoo Patriot* is doing a service by publishing some of the minutes of the Hurdwar Mela Inquiry, unfortunately without date. They disclose nothing out of the common. The brutal harshness with which the poor pilgrims were "chucked" out of the holy site, was of the usual character of Police oppression in India. It is difficult for Government, perhaps, to help what seems to pertain to national failing. But whenever such revelations chance to crop up, the little men dressed in brief authority who abuse it, should be severely dealt with.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, September 3, 1892.

### THE MAHOMEDANS AND THE GRAND OLD MAN.

THE London *Daily News* publishes a communication from a Turk of Constantinople, from which it would appear that the approaching advent of Mr. Gladstone to power was causing lively satisfaction at that capital. The Mussulmans other than the official classes have, it is said, always considered that illustrious English statesman as defender of the oppressed of all creeds and nationalities. Unable to manifest their feeling in open meeting, the Turkish Reform Party have circulated in Constantinople and in the principal towns of the Turkish Empire, a Proclamation dated the 15th July, in which they say: "Like their co-religionists of India, the Mussulmans of Turkey hail with sincere pleasure the victory of the Grand Old Man. Turks, Arabs, and others, are they not equally oppressed, exploited, and down-trodden by the same band of official brigands? Mr. Gladstone has never been the enemy of any nation; if he declared sixteen years ago, that the Turks must be turned out of Europe bag and baggage, he was merely alluding to the despicable and voracious bureaucrats of Turkey. The Ottoman patriots feel grateful to Mr. Gladstone for having thundered against the corruption, the abuses, the crimes, and the organised massacres which have brought about the dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire. The Ottomans would feel grateful to Mr. Gladstone, whom they hail as their best friend, if by his policy he were to contribute to free them from the criminal oligarchy which has deprived them of the primary rights of man, by the restitution of the Constitution of 1876, and by applying the principle of Home Rule to several of our provinces, like Crete, Armenia, Albania, and Arabia, where the local wants make it indispensable."

We quote the above proclamation at full length, because it begins with a declaration that the Mahomedans of India hail the advent of the Grand Old Man with great pleasure. That is a ludicrously false statement, and we wonder how it came to be made. These Turks are very ill informed touching the affairs of India. If anybody in India advised them to the above effect, they have been sadly betrayed. The least observant cannot fail to perceive the obvious truth, which is different. It is astonishing to notice the views which, by implication, the authors of the Proclamation attribute to the followers of Islam in this country. We do not see, and have never heard, that the Mahomedans of India are so much delighted at the defeat of the Conservative ministry and the triumph of the Liberals; or that

they profess such an amount of love for Mr. Gladstone personally after the enunciation of his famous "bag and baggage" policy, as to gloat over his success; or that they are longing like the Irish majority for the introduction of Home Rule in India; or that they are so much dissatisfied with the Turkish Government, as the so-called Mahomedan correspondent of the *Daily News* seems evidently to be, that they wish its dismemberment or rather annihilation by the powerful disintegrating battery of Mr. Gladstone; or that they are discontented to such an extent with their present lot under the sway of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress as to wish that the Liberal ministry will allow the Russians to invade Afghanistan and ultimately to come to India and drive away the British and thereby effect a change in the Government.

Our experience lies rather the other way. From the opportunities we have had of judging of the feelings of the Mahomedans of India, we are led to believe, that they are highly grateful to the Conservative ministry and specially to the Marquis of Salisbury, for their unflagging zeal and notable skill and tact in maintaining, after the close of the Russo-Turkish War so disastrous to the Sultan, the integrity of Turkey, in spite of strong opposition at home and abroad, and thereby preventing its utter dissolution and with it the demolition of their beloved and revered holy cities of Arabia of which the Sultan is universally held to be the custodian. And Mahomedans and Hindus alike are exceedingly grateful to the late Cabinet for their firm policy, which to this day does not allow Russia to interfere with Afghanistan, an interference which means the ultimate invasion of India.

We suspect that the Turkish correspondent of the *Daily News* is a Russian in disguise, and the Turkish Reform Party, whoever they may be, are in the pay of Russia, and that the mendacious Proclamation has been started with the evident object of involving the Turkish Government in difficulties, not only with its own Mahomedan subjects but also with the whole Mahomedan world, by whom the Sultan is justly considered as the Defender of the Faith. That Russia expends a large sum in such reproductive intrigues, more than any other state, is well known. That a great part of the European press has long been in the pay of the Czar, was first openly stated more than a generation back in Mr. Danby Seymour's book, and is, we believe, a recognized fact.

### THE HEDJAZ THE HOME OF THE CHOLERA.

THE sanitary condition of the holy places of Arabia has attracted much attention during recent years,—less, we suspect, out of anxiety for the safety of the poor, ill-conditioned pilgrims huddled together in foul sloops and wretched steamers and hurried across country to their destination to crowd it, than for the protection of Europe from the transportation of cholera from those notorious centres. The Europeans, in their nervous dread of this disease, are persuaded that its spread is generally due to pilgrim traffic to the holy cities of the Mahomedans, and that if these places are kept in a good sanitary condition they will avoid the scourge. They are convinced that the wave of epidemic comes from Asia or Africa and that the disease cannot arise *de novo* in a temperate climate, for there are at least some European cities whose sanitary condition is as

bad as, or even worse than, that of the much-abused places of Mahomedan pilgrimage. That idea is a pure delusion; that conviction perfectly unwarranted by facts. Before the commencement of any epidemic of cholera, cases occur in places so distant from one another as to preclude the possibility of spreading infection from a pre-existing focus, and these individually form centres for its progress towards all directions. Such is the genesis of Epidemics not only in Lower Bengal but everywhere, notwithstanding the boasted sanitary condition of some of the best European cities. Fresh cases newly take place in a locality after a lapse of many months, forbidding the suggestion of incubation, and perhaps for a long time we shall not meet with any, if particular care is taken of the sanitary arrangements. We are, however, more concerned with the spread of the disease than its origin. It would be reasonable if equal concern were shewn for those cities of Europe whose sanitary condition is no better than that of the holy places of Arabia. What a pity that, instead of the cause of the epidemic being investigated, an alarm is raised of its invasion of Europe, and the poor Porte and its allies are made the whipping boy of the nations! At the Epidemiological Society of London, Inspector-General Lawson read a paper on "Cholera in ships at sea and its connection with manifestation of the same disease on land," pointing out that the cholera outbreak in certain coolie ships was due to other causes than infection carried from the ports whence the vessels started. In the emigrant vessels referred to, the first case occurred after the twentieth day, almost at the highest limit of the incubation period assigned by any medical authority. But a ship out on sea with latent cholera germs ought to have a much less period of incubation than while in harbour, for we cannot expect a better healthy surrounding than a sea. The mortality during the twenty-six days was trifling, and as the ships neared Mauritius it grew severe. Then he cited the *Swanton* and the *New York* carrying emigrants from Havre. The former after twenty-six days and the latter after sixteen days at sea had cholera. The *Swanton* had experienced a hot wind and the *New York* a cold one just before the attack. In the case of the latter vessel, the outbreak was ascribed to unpacking of clothes soiled by choleraic discharges in Germany and using them, but the same explanation cannot hold good for the former, which was then enjoying a warm weather from the desert blasts of Africa and required no additional clothing. Regarding the *Crofton Hall* which left Calcutta on the 3rd of June last and had to return soon after, it was, as usual, at first stated that the cholera had been shipped from Calcutta, but it was soon after found that those only who had eaten the pickled beef were affected. Again, there is just now an outbreak of cholera in Paris, and to what can it be ascribed? Were the cholera germs transported there too from India to cause a havoc in that centre of fashion? In this connection, it is also noteworthy that, while the Europeans are afraid of the Holy Land of Islam, so much so as to be prepared, at critical times, to put a stop to the annual Exodus from India, they never for a moment direct their attention to Christian pilgrimage to Jerusalem, a city by no means more healthy nor better kept than the holy cities of Arabia, according to the testimony of English medical men themselves.

We now come to the Hajj itself. That is the name by which is understood the pilgrimage of the Mahome-

dans to the shrines of Mecca and Medina in the Hedjaz the former being sacred as the birthplace of the Prophet, Mahommed, and for the ancient temple of the Arabian race, the Kaaba, and the latter as the city of the Prophet's refuge from the violent enmity of his native townsmen of Mecca, the scene of his triumphs and the success of his mission. There are two ways to reach the cities of Mecca and Medina from the Red Sea coast. The route most generally taken is from Jedda to Mecca and then to Medina, the pilgrims returning to Mecca and embarking at Jedda. The other is Yambu, and it holds the same relation to Medina as Jedda does to Mecca. There is a third route inland from Damascus through the desert. The accounts of these places are only available from Mahomedan visitors and European travellers, principally from the last, among whom are Ali Bey, Burckhardt, Burton, Irwin, Niebuhr, Seetzen and Wellsted. Last of all, there is the account of Dr. Abdur Razzak who accompanied the pilgrims in 1878-79. It would not be uninteresting to mention here a little of Burckhardt. He went there in 1814 and suffered severely from dysentery at Mecca and from fever at Medina and on his return to Egypt died from the former disease in 1817, though attended by Dr. Robert Richardson during his last illness at Cairo. He lived and died as a Mahomedan, and over his grave a full white turban is sculptured with the Arabic inscription, "Sheikh Ibrahim, the Moslem, the European traveller."

The annual number of pilgrims as roughly estimated at different times, varies from fifty thousand to a lac. During the *Hajji Akbar* which takes place on every 12th year, the number may even be doubled. In 1827 Ali Bey estimated it at 83,000, in 1814 Burckhardt at 70,000, in 1853 Burton at 50,000, in 1879 Abdur Bazzak at 60,000, and in 1880 Wilfrid Blunt at 93,000. Mr. John Ray in 1693 quotes an author who speaks of about 2,000,000 pilgrims. The Indian Mussulmans on their way to the Hajj, arriving at Yalumlum, a hill about one day's journey from Aden, bathe and put on two seamless cloths, one around the loins and another on the upper part of the body leaving the head bare. If any one covers the head by mistake he has to pay a penalty for it. Here they have to bind *ehram* (a piece of thread on the head as a vow to perform the Hajj rightfully) and utter "Allahumma Labbaik" (here I am, O God! in obedience to thy call,) and several other words to be frequently repeated afterwards. At Kamran they have to pass through a quarantine, and after a day's voyage they reach Jedda, the nearest seaport town of Mecca.

Jedda is about a mile long with 20,000 inhabitants and contains a large number of pilgrim lodgings, each room accommodating from ten to twenty people, so that the city is very much crowded. The sewage is carried by deepening passages into sinks to be chiefly absorbed in the soil. The water is supplied from tanks of rain water and from the springs of Hadda, a midway town between Jedda and Mecca, the latter being forty-five miles east of the former. Just outside Jedda, there is the supposed grave of Hawwa (Eve), where the pilgrims read the Fatiha (prayer for the dead). The road is hilly and barren, and it generally takes two nights to reach Mecca, the day being spent at Hadda.

Mecca is at the height of about 2,000 feet from the level of the sea, in a valley with hills on two sides of granite formation. The town is about three

miles long with a population of more than 50,000. The number is doubled or trebled during the pilgrim season. With the exception of the main street, the others are from ten to twelve yards wide and are neglected and dirty. The stone built houses, with two to five stories in height and small rooms, afford imperfect accommodation to the population. Some Indian Mahomedans receive their countrymen free. The climate is dry and would be bracing but for the heat. The soil being arid, there is no vegetation, and fruits, &c. are brought from Taif two days' journey due east. A covered deep drain is attached to every house with which all the privies are connected, and this communicates with a pit opposite the house forming a cess pool. The water supply was formerly from rain and brackish spring wells as the famous Zemzem, but at present it is furnished by the aqueduct of Zobaida, named in A. H. 170 after the wife of Harun-al-Rashid. It is a stupendous work of solid masonry, carrying water from mountains east of Arafat by way of Muzdalifah and Mina to Mecca. It has been often out of repair and restored in A. H. 634, 726, 811, 821, and last in 969 by the wife of Suleiman by clearing the original springs of Hunain and Noman and channelling the rock about 2,000 yards to Mecca, and since with occasional repairs, the water has been abundant. It is distributed from five or six reservoirs to the different parts of the city, the largest of them being near the market place. From the stop attached to the mouth of the aqueduct water skins are filled by carriers for final distribution during certain hours of the day. The mosque of Kaaba in the centre of the town is very clean. Here the pilgrims turn round the mosque seven times and run within the hills of Safa and Marwa the same number of times. Before Mahomed's time, Jerusalem (Beit ul Mukaddas) was the Kaaba, but it was the Prophet's desire to read the prayers facing Beitullah as its erection by Abraham precedes the founding of the other temple. On the 9th day of the month of Zil Hej, it is incumbent on the pilgrims to attend the sermon on the hill of Arafat, where they are to proceed through Mina and Muzdalifah. Outside the last city, at about noon, they read the *Fatiha* in Dada Adam's masjid and go to Arafat. It was here that Father Adam first saw Eve after their expulsion from Paradise. The pilgrims come back in the evening to read their prayers at Muzdalifah and collect forty-nine stones and wash them. In Arafat there are three large tanks from which water is taken out, but washing is not allowed and each is guarded by a Turkish soldier with fixed bayonet though in a pilgrim's garb. These tanks derive their water from the aqueduct of Zobaida running round the hill. During Ali Bey's time there were fourteen of these. From Muzdalifah they return the following morning to Mina. After shaving they perform Korbani (sacrifice). This town is long and narrow, and the sanitary arrangements most unsatisfactory. The slaughtered animals, more than a hundred thousand, are thrown into trenches insufficient to receive them, and owing to severe heat speedy decomposition follows. From this noxious and offensive smell, vomiting, diarrhoea, dysentery and fever ensue. Burckhardt thus speaks of the sufferings of these poor pilgrims: "Poor Hadjys, worn out with disease and hunger are seen dragging their emaciated bodies among the columns of El Kaaba, and when no longer able to stretch their hands to ask the passengers for charity they place a bowl to receive alms near the mat on which they lay themselves. When their last moments ap-

proach they cover themselves with their tattered garments, and often a whole day passes before it is discovered that they are dead." Since 1886, the condition of this town has vastly improved. In that year, the Nawab of Rampore, the late Kalb Ali Khan, supplied Mina with a large reservoir fed by a branch of the Zobaida aqueduct and every precaution is taken against pollution. Prompt measures are adopted for interment of slaughtered animals. The place is now more clean than before, with improved sewerage. This was the only city in the Hedjaz where disease and death were frequently met with, and it is very satisfactory that good sanitary arrangements are being made everywhere.

The feast of sacrifice is followed by the ceremony of the throwing those forty-nine stones against Satan into a plain close by. After a stay of three days, the pilgrims return to Mecca and again circumambulate seven times the Beitullah and also perform the running between Safa and Marwa. Now they are free to betake to their head-dress if they like. The pilgrims also perform *Umrah*, i.e., after binding *ehram* they go to Tanaim to read prayers, and returning back turn round the El Kaaba seven times and run as many times between Safa and Marwa. Their vow to perform *Umrah* can be taken at anytime. Afterwards they go to Medina, a twelve days' journey, stopping wherever they can find wells which are generally saline. El Medina is a vast plain containing about twenty thousand inhabitants. It is the best place as regards sanitary arrangements. There is abundant water from an underground aqueduct fed from Kubba, a place about two miles distant. In every quarter there is a reservoir with stop cocks. The public latrines are more plentiful than at Mecca, and on the whole as much sanitated as could be. The place itself is also cool, surrounded by numerous date palms. There it is a strict rule not to allow more than a limited number of persons at a time. It is incumbent on the pilgrims to remain there for eight days so as to read forty *rekat* of *namaz* and not more. After this they must make room for fresh arrivals. The pilgrims generally return to Mecca to take ship at Jedda or they go to Yambu or to Damascus.

We take from the *Lancet* the following analysis of Zemzem (Hagar's well) water, a small quantity of which every pilgrim drinks when at Mecca.

|                     | 1883. | 1892. |
|---------------------|-------|-------|
| Total solids ... .. | 464.4 | 235.2 |
| Chlorine ... ..     | 75.5  | 40.7  |
| Nitrogen ... ..     | 13.84 | 4.55  |
| Ammonia ... ..      | 358   | 140   |

The estimate is in grains per gallon. Even this analysis shows that the holy cities of Arabia have improved vastly during recent times.

The alarm of the spread of cholera from the Hedjaz towards Europe, after a sober consideration of facts, vanishes away. The Europeans generally charge the countries of Asia and specially India, with responsibility for almost all kinds of diseases that are prevalent in Europe, little thinking that, on the other hand, with their advanced civilization, they have introduced many dreadful diseases into these countries where they were unknown in former times. Passages from Mr. Darwin's *Journal* may be cited in our favour: "The Rev. J. Williams, in his interesting work says, that the first intercourse between natives and Europeans 'is invariably attended with the introduction of fever, dysentery, or some other disease which carries off numbers of the

judgment was delivered in the cases, and that for the remaining halves the Subordinate Judge, after delivering judgment, wrote to the said Ata Ullah a postcard to the effect that he should come with the tobacco; that accordingly he (the said Ata Ullah) came to Gaya and went to the house of the Subordinate Judge on the 31st May last; that he was taken by the said Subordinate Judge to the inner apartment, where he handed over the said half-notes to him; that he, the said Ata Ullah, wanted his "hak" (commission) and claimed Rs. 800 out of the money; that the Subordinate Judge declined; whereupon, after some conversation, angry words were used and altercations and exchange of abusive words followed; that at the instance of the Subordinate Judge his chaprasi assaulted the man and his servant and turned him out in great disgrace."

A similar petition was presented at the same time by the same persons to the District and Sessions Judge of Gaya, and to the High Court, and in accordance with the instructions of the High Court, Baboo Troylokya Nath Mitter was called upon by the District Judge for a written explanation. This he furnished on the 24th June. Upon the 20th July the Registrar of the High Court forwarded to Government a copy of all the papers which had been received from the District Judge, and communicated the opinion of the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court that Baboo Troylokya Nath Mitter should be directed to institute criminal proceedings for defamation against Mohipat Lall and Mahomed Nawab. After some further correspondence with the High Court this course was adopted, and the Subordinate Judge, who was allowed leave for the purpose, was directed to prosecute. A prosecution was accordingly conducted before the District Magistrate of Gaya, and on the 12th September, after full enquiry the Magistrate acquitted the accused, on the ground that it was impossible to assume that they did not act honestly or with due care and attention. The Magistrate added that the question whether Baboo Troylokya Nath Mitter took a bribe was never a point in issue in the case, and that, beyond his denial, no evidence was produced to answer the question.

The Lieutenant-Governor then took into his consideration the form of the further investigation which should be undertaken, and eventually, on the 31st October 1891, decided to depute Mr. Kelleher, an officer of the rank of District and Sessions Judge, to make a careful investigation into all facts in any way bearing upon the statements made regarding the Subordinate Judge, and to report the result to the Government. Upon the 30th January 1892, Mr. Kelleher, after an elaborate and most exhaustive enquiry, submitted his report. A copy of Mr. Kelleher's report, with the appendices thereto, including all the evidence recorded, as well as of the previous papers on record, was on the 18th March forwarded to Baboo Troylokya Nath Mitter, with a remark that the Lieutenant-Governor had given his most careful consideration to the papers, and found that the charges made against him were of the gravest importance, and if he could not satisfactorily explain them they must result in his immediate removal from the service. Formal charges were drawn up, and the Subordinate Judge was informed that before passing orders on his case the Lieutenant-Governor would afford him the amplest opportunity of submitting such categorical explanations as he might think fit, but that in the meantime he could not be allowed to resume his appointment. Upon the 20th April the Subordinate Judge submitted his explanation, and on the 20th May a copy of it was forwarded to the High Court with a request that the Lieutenant-Governor might be favoured with the Court's recommendations as to the orders which should be passed in the case. Under date the 28th July the Hon'ble Judges reported that they had taken the papers into consideration and had arrived at conclusions unfavourable to Baboo Troylokya Nath Mitter, and were of opinion that he should not be allowed to continue in the service. Their lordships found that there was reliable evidence in support of the charge that the Sub-Judge accepted a bribe of Rs. 7,000, but they passed it over for technical reasons. They found, however, mainly on the admissions of the Sub-Judge himself, that he had improperly acquired leases of lands from persons who were suitors before him, and had otherwise misconducted himself grossly.

The Lieutenant-Governor entirely accepts the opinion of the High Court, and he considers that the conclusions at which the Judges have arrived sufficiently show that the conduct of the Subordinate Judge has been marked by deceit and subterfuge in a manner and to a degree which would render it impossible to retain him as a member of the Judicial Service. His Honour, going further, is of opinion that the charge of accepting a bribe has been morally proved; and he directs that Baboo Troylokya Nath Mitter be dismissed from the service of Government.

#### MR. RISLEY ON THE SEA-VOYAGE QUESTION.

The following is a full text of the Hon'ble H. H. Risley's speech on the sea-voyage question at a public meeting held the other day at the Sova Bazar Rajbari.

The Hon'ble H. H. Risley said:—

Although this is a meeting of Hindus assembled for a peculiarly

Hindu purpose, the Chairman has been good enough to permit me to say a few words in expression of my sympathy with the object of the meeting, and in support of its aims. In my opinion, the more Hindus go to England the better. A variety of causes, which I need not attempt to specify now, have brought about the remarkable result that the higher culture of the upper classes in this country rests upon the basis of English literature and history. To get the best out of a distinctively English culture, it is obviously essential to visit England itself. In all departments of knowledge, literary, scientific and political, residence in England, even if it be only for two or three years, can hardly fail to be of the greatest benefit to the Hindus educated on an English basis, and the gain of the individual will, in the long run, be the gain of the Society to which he belongs.

As regards the obstacles, which the Hindu system offers to these visits, I am not competent to speak. But I venture to tell you an experience of my own which throws some light upon the way the question is regarded by the Hindus of Western India, or at any rate, by some sections of them. Two years ago I happened to be present in Berlin at a meeting of the German Colonial Society, held to discuss the development of German East Africa—the country lying between Zanzibar and Lake Tanganyika. Some of you may possibly know that a large number of Germans have very magnificent ideas as to the future of their African colonies, and expect them to develop into an Empire comparable to India. Any way, the meeting I was at, was a very large one, and some of the most influential men of the colonial party were present. It will perhaps surprise you to hear that the main question discussed with the utmost vigour—and very strong language on both sides was used—was what attitude ought the German Government to assume towards the Hindu merchants who settled in Bagamoyo, Dar-es-Salam, Pangani, and other places on the coast. According to the German officials, these Hindus were so numerous that the whole trade of the African coast was in their hands—both wholesale and retail—and the fate of the colony was said to depend upon the mode in which they were treated. One party wished to expel them, in a summary Russian fashion, because their loyalty to German interests could not be depended on, and the other wanted to retain and encourage them. The grounds of the controversy are immaterial for our present purpose. All I want to ask, is: If the Hindu traditions are as uncompromisingly opposed to sea-voyages as the Pandit, who just now spoke in Bengali, wants to make them out to be, how did these Hindu merchants come to be in East Africa at all? They could not have got there by land. It would seem then that in the Bombay Presidency the higher castes to whom the merchants who trade with East Africa certainly belong, do not take quite the same view of the Hindu traditions as some of the Pandits of Bengal. And the logic of facts which shows us a large and flourishing settlement of Hindus in East Africa, and constant intercourse between that country and Bombay, may perhaps in the end be trusted to get the better of the Pandits.

But gentlemen, is it *prima facie* likely that this narrow and pedantic construction of Hindu tradition can be correct? I do not believe it. So far as my studies of the Hindu religion and the Hindu social system have gone, nothing has struck me more than their extraordinary flexibility and adaptiveness. We were told the other day that Hinduism is declining. I do not agree in that view. I have served in several out-of-the-way districts and had occasion to look carefully into the spread of Hinduism. So far from losing ground, one could trace it year by year, or certainly decade by decade, observing by a process of impalpable but sure proselytising, whole tribes who until recent times had been beyond its pale. One answer at any rate to Mr. Monro's recent lecture might be given in the words of an English poet.

"Look west where whole new thousands are

In Vishnu-land what *Avatar*."

Are we now to be told that Hinduism, which is so comprehensive in its grasp and adapts itself so readily to the needs of such diverse bodies of men, is unable to solve this comparatively minor problem of the social consequences of a sea-voyage? One would have expected other things. Looking at the Hindu system from one point of view one is tempted to compare it to two august constitutions—the English constitution and the Roman-Catholic Church. It resembles the first in its adaptiveness, in its power of constantly changing to meet changed conditions of life, it resembles the second in its comprehensiveness. It has room in it for the Pantheistic Philosopher and for the latest wild convert from some form of fetichism. Can you say more for any system than that? Only I observe—and this evening's proceedings lend point to the observation—the Hindu religion seems to have no central authority—it has not yet set up a Pope. If it had, the difficulty we have just been discussing could hardly have arisen. You would not have had to appoint a committee to search the scriptures and report their views on sea-voyages. People would have gone to the Supreme authority and got their orders. As it is, authorities seem to differ, and one can only hope that the common sense of the community will evolve some reasonable solution.

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man & Co., 4, Dalhousie Square, Calcutta.

### NOTIFICATION.

To be peremptorily sold by the Registrar of  
the Calcutta High Court Original Side in his  
room in the Court House on Saturday the 10th  
of September 1892 at 12 O'clock noon pursu-  
ant to a decree and an order of the said Court  
made in Suit No. 362 of 1890 Joy Gobind Law  
*versus* Kally Dass Dutt and Henry Lathbury  
and Richard Tonge and dated respectively 19th  
May 1891 and 17th June 1892 the following  
immoveable property belonging to the defend-  
ant Kally Dass Dutt.

No. 163 Bowbazar Street in the Town of  
Calcutta being an upper-roomed brick built  
dwelling house and the land thereunto belong-  
ing containing by measurement made by the  
Calcutta Collectorate in 1855 four bighas seven  
cottahs eight chitracks and eleven square feet  
more or less. This property is in the North  
Division in Block X Holding No. 10. It was  
formerly bounded on the North by a brick wall  
belonging to the premises beyond which there  
is a public thoroughfare known as Bill's Lane  
on the South by Nos. 164 and 166 Bowbazar  
Street on the East by a brick wall belonging  
to the premises beyond which there is a native  
bustee and on the West by a brick wall be-  
longing to the said premises and beyond which  
there is a native bustee belonging to the es-  
tate of Mutty Lall Mullick. It is now bound-  
ed on the North by Scott's Lane on the South  
partly by the premises No. 164 Bowbazar  
Street and partly by a lane and passage lead-  
ing from Bowbazar Street to the said premises  
Nos. 164 and 163 Bowbazar Street on the East  
partly by the tenanted land of the Coondoo  
of Mohiari and partly by the property of  
Soonder Mookherjee and Khettermoni Dahi  
and partly by the said passage leading from  
Bowbazar Street as aforesaid and on the West  
partly by the dwelling house and premises of  
Ramdhone Mundal and partly by the tenanted  
land of Jadoo Lall Mullick. The sum of  
Rs. 14-12 2 is payable to the Government for  
ground rent.

The abstract of title and conditions of sale  
may be inspected at the office of Mr. William  
Swinhoe attorney for the plaintiff at No. 9 Old  
Post Office Street or at the Registrar's office  
and will be produced at the sale.

Dated this 6th day of August 1892.

R. BELCHAMBERS,  
*Registrar.*

William Swinhoe,  
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### GENUINE HOMŒOPATHY. A CARD.

Hem Chandra Rai Chaudhuri, L. M. S.  
*Homœopathic Practitioner,*  
for many years assistant at the Hon'ble Dr.  
Mahendra Lal Sircar's Charitable Homœopa-  
thic Dispensary, where he attended that emi-  
nent man of science and physician in his  
Clinic every day, recording his cases, watch-  
ing his diagnosis and his treatment,  
may be consulted by letter or personally  
daily at his residence, 23, Mirzapur Lane, (near  
Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar's house) Sankari-  
ollah, (adjoining Creek Row) Calcutta.

### The Empress of India Cotton Mills COMPANY LIMITED.

Proceedings of the Thirtieth Ordinary Half-  
yearly General Meeting of Shareholders of the  
Empress of India Cotton Mills Company,  
Limited, held at the Registered Office of the  
Company, No. 55, Canning Street, Calcutta, at  
3-30 P.M., on Saturday, the 27th August 1892.

PRESENT: D. B. Mehta, Esq., *in the Chair*,  
P. E. Guddar, Esq., G. C. Farr, Esq., N. S.  
Watkins, Esq., Baboo Kipnoorchand Deovurn,  
Gourisankur Tewary, Mohunlall, Jetha Jaichand,  
Esq. and R. D. Mehta, Esq.

The advertisement convening the Meeting  
having been read, and the Directors' Report  
and Accounts circulated among the Sharehold-  
ers being taken as read, the following Resolu-  
tions were proposed:—

Resolution I. Proposed by D. B. Mehta, Esq.,  
Seconded by Baboo Kipnoorchand Deovurn,

That the Directors' Report be adopted, and  
that the Accounts for the half-year ending 30th  
June, 1892, as audited and circulated to the  
Shareholders, be also adopted, and passed as  
correct and that the action of the Board in re-  
gard to Fire Insurance, as mentioned in their  
Report be also approved. Carried unanimously.

Resolution II. Proposed by Jetha Jaichand,  
Esq., Seconded by Baboo Gourisankur Tewary,  
That the Balance at the credit of Profit and  
Loss Account, *viz.*, Rs. 20,202-12-5 be carried  
forward to the current half-year.

Carried unanimously.

With a vote of thanks to the Chair and to  
the Managing Agents, the Meeting separated.  
D. B. MEHTA, *Chairman.*

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mmation, swelling or induration of the Spleen  
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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE, AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1892.

No. 541

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### HORACE IN ENGLISH VERSE.

#### COUNTRY LIFE.

O blest is he, from business free,  
Like the merry men of old ;  
Who tills his land with his own stout hand,  
And knows not the lust of gold.

No sailor he on the stormy sea,  
No soldier, trumpet-stirred ;  
And he shuns the town and the haughty frown  
Of the courtiers fawning herd.

But he bids the vine with her tendrils twine  
Around the poplar-tall,  
And he adds a graft, with a gardener's craft,  
To the tree that climbs his wall.

Or a grazier keen, o'er the pastures green  
He sees his oxen feed ;  
Or he shears his flock, or he brews a stock  
Of his rustic nectar, mead.

And when autumn at length, in his manly strength,  
Has raised his fruit-crowned head,  
He plucks the pear with its flavour rare,  
And the grape with its clusters red.

With his knee on the sod he thanks his God  
For His mercies and favours free ;  
And he lays him along, while he lists the song  
Of the thrush in the old oak-tree ;

While the waters glide with their rippling tide,  
And the zephyrs softly creep  
O'er the quivering leaves midst the murmuring trees,  
And lull the sense to sleep.

But when thundering Jove, from his stores above,  
Sends wintry snows and rain ;  
And rock, and wood, and field, and flood,  
Lie bound in his icy chain,

With many a hound, in the woods around,  
He hunts the grisly boar ;  
And ere daylight fade, his gleaming blade  
Is red with the monster's gore.

When the sun has set he spreads his net,  
And the partridge, fluttering, dies ;  
He takes the hare in his crafty snare,  
And the crane, a goodly prize.

'Mid joys like these what ills can tease,  
Who could remember pain ?  
He feels no wrong, and he laughs at the throng  
Of cares that swell love's train.

If a loving wife—best staff of life—  
Be his, and children dear,  
The fire burns bright with its ruddy light  
His homeward step to cheer.

At the cottage door, when his toil is o'er,  
She stands with her smile so sweet,  
And holds up her face with a modest grace,  
His welcome kiss to meet ;

And his children glad swarm round their dad,  
But the hungry man must dine ;  
So she spreads the cloth and he sups his broth,  
While she pours out her home-made wine.

#### ODE XVI. OF BOOK III.

#### AD MÆCENATEM.

### GOLD, ITS STRENGTH AND ITS WEAKNESS.

Strong doors of oak and watch-dogs' snout  
Might well secure the imprisoned maid,  
Shut up within a brazen tower,  
From the bold lover's midnight raid.

"Love laughs at locksmiths," though. 'Tis known  
Stern guardians oft are bought—or sold ;  
Ere morning dawns the bird has flown ;  
Locks open to a key of gold.

Bright gold—a mighty power on earth—  
Makes strongest armies fly like chaff ;  
And e'en the man of noblest birth  
Oft bows before the golden calf.

Strong gold—the mightiest power of all—  
Cleaves a smooth way through toughest rocks ;  
Through lust of gold great "Houses" fall,  
By dealings rash in risky stocks.

Fast-growing wealth brings growing care,  
With growing thirst for larger gains.  
Lift not thy head too high in air,  
Nor court ambition's gnawing pains.

The more a man denies himself  
The more God gives him to enjoy :  
Mark, then, the man who worships self,  
And give him a wide berth, my boy.

And ever your forefathers thank,  
Nor strive to soar too high a pitch ;  
The gentleman, though poor, takes rank  
Long way beyond the vulgar rich.

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ODE XI. OF BOOK I.  
AD LEUCONOEN.

Seek not to know what tale of years  
To you and me on earth is given, love;  
'Twere better far to weep the tears  
And smile the smiles sent us by heaven, love.

Whether the years be one or more  
Of which we two shall be partakers, love,  
Still will the wild wave lash the shore;  
The rocks will still defy the breakers, love.

Be wise, decant your wine with care—  
The bright is joy, the dregs are sorrow, love,—  
Shake not the flask, the liquor's rave.  
Use well the day, nor trust the morrow, love.

KNAPDALE.

—Blackwood.

## WEEKLYANA.

LADY Lansdowne has returned to India and rejoined her lord at Simla.

AN unusual shipping disaster has occurred in the Hughli. The Anchor Line steamer *Anglia* from Calcutta capsized and sank in the Jellingham Channel, drowning thirty-two of the forty-seven crew and passengers, namely, European crew 37, Native crew 2, Passengers 2, distressed seaman 1, Pilot and Leadsman 2, Pilot (as passenger) 1, Pilots' servants 2. The *Anglia* was a steel screw steamer of 3,287 tons gross register and built in 1888. She had 300 horse-power engines, and was 340 feet long with 43 feet beam. She is a great loss to the underwriters. The Jellingham is a constantly changing Channel, situate near Mud Point, far south of James and Mary shoal.

The accident was sudden. It seems just as the *Anglia* was about to let go her anchor, she touched the ground. She first took a lunch port, and then canting to starboard turned over and sank.

A Fund for the relief of the sufferers has been opened. We earnestly hope native gentlemen will subscribe.

A MARWARI, Gocool Chand Chowbay, reported to the Waterloo Street thanna the loss of thirteen notes of Rs. 1,000 each and three hundis of the aggregate value of Rs. 8,100, and offered at the same time a reward of Rs. 500 to the finder. Soon after he left, in came a Bengali, Nitta Nundo Chuckerbutty, an assistant of Messrs. Thompson & Co., for delivery to the Police of the missing notes and hundis which he had picked up in Bentinck Street. The Marwari was communicated with. He came, claimed the notes and hundis as his, and departed with them after paying the promised reward of Rs. 500 to the Babu. Lucky Marwari and lucky Babu! Let them remember the Great Giver.

CAPTAIN Andrew Hearsey has started a Laidman business, the object of his attentions being a Mr. Greeven of the Civil Service, N.-W. P. He complained to the Lieutenant-Governor of the latter's conduct and received in reply the following letter from the Chief Secretary, dated Naini Tal, August 25th:—

"I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 13 August on the subject of the conduct of Mr. Greeven in his official capacity. Mr. Greeven is Judge of the Small Cause Court, Mussoorie, and in his judicial capacity is immediately subordinate to the High Court, Allahabad. I am to request that you will in the first instance address yourself to the Registrar of the High Court if, in your opinion, the conduct of Mr. Greeven in his judicial capacity calls for the interference of the High Court."

CAPTAIN Hearsey lost no time in despatching the following rejoinder to the Lieutenant Governor:—

"I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, dated Naini Tal, 25th August, and at the same time most respectfully to point out that I was unaware that the charge I made to you concerning the conduct of Mr. Greeven, C. S., Joint Magistrate of Mussoorie—assaulting a police constable in the bazaar—had anything to do with his judicial capacity. After my acquittal in the High Court

in 1885 in the case of Laidman vs. Hearsey the then Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces and Chief Commissioner of Oudh (Sir Alfred Lyall) wrote a false and insulting 'Secret Resolution' not only concerning myself, but likewise concerning the Chief Justice of the North-Western Provinces, circulating the same in an underhand manner to all the judicial subordinates of that Chief Justice, not only throughout the North-Western Provinces, but likewise throughout Oudh, thereby inducing a belief that all officials, both judicial and executive, notwithstanding the rank and functions they might be holding, must be subordinate in all those functions to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces and Chief Commissioner of Oudh, and was, therefore, under the impression that the proper person to address under those circumstances would be that functionary—i. e., yourself. I shall feel much obliged by your kindly informing me if an assault such as reported in my former letter, viz., an assault by a covenanted Civilian, a Joint-Magistrate, not seated on the bench, but committed on the public road, in a bazaar, on a Government servant in the execution of his duty will be held by you to have been committed in a judicial capacity, and therefore not cognizable by you until brought to your notice by the Registrar of the High Court of the Provinces."

A WATERPOUT. According to a Vizianagram contemporary, a stupendous column of water was seen in the village of Annamaraju to ascend from a large tank in the neighbourhood, its upper extremity being lost in wreaths of mist. After a time, the column suddenly collapsed, the fall of water was so heavy that two peasants caught in it were stunned by the shock for a while.

SHAKESPEARE is the poet of the world and of all times—past, present and future. The literature on the Currency Difficulty could not be complete without a quotation from him. "A. B. M.," from the Bengal Club, thus supplies the omission in the *Englishman*:—

"The following lines from our myriad-minded Poet—if not strictly of economic value,—may still prove of some slight literary interest at the present moment:—

Or shall I think, in silver she's immured,  
Being ten times undervalued to try'd gold?

—Merchant of Venice.

It would appear from this quotation that in Shakespeare's time the ratio of silver to gold was ten to one. I notice that the late Mr. George Yule in his very able paper on the Currency of India states the ratio in the reign of Elizabeth as being 10½ to 1. The ratio is now about 24 to 1. If the controversy now raging were to be decided by the 'Sortes Shakesperienses' in the same play later on, we shall find a comparison between the relative merits of gold and silver:—

What says the golden chest? Ha! let me see:

"Who chooseth me, shall gain what many men desire."

What many men desire!—That many may be meant

By the fool multitude, that choose by show,

Not learning more than the fond eye doth teach;

Which pries not to the interior, but like the martlet

Builds in the weather on the outward wall,

Even in the force and road of casualty.

I will not choose what many men desire,

Because I will not jump with common spirits

And rank me with the barbarous multitudes.

Why then to thee, thou Silver Treasure House;

Tell me once more what title thou dost bear:

"Who chooseth me, shall get as much as he deserves;"

And well said too—

Did the prototype of the Currency Association exist in Shakespeare's time? And were these weighty words a covert protest against platform agitation? It would not require a very great twist to construe them into a lesson and a warning even in the present year of grace."

NATURE may be extravagant as well as foolish. Here is a case of frivolous waste. The *Sadiq-ul-Akhbar* of Bhawalpore reports: "Ahmad Rafi, a traveller, while on his journey from Katif to Bassarah saw in Ashra Muteer, a place two marches from Katif, a man with four eyes—two in their usual places and two above the eyebrows. This man can see with his four eyes. Even when his lower two eyes are shut up he can see with his upper two eyes. He is a man of horrible appearance." Two pairs of eyes, one above the other! *Cui bono?* A pair placed behind the head would have been more to the purpose.

Anyhow, Ahmad Rafi's man beats the Lord Siva of the mythologist's creation. If A. R. could import his man to India, he might, in conjunction with an astute Hindu, make a good thing out of his enterprise at the expense of superstition and credulity.

A NEW submarine boat has been tried during the last three months in the Detroit river, near Detroit, U. S. It is an egg-shaped oaken hull with pointed ends. The planks are of the thickness of three inches, and withstand the pressure of water at a depth of 100ft. The boat is 40 feet long, the beam 9 feet, and the entire depth, from top of conning tower to bottom of hull, 16 feet. It is driven by a steam engine

and an electric motor apparatus. Above the surface a couple of four-bladed screws is employed, and under water the electric engine. The speed is about nine miles an hour. The rudder is close fitting. No more than two men are required to work the boat. In one trial the two men employed remained below the water as long as 2 hours 45 minutes, breathing only the air contained in the hull at the time of submersion, amounting to 500 cubic feet. When it is required to sink the boat to a certain depth, water is pumped into the "water bottoms." This boat belongs to Mr. G. C. Baker.

We are told that the owner of a "curio" shop in London, evidently smarting under the Yankee trick of "passing away an hour in shop-viewing," now displays a placard in his window with the following inscription in large type :—

"NOTICE TO AMERICANS. THIS IS NOT A PUBLIC MUSEUM."

There has been no Yankee in the matter; the trick was British. The Americans in the placard too is a blind, on the principle of Indian domestic government, of correcting the daughter-in-law by admonishing the daughter.

We fear the good tradesmen of our West End will before long be compelled to publish a similar warning. There are some constant "shoppers" who simply abuse the courtesy of shopkeepers and shopmen, without ever caring to buy, even at the "half price sales."

PROFESSOR Max Müller has addressed the following letter to the *Freie Blatt*, a paper recently founded in Vienna to combat the anti-Semitic agitation :—

"I have repeatedly expressed disapproval of the anti-Semitic agitation. In all matters I am opposed to shallow generalisation. When one hears people express general opinions about Englishmen, Frenchmen, Germans, &c., one is always led to ask them—how many Englishmen have you seen or known? Perhaps twenty; and yet you judge of twenty millions! I have known many Jews, having been born at Dessau. Many of my best friends were Jews. Now it is true that there are black sheep among the Jews, but to judge and condemn the whole people by such is, it must be admitted, opposed to all rules of inductive logic. For a long time past I have preached to every German in England that he is individually responsible for the good name of the German nation. I should like to be able to preach the same to every Jew. Every single Jew is responsible for the good name of his race. If every single Jew would feel this, or if the community would let him feel it, there would be no more anti-Semitism. The practice of judging by the lump is the ruin of all science. The mischief it can work in Society, and in the State, is shown to us by the excesses committed by the Anti-Semites. I am an Anti anti-Semite, and shall remain so."

THE Hyderabad Scandal Pamphlet case was resumed on Monday. The Magistrate read out the Resident's letter leaving the question of privileged communication (raised by Mehdi Hassan the other day) entirely in the Magistrate's hands. Mr. Plowden's view (unlike that of Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick's in the diamond case) is said to have met with general approval.

The Magistrate ruled that Mehdi Hassan cannot claim privilege.

In the case of Furdonji's refusal also, the Magistrate held that the communication between Furdonji and the Minister was not a privileged communication, because the Nizam's Government is not a State and Furdonji is not a public servant within the meaning of the Evidence Act; the Evidence Act meant British Government and the British State. Furdonji still persisting in his refusal to answer questions, the Magistrate granted him 24 hours' time and warned him that if he still objected to answer Mr. Norton's questions, he would make himself liable to punishment.

Mr. Norton said if Furdonji answered all his questions he would not trouble Sir Asman Jah.

Furdonji was then cross-examined for about an hour as to matters he did not refuse revealing.

Ikbal Ali, Joint Revenue Secretary, was then examined by Mr. Inverarity. He said he thought Mehdi and Gertrude to be man and wife. He never questioned them whether they were ever married.

Mr. Eardly Norton reserved cross-examination. Then two peons of the *Record* press were examined. Mr. Norton here asked for a summons for Yasof Uz Zaman as he wanted to confront him with Mehdi Hassan.

Mehdi Hassan was again cross-examined for an hour. He denied Yasof having kept Gertrude. He denied that the Lucknow Police Superintendent, Mr. Hutton, ever insisted on Gertrude taking a license as a prostitute. Mehdi did not try to save Gertrude from such

shame, and never consulted Rafiuddin about the matter, and never kept Gertrude in different houses to prevent her from falling into the hands of the police.

Mr. Irwin, First Assistant to the Resident, had asked Mehdi Hassan to see Mr. Plowden. Mehdi had shown Mr. Plowden a printed copy of the marriage deed, and told him that he was married according to Mahomedan rites. Mehdi had also shown Mr. Plowden a copy of Sarwar Jung's letter to Raja Shabhan Ali Khan of Lucknow. Mehdi denied having any conversation with the Resident about any previous enquiry.

Mr. Eardley Norton then wanted to cross-examine Sadulla again, but he could not be found.

Mr. Inverarity promised to bring him to the Court to-morrow.

As there was no more work to be done, the Court rose at 2 P.M. and did not sit in the afternoon.

ON Tuesday, the proceedings commenced with the reading of an application from Faridoonji, the Private Secretary to the Minister, which stated that he had laid the whole matter before the Minister who considered it a very delicate political question to allow Faridoonji to disclose official matter. The Minister has therefore communicated with the Resident. Faridoonji prayed that before the Minister had heard Mr. Plowden's views his further cross-examination might be postponed and the Magistrate granted the application. Mr. Eardley Norton said he postponed cross-examining Faridoonji till the return of the Commission from Upper India. Sarwar Jung had informed Mr. Eardley Norton yesterday that the documents he was asked to produce were with the Nizam, so there was no necessity of Sarwar Jung's coming to the Court: Mr. Norton asked the Court to request the Nizam to send those documents together with the whole file of papers in connection with the enquiry into the Pamphlet case which are now also with the Nizam and Mr. Norton's instruction was that the Nizam, if requested, would gladly send them to court. The court agreed to request the Nizam to do so.

Sadulla was then cross-examined. He denied having read translations of passages from the pamphlet in Mushtaq Hussain's Urdu paper *Mushtaq* the previous day.

Mehdi Hassan appeared in court and was re-examined by Mr. Inverarity. Mehdi Hassan had suggested Colonel Ludlow as a proper person for enquiring; he knew nothing about the Government enquiry. His letter to the Minister was read and filed. It said Mitra had no malice against him, Mitra was only a tool, the real author being Sarwar Jung. Mitra was personally known to him and he had tried his best to get from Mitra the real author's name but failed. This witness said that Mitra's having sent a retainer to Mr. Inverarity convinced him that Mitra was being backed. Hormasji never told witness what he knew officially. Young Salar never passed a night in Mehdi's house. In his letter about keeping a bed room ready he had no idea of such a suggestion as Mr. Norton put. His wife was not a personal friend to young Salar Jung and by "lady's bedroom" he meant his wife's compartments consisting of four rooms.

Mr. Eardley Norton wanted to cross-examine Mehdi Hassan again, Mr. Inverarity objected, but it was allowed by the Court. Mehdi Hassan admitted having a conversation with the Minister about the Scandal Pamphlet and Hormasji having submitted to the Minister the result of the deposition of the *Record* press witnesses. Hormasji had supplied Mehdi Hassan with copies of those depositions with the Minister's permission. Some of his petitions to the Minister were written by Hormasji. Witness said he was no English scholar. Re-examined by Mr. Inverarity, he said before he told the Minister his marriage was never challenged.

Then Mr. Inverarity applied for a Commission to examine witnesses in Upper India, his chief witnesses being Mr. Evans of Allahabad, Mr. White, Principal of the Canning College, Lucknow, Doctor Hooper of Lucknow, and some Mahomedans about Lucknow. Mr. Eardley Norton also to save further adjournment, applied for a Commission to examine witnesses for the defence at the same time.

No charge has yet been framed against Mitra, but in case a charge is framed, the evidence taken on Commission will be utilised. The Commissions are returnable in six weeks. The case is adjourned till the 18th October next.

MOULVI Abdool Jubbar, Khan Bahadur, Deputy Magistrate in charge of the Alipore Suburban Police Court, now acting as Superintendent of Stamps and Stationery, has been granted an extension of service

for one year commencing from October next. At the expiry of this period, the Government has intimated its intention of taking into consideration the question of granting the Moulvi a further extension.

ERRATA.—Page 415 col. 1, Art. *The Moharram*. Para 1., for (*Mashak*) read (*Mashak*). Also for Hassan read Hossein.

## NOTES & LEADERETTES

### with OUR OWN NEWS.

CHOLERA is still decimating Hamburg. The daily mortality has reached two hundred. Great Britain is pronounced safe from its visitation and importation. It is admitted there was one death in a village near Macclesfield from cholera which was unimported. With the cooler weather on the Continent, the spread of the disease has been arrested. Eminent British doctors urge the cremation of dead cholera patients.

Following the United States, Canada has issued a decree prescribing twenty-one days' quarantine on all vessels carrying immigrants, except those from British and Scandinavian ports.

THERE is a split in the Irish Party. The Parnellites have issued a manifesto in which they charge the anti-Parnellites with yielding their independence, and urge the formation of an independent party and the prompt recognition of the National League.

THE *Times* has been informed from Shanghai that at Shensi three European Missionaries and some native Christians have been killed and their bodies mutilated.

THE Czar is said to be indignant at Colonel Yanoof's aggressive measures on the Pamirs and to have ordered him not to forget the peaceful character of his mission and to avoid conflicts with the Afghans and the Chinese and not to carry his explorations beyond the Mustagh Mountains. The *Novosti* suggests a fresh delimitation of the respective spheres of influence in those regions, Russia retaining the Eastern Pamir. It explains that Russia's sole object is to find an outlet to the Indian Ocean, and that she has therefore no intention of spending her efforts in the acquisition of the Pamirs which would not even give a strategic base against a well-defined Northern-Indian frontier. The *Viedomosti* is more outspoken. It says that Russia has no object in making concessions for increasing England's influence in a country not hers, thus lowering Russia's prestige among the Asiatic races.

In a News-letter from Bhagulpore, published in yesterday's *Indian Daily News*, under the head of "The Shias and the Alam," we find the following:—

"To prevent a breach of the peace, our Magistrate and Collector had issued an order forbidding the Shias from bringing out the Alam during the last Mohurram, and it was also duly notified that any violation of the order would subject each offender to six months' rigorous imprisonment and a thousand rupees fine, or in lieu of the fine, another six months' incarceration with hard labor. Well, the sect is now moving the Judge to call upon the Magistrate to shew cause why such an order was issued when it amounts to actual interference with their religious practice, and especially when, in Calcutta and Patna, the Alam procession is permitted by the Local authorities. I do not know what the result of this action will be; but I do know that had the Collector not taken timely action to prevent the Shia procession, there must have been much bloodshed and many lives lost, as the Sunnis who form the vast majority had determined to attack the Shias if they had but brought out the Alam."

That supports the position we from the first unhesitatingly held on this important but delicate subject. So at Bhagulpore, as everywhere else, the Sunnis resent most strongly, and are ready to resist by force, the attempts of the Shias to insult their religious feelings under the use of exercising a religious right. The matter is, however, quite different in Calcutta. Here the Shias have never even thought of uttering the *Tabarra*, and the Sunnis, being thoroughly satisfied with their good faith, have never raised any objection to the Alam procession, which has accordingly from time immemorial been allowed by the authorities. Indeed, for several reasons, including personal, which

may be mentioned if need be, the unvarying moderation, for more than a whole generation, of the domiciled Persians who constitute the bulk of the Shia community of the metropolis, and whose Moharram processions are the grandest in town, is exceptional and almost unique. It is not always so at other places. At Patna, for instance, on the other hand, not many years ago, a serious breach of the peace was threatened, compelling the authorities to intervene. The bone of contention was the *Tabarra*—the damning by the Shias of the Holy Family and the revered names of Islam. A mutual understanding was however effected between the two sects, and the Shias completely satisfied the Sunnis that no *Tabarra* would be uttered by them while taking out their Alam—the flag of Hossein. The Sunnis thereupon withdrew their objection—and the procession was accordingly allowed. Similarly, if the Shias can persuade the Sunnis at Bhagulpore and other places to waive their objection, the Local officers will, we have no doubt, gladly grant the permission.

While on the subject of religious disputes between Shias and Sunnis, we are relieved to find from a telegram from Lahore, published in yesterday's *Statesman*, that "Afghan news shews that the fighting between the Sunnis and Shias of Tuah has been amicably settled."

SOME weeks ago, we brought to the notice of the public as well as the Government and the authorities the election of a messenger—a Chuprassi—to the Nator Municipality—to the rage of the respectability of that ancient place. In due course, the election of Zameer Duffadar was Gazetted and he took his seat as a Municipal Commissioner, while still retaining his service under a local Raja. The effect has been, that at two successive meetings of the Municipality, almost all the Commissioners absented themselves, evidently unwilling to sit with a menial, and there being no quorum no business could be transacted. Cannot the Government devise a means by which the Commissioners may be spared this indignity?

AT a General Meeting of the Madras Municipality, a Municipal Commissioner—Mr. R. Balakistna Chetty—remarked, "I can only say that not only the Sanitary Department, but I can unhesitatingly say the whole Municipality is notoriously corrupt from the date the Civilian officers have ceased to preside over it." This precious Natkhati is a more fervent believer in the Indian Civil Service than any Covenanted European officer. Both the President of the Municipality, Colonel G. M. I. Moore, and the Health Officer resented the remark and prosecuted Mr. Chetty for defamation. At the hearing, the Municipal Commissioner, through his counsel, gave the assurance that there was nothing in his speech which was intended to cast any imputation on the probity of the prosecutors or in any way reflecting on their character, and expressed regret at the unpleasantness which had resulted. The President was satisfied but not the Health Officer. The first withdrew the prosecution but the second sticks to it.

THE Editor of the Satara paper, the *Pratod*, has been fined Rs. 500 for defaming Mr. Fagan, the Divisional Forest officer there. It seems the paper had described him as imperious and high-handed, and said that he had shot a native woman dead in order to warn off natives from Government forests, that his plea that the shot was accidental was false, and that the official enquiry and examination by Mr. Candy, the Collector, was a farce and a piece of race partiality, &c. The editor pleaded that the article was written in good faith and commented more on Mr. Candy's style of touring and working than on Mr. Fagan's character and conduct, and that, after all, it was really extracted from another paper. The Magistrate held that the article, read and digested as a whole, was clearly defamatory, inasmuch as the imputing high-handedness, murder, and falsehood to Mr. Fagan was calculated to harm and lower his high official and private reputation. Regarding the plea of the article being an extract from another paper, the Magistrate said that Mr. Fagan was libelled the same, if not more, than Mr. Candy, and that the publishing of extracts from other papers with embellishment and comments only aggravated the libel, by giving it fresh life and extended publicity.

THE Madura Union Club sued some of its members for subscriptions and refreshments supplied. The District Munsiff disallowed the claims. He held that

"The Club being an institution of honour the rule is to appeal to the members' sentiments of honour. The posting of a man's name

as a defaulter and his eventual expulsion from the Club are the highest punishment of the social code, and to bring a man up before a civil tribunal in addition to the social disgrace is the most refined form of torture, which is quite alien to the spirit and constitution of a Club."

Will not a member have a remedy in court if he was wrongly expelled from the club?

THE Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has been pleased to allow an additional sum of Rs. 1,000 a month to Nawab Wala Kader Syud Hossain Ali Mirza Bahadur, the second son of the late Nawab Nazim of Bengal, generally known as the Majhla Sahib. After the Nawab Nazim had retired from his official position, and his eldest son, the present Nawab Bahadur of Murshedabad, succeeded him as the Head of the Nizamat Family and the Premier Nobleman of the Lower Provinces, pensions were fixed by the Government of India for the different sons and daughters and other members of the family of the Nawab Nazim. In this distribution, the Majhla Sahib was given an annual sum of Rs. 25,000, while several of his younger brothers got Rs. 15,000 and the rest Rs. 10,000 each. The Majhla Sahib was selected to receive the highest pension in consideration of his occupying a high position in the Nizamat Family, and having for several years worthily represented his noble father when the latter was living in England. In addition to this allowance, his mother, Nawab Shahoon Nissa Begum Sahebah, was in the receipt of Rs. 36,000. Majhla Sahib being the only child of this lady, he enjoyed the benefits of her pension in addition to his own; and the whole of this was spent in keeping up the dignity of his position and the support of his large and growing family. This lady departed this life in January last, and as her pension was only for the term of her natural life, the poor Majhla Sahib was suddenly deprived of the bulk of his income, and put to great difficulties in consequence. He was, however, advised to lay his hard case before the Lieutenant-Governor, and his representation was backed not only by Mr. Beames, the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, but also by the Nawab Bahadur. Sir Charles Elliott, after full deliberation and in consideration of the applicant's high character and personal qualities, as well as of the claims which the Nizamat Family has upon the indulgence of the British Government, has allowed him an additional Rs. 12,000 per annum, from the lapsed pension of his late mother. This act of Sir Charles has given satisfaction to the entire Nizamat Family, as also to the Mahomedan community in general, who look upon the accomplished Majhla Sahib as a fine specimen of Indian nobility and who were dolefully contemplating the prospect of his inability, with his own limited income, to keep up his dignity or, what is perhaps more important, continue his unostentatious considerate charity.

IN our impression of last week, we recorded the sudden eclipse of the light of God in the person of a member of the community of Islam. We refer to the grievous deprivation of an honest Mussulman by the wanton destruction, root and branch, of a grand octogenarian beard, the iconoclast being a princeling of Oudh at Garden Reach. Like a thief at dead of night, this scapegrace of the House of Saadat Khan stole into the premises of the unhappy old man as he lay in profound slumber, and quietly scraped off his long, pending, hairy covering of the chin. Awaking the following morning he found himself shorn of his best possession. In grief and indignation he repaired to the suburban criminal court for justice. The accused, we have since learnt, is the only son of Prince Kamar Kadr, the eldest son of the late King of Oudh. It is an uncommonly scandalous act for a Mahomedan to demolish a Mahomedan's beard. Even a non-Mahomedan tribunal could not but regard it a serious outrage. The case was to have come on yesterday at the Alipore Police Court. As counsel were sure to be engaged on one side at least, perhaps on both sides, it would not have been easily or quickly disposed of. The scandal would have been all the greater. We are, therefore, glad to learn that, through the intervention of a distinguished member of the Oudh Family, the matter has been amicably settled, and the young Princeling has been saved the unpleasant consequences of his unpardonable frolic.

THE *Hindoo Patriot's* sneer at the *Indian Daily News* for publishing, day after day, those useless long telegrams from Hyderabad reporting the proceedings of that Scandal Pamphlet Case, which is of no public importance and in which the public take no interest whatever, if it is not dictated by the fox in the patriotic heart who despises and con-

demns all the finest fruit maturing at leisure undisturbed on the higher branches, is of a piece with the wisdom for which it has latterly become noted and fully worthy of its present conduct. The *Indian Daily News* might well retort upon the editorial Maha Raj Kumar with, Don't you wish you may get it?—the telegraphic supply, to wit. Assuming the good faith of the solemn admonition to the olden paper, another line of reflection suggests itself.

It is impossible to put a limit to the possibilities of human imper-spacity. Otherwise, how can any man in his senses miss the interesting character of the outgoings in the Residency Magistracy of Hyderabad, to say nothing of the importance of a litigation in which a leading official—in fact one of the Nizam's ministers and formerly his Chief Justice—whose letter to the *Times* has just been summarized and telegraphed from London by Reuter—who in England moved in the highest society—whose wife—the impeached Pamphlet says whose woman, or at least *quondam* mistress—has had the honor of being presented to Her Majesty—prosecutes a sturdy journalist who is supposed to be the mouthpiece of great personages. A case in which the Prime Minister of the Deccan has been warned to hold himself in readiness to appear in the box and stand the searching catechism of the formidable Eardley Norton, and in which the Nizam's Highness himself may yet be invited to complete the proof of justifying circumstances. Apart from general considerations one might have expected the *Hindoo Patriot* as a Bengali to take interest in the fate of a brother Bengali as well as a brother penman, who is undergoing a fiery ordeal in a foreign land, far away from home and kindred and friends. Truly, have we fallen in evil days on evil tongues! For our part, we with the entire public—queer Litter-Day patriots excepted—are really thankful to the *Indian Daily News* for its enterprise in keeping us all informed in sufficient fulness of the progress of the case from day to day. Nor is the *Indian Daily News* alone partial to this case. All the other morning journals worthy of the name are endeavouring to satisfy the public curiosity about this most sensational affair. But the *Indian Daily News* has distanced them all. Such is the interest taken by the public in this matter that the Hyderabad telegrams are the first things that most people read in the morning. Accordingly that paper is in demand above all others.

SOME weeks back we remarked on the license of speech indulged in in Burma, adducing in proof what we had read in the *Morning Post* of Allahabad, namely, that the *Rangoon Gazette* in criticising the President of the Rangoon Municipality had called Major Temple "the Prince of Liars." The *Mandalay Herald*, of September 1, corrects the statement so far as to say that—"It is not the *Rangoon Gazette* but the *Rangoon Times* that is daggers drawn with the Ma—jor." We print the last word as we find it, not knowing what hidden meaning may lie in such typographic presentation.

SANDALWOOD has its home in Mysore. It is entirely a Government property there, and no sandal tree can be uprooted or cut down, even in a private place, except by Government agency. But the Jahgirdar of Yelandur and the Guru of the Sringeri Mat have absolute right in those grown within their jurisdiction. The maturation period is roughly stated to be from forty to sixty years. It is to be noted that sandalwood is never attacked by white ants on account of its oil, which is principally obtained from the roots. The trunks in small pieces are put up for sale about the months of November and December, in different Kothis erected for the purpose. Excepting Mysore, a small quantity is produced in the Madras Presidency and in the Bombay districts of North Canara and Dharwar.

IN France the ushers who are in attendance at churches during weddings, must have their "tip" from the groom. In case it does not come up to their expectations, they besiege the carriage in which the newly married couple are driving away. The other day one of them disturbed a stately wedding, whereupon the police were called in, with the result that a free fight just outside the church took place between the usher and two of the Paris Force. Bakshish is not a failing of the East only.

FOR some time past we have been hearing that the Hindoo noblemen of Hyderabad have not been receiving good treatment at the hands of the present Ministry in that State. It gives us therefore much

pleasure to learn from a Southern Indian journal, that in the beginning of last month the Nizam paid a State visit to Maharaja Sheoraj Dharamwant Bahadur and his brother Raja Murli Monohar Bahadur Asafjahi. It was indeed a great honor, as His Highness is not in the habit of paying such visits except to his nearest relatives. The brother Rajas belong to one of the wealthiest and most eminent families of the Deccan, their ancestor having been deputed by the Emperor of Delhi to accompany the great Asaf Jah, the first Viceroy of the Province of the Deccan after its annexation to the Empire, and to help him in its administration. Whatever may be the treatment of these noblemen by individual officials, there can be no doubt that the Nizam has great regard for the family and kindness for them. Raja Murli Monohar is moreover an Honorary A. D. C. to His Highness. He is an educated and enlightened man who takes great interest in the progress of society, literature, arts, and industries, at home and abroad. During the Consent Bill agitation he early distinguished himself by a pamphlet on Hari Maitism.

THE Nizam is at present on another such visit—to Nawab Vikarul Omra Ikbalood Dowlah Bahadur, the Revenue Minister. The Nawab is the younger brother of Nawab Ameer-i-Kubeer Shumsool Omra Sir Khurshed Jah Bahadoor, K.C.I.E., and is married to one of the sisters of His Highness. His mother was also a daughter of a former Nizam, the grandfather of the present. The Nawab has built a magnificent palace on the top of a hillock in the suburbs of Hyderabad, at the cost of many lacs of rupees. It is said to be the only palace in India that has been built in a thorough European style, with European appliances of the highest order, artists from Italy and France having been engaged for many months to decorate, embellish and furnish it. Although the construction has been completed three or four years, and the Nawab had invited His Highness to pay him a visit there, the Nizam has only now found it convenient to comply with the request. He has been living there with some members of his family as the honored guest of the Nawab, since the 24th of August last. The palace is situated in a most salubrious spot, and the Nizam is said to be very much pleased with it. People think it not unlikely that Nawab Vikarul Omra will make a present of the Palace to the Nizam. He is bound to offer it, according to etiquette.

WE had marked for reproduction the following from the *Indian Daily News* of the 22nd August:—

"J. H.' writing in *Sala's Journal* gives some interesting reminiscences of a brilliant Anglo-Indian journalist of the past—John Lang. He says:—

A question often asked has been again repeated in the papers: 'Who wrote "Plot and Passion"?' The universal reply would be, 'Tom Taylor, of course.' And undoubtedly Tom Taylor has a right to claim its parentage, but I think it is equally beyond doubt that John Lang, the author of 'Too Clever by Half,' 'The Ex-Wife,' 'Yorke, You're Wanted,' and many other clever works of fiction, assisted Tom Taylor in the composition of the play very materially. I had the pleasure of an intimate acquaintanceship with John Lang in the last years of his life, and he often alluded to the part he had taken in the production of the play, which was much more than merely suggesting an incident or two. He was the last man in the world to try and flinch from the fame of others. He was a native of Australia, I believe, but studied for the English Bar, where he rapidly distinguished himself. After filling various prominent legal positions, he went to Calcutta at the advice of a relative, also an eminent barrister, and there he quickly made his mark. There must be many elderly Anglo-Indians who remember him well, or at any rate the strange stories told of him. His literary bias led him to found the *Mofussilite* newspaper at Meerut, and few papers have ever possessed such a distinguished list of regular contributors. The military news was always of great value, for it came direct from head-quarters, even from the Commander-in-Chief himself. The political information bore the impress of Government House. The legal was inspired by the Judges. The whole *menu* was ably served by Lang himself, in a manner all his own.

When the celebrated 'Gorham case' was dragging its slow length along, and every one had grown weary of the ecclesiastical inquiry, an intimate friend of John Lang's, an eminent Indian official, was staying with him as a guest, and helping him *con amore* with the paper. One day he asked Lang what he was going to say about this case in the forthcoming issue of the *Mofussilite*. An hour afterwards, Lang sent his friend a piece of paper with 'D—n the Gorham case' inscribed upon it, and nothing more; and this he insisted upon appearing in leaded type in a space by itself in the leader column. Not long afterwards, John Lang received a letter from the Governor-General of the period cordially endorsing the 'article' as being to his mind the best and most satisfactory leader he had ever read upon the wearisome subject.

[The above is not the usually accepted version, which is, that Lang asked a friend to write for the journal, who excused himself as not having a subject, but was open to suggestion. Lang probably in a spirit of mischief suggested the Gorham case, one of which the papers

and the public were sick. The response was a note in reply—'The Gorham case. D—n the Gorham case.' This was published as the first leader much to the astonishment of the contributor and the amusement of the public.—ED., *I. D. N.*]

One incident in his life John Lang was always especially proud of, and that was his defence of Jotee Pershad, the Army contractor, who was arraigned for malversation of his accounts to a very paltry extent, even if true John Lang made a brilliant defence of many hours' duration, and Jotee Pershad conferred on Mr. Lang a present of a lakh of rupees, then nearer worth £10,000 than it would be now. Alack a day! It was said that several more lakhs were added to the first during the year which followed, for John Lang was never possessed of more than he required, and he was a sorry financier.

Lang was a fine classical scholar. Horace was his favourite author, and he seemed to know him line for line from beginning to end. As a Sanscrit scholar I doubt if he had his equal among Englishmen of his time in India. His writings, such as I have enumerated, were but a paper reflex of his abilities. His story of 'Yorke, You're Wanted,' while amusing everybody, worked a deal of good. It told of a friend sending his wife home and placing her in charge of Yorke, a brother officer, and of the miserable experiences the latter had of it with the wife and her two untrained and unmannerly children. There was a deal too much of this friendly service exacted in those days by one friend from another, and that which at first appeared a handsome compliment usually turned out an unsufferable nuisance. 'Yorke, You're wanted' helped to check this evil at any rate.

In the list of literary Anglo-Indians, John Lang will always hold an honoured place, and a still larger one in the hearts of those friends who yet survive him."

"J. H." we take it, is Mr. James Hutton, a most brilliant writer who had been to India at least twice to conduct Indian newspapers. On the first occasion he was connected with the Press Upper India, and was a journalist at Meerat itself.

Lang was a prolific penman, and wrote some clever stories, but he oftener published trash. More dreary writing we scarcely read than one or two novelettes which appeared in a series of fiction of one of the London publishers of cheap literature. His *Wanderings in India*, originally contributed to Dickens' *Household Words*, though disfigured by the prejudices of the day, is still pleasant reading, and ought to be better known. His *forte* lay in sketches of men and manners, narratives of personal experiences, and so on. He was one of the luckiest Indian newspaper-owners and editors. He founded the *Mofussilite*, with liberal assistance from influential friends no doubt but under the most adverse circumstances of the time—circumstances which he has himself left on record with his brilliant pen. And, though a bad financier as J. H. says, he managed and edited it into a notable success. But the paper made way by its enterprise and independence, its early intelligence, civil and military, and the contributions of officers and officials, as much as by the funny flippancies of his own pen. He had wit and humour and any amount of "cheek." His bold profanity on the Gorham case was a stroke of genius. Yet he lacked calibre as a journalist. His brilliancy was of a loose scrappy sort. In spite of his great success in the case of Jotee Persad, he could scarcely have been a leared writer. J. H.'s testimony to his Greek scholarship comes on us as a surprise. His papers in *Household Words* show his acquaintance with Bland's *Anthology* and no more. He is more at home in English poetry. But it is hard to believe that he knew the veriest rudiments of Sanskrit. His writings give abundant negative proof of his innocence. His *Wanderings* shows him not only without any sympathy for the religion and manners of the people of India but very much of a raw Qui Hye in regard to them.

THE American Bison threatens to be extinct. According to the *Illustrated London News*, within the last twenty-five years the race numbered roughly six millions. After the completion of the *Union Pacific Railway*, which divided their land, about four millions were in the north and the rest in the south. In ten years more, the northerners became limited to twenty, and of the southerners two hundred were carefully protected in the Yellowstone Park. It is supposed that five hundred more exist in British territory. A collection of the bones of these animals gave a pile of eight hundred feet long, eight feet wide and seven and half feet high. There is a trade on the bones, and they are shipped for conversion into bone ash for sugar-refining. The absolute extinction of the species may yet be prevented, for they can breed with success in confinement. These half breeds are not so ferocious and can be utilized for various purposes.

WE have never helped to keep the public mind in a ferment of anxieties and apprehensions with premature, not to say idle, speculations regarding our North-Western and Northern Frontiers. But we are at last face to face with facts. The military preparations cannot be ignored.

A rather considerable Field Force has been organised under the command of General Lockhart to concentrate at Darband on the first of next month, for the purpose of chastising the Trans-Indus clans who, in breach of their pledge given at Seri in May 1891, have harboured Hashim Ali Khan of Seri. The Press, with its proneness to distrust, more than hints that the real object is different, specially as orders have been given for the whole First Army Corps to be in readiness. It is truly said that so much powder and shot cannot be required for bringing those petty clans to their senses. It is, therefore, suspected that the real objective is Afghanistan or the Pamirs. We believe the suspicion is gratuitous. The Czar has by his pacific attitude relieved us of immediate anxiety with respect to Russia. Nor can our Government be in a hurry to go to war with the Ameer. But in these critical times it is necessary to strengthen ourselves in Afghanistan and indeed throughout the frontiers generally. In Abdur Rahman Khan's present unhappy temper, we cannot be said to be strong with him. There is no knowing that he is with us at all. On that point there ought to be no doubt. If necessary, he must be coerced into a good boy, or stamped out. There is no desire for war, and it may be to avoid it that the Government of India is showing that it is in earnest and is able to exact deference. These military preparations must have a salutary effect on all allies and dependents as well as foes on the frontiers. If after all, war could not be avoided, we should be all the better for our preparations.

DACOITY is raging in all parts of the country. In Kattywar the budmashes went so far as to loot the Police records. But the most serious news in the connection is that Thaggi—that dread old form of highway murder for robbery—has again raised its head. The Revival has taken place in Oudh, whence several genuine cases are reported.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, September 10, 1892.

### THE CHOLERA IN CASHMERE.

THE Happy Valley labours under an unhappy liability to the visitation of the Cholera. Not to stray to the dim traditionary past, within the last half century Cashmere (or Kashmir as it is now-a-days spelt) has suffered from epidemics of this dire disease at least five times. The first outbreak occurred as long ago as the year 1843. There was a long respite after that. What was the cause or causes of the protracted immunity we do not know; it would be instructive to discover them. It is certain that nearly a quarter of a century elapsed before the poor inhabitants of Cashmere once more made the acquaintance of the Epidemic Cholera. Since then the visit of the scourge has been more frequent, with more regular intervals of about a decade, rather more or less. The next appearance was twelve years after, in 1879, and again in nine years more there was another, in 1888. Lastly, in less than half the last interval—in fact before three full years had scarcely passed away—there was yet another: we refer to the present—we hope we may call it the late epidemic of 1892. It is clear from this chronological series that the duration of immunity of this Alpine country is becoming small not by degrees but rather by leaps and bounds, until there has been two attacks of epidemic within four years. This surely is a serious state of things and it behoves the Maharaja's Government as well as the enlightened and benevolent Paramount Power which rules over the destinies of the whole Indian Continent, including the Native States, to make searching inquiry into the phenomenon. It is important to ascertain whether any general causes are at work inducing a progressive deterioration of the health of the Valley and its people.

Surgeon-Colonel R. Harvey, who had been deputed by the Government of India to Cashmere to investigate the subject, read in July last an interesting paper, at the British Medical Association, on the origin and spread of the Cholera Epidemic of 1888 at Srinagar, Cashmere, and the measures adopted to mitigate the sufferings of the poor. He expresses his disbelief in the air-borne theory of Cholera. So far so good. Unfortunately, he has not been able to free himself from the prejudices of the profession. He still clings to the notion of the transportation of epidemic by human commerce. If he does not tremble at the cholera in the (h)air, he suspects it in the clothes. Such is his explanation of the outbreak in Cashmere, and he points to the facilities offered since the opening of the Jhilm Valley Road. He forgets that this importation requires for its manifestation a suitable soil for the growth of the disease germs. Of course, he ignores the fact that Cholera can arise *de novo*, independent of introduction from without. According to him, a first introduction is essential before an outbreak. A changed sanitary condition, as the gradual deposition of filth, silting up the beds of rivers or tanks, or insufficient supply of water, &c., is not enough to generate a new kind of disease. At any rate, there must be a carrier of poison. Still a certain pre-existing cell, spirillum or bacillus is necessary. But there is another greater factor—evolution, at the bottom of all these for the progressive development of disease. It completely, though insidiously, changes the nature of the organism. In course of time, this gradual change is manifested, establishing a new form quite different from the pre-existing phenomenon. In regard to the Cholera, India has unfortunately got a bad name. Lower Bengal in especial is unalterably fixed in the Western imagination as the original home and still the constant habitat of the Cholera. The learned among the European doctors have strengthened the notion by identifying the ancient *visuchika* with the modern Cholera. That identification, however, will scarcely stand serious examination, notwithstanding the easy acceptance of ignorant Hindus. Dr. Mahendralal Sircar, in his *Calcutta Journal of Medicine*, has effectually combated this notion. The symptoms of *visuchika* and cholera are not alike. Fever, vomiting, and diarrhoea are the prominent symptoms of the one disease, whereas suppression of urine, rice water stool and collapse are the characteristics of the other. There are certain abnormalities common to both, but the points of contrast proclaim them quite distinct from each other. The differences are too many, too important, and too glaring for confounding one with another. It is as yet unknown whether *visuchika* has transformed itself gradually into modern Cholera, or whether the Cholera has been introduced into this country by foreigners. Supposing it to have been so brought over, suspicion lies more on China than any other country as the exporter. It has also been asserted that Cholera existed in Egypt long before it was known in India, and the land of the Pharaohs may have something to do with the outspread of this disease. At any rate, there is no data before us to conclude that India is the home of Cholera from the ancient times. Those who do not pretend to pursue the subject so far into the mist of ages are still content to assign India as the home of the disease in quite modern times. This is an unfortunate assumption. They hold that in times not far from our own—almost within the memory of the oldest inhabitant—the Cholera from its centre in Bengal travel-

led West to Europe and made the tour of the globe, scourging the nations in its track. There is no adequate warrant for this assertion which has become an article of creed with the faculty. The evidence offered is not only poor but conflicting. And we have every hope that before long this notion will be abandoned like many another equally cherished beliefs in the domain of medicine.

Dr. Harvey justly says that "the true method of dealing with cholera and all allied diseases is to make them impotent for evil by such sanitary measures as shall make it impossible for them to flourish if introduced." In support, he cites the instances of Fort William and other large cantonments in Upper India where cholera used to prevail vigorously before. Believing in the efficacy of quarantine, he doubts its practicability both on sea and on land and especially in the latter. A few years before, quarantine was the panacea of the hygienists, but they have to abandon it not only on account of the hardship it entails but for its absolute failure. They stuck fast to the sea quarantine to the last, but even at enormous expense this measure did not prove useful. If trade is to be carried on regularly, delay is dangerous and so quarantine cannot be insisted on to its full extent. For this reason, the Sanitary Conference at Venice failed and that at Paris succeeded after considerable difficulty. It is not far distant when quarantine must give way to local sanitary improvements. They took hold of the wrong view and with the usual obstinacy of scientific men are still spending time and money uselessly after their big hobby. The death-knell has been pronounced on quarantine.

From the struggle of contending theories, let us turn to the sphere of ascertained facts. With regard to the sanitary outlook in Cashmere, the capital, Srinagar, is one of the filthiest town imaginable. The Judicial Member of the Maharaja's Council and the Chief Medical Officer have condemned city and citizens in no measured terms in their reports. The latter officer states that "the Kashmiris are notoriously filthy and negligent of even personal cleanliness. They care not how impure is the water they drink and how dirty the house they live in. Srinagar is a badly built town, with no drainage and peopled by one of the most dirty races on the face of the earth. The result is that the soil is saturated with the filth of ages and surface-cleansing is partially impossible and partially neglected. *Barustal-gus* (filth at the door) is proverbially admitted to be a mark of affluence. Human ordure is scattered broadcast all over the town. From the roads and houses on the river bank drains carrying slush filth and sewage empty into the river, in which the washermen wash their unclean clothes, the dyers wash their dyes and the butchers entrails of animals. The consequence is that the water of the river, as it flows through the city is little better than liquid sewage." The Committee to investigate the epidemic of 1888 also endorse the same view: "The majority of the inhabitants use the public streets or lanes or the court-yards of their own houses for the purpose of nature. This has been going on from time immemorial and consequently the soil is contaminated to a degree by the accumulation of the filth. Private houses with some few exceptions have no privy, and even these few privies are seldom cleansed. Year after year this evil has been growing, as the removal of filth is a thing unknown." Such is the dismal picture portrayed of Srinagar by the officers of the State of

Cashmere themselves, and it is high time that these evils should be put a stop to.

Dr. Harvey thinks that he has traced the importation of the epidemic of 1888 by the Maharaja's camp. The first case was at Domel on April 24, and the one at Srinagar occurred on the 6th of May. A boatman from Baramulla carried the infection and on the same day there were six deaths at that place.

The rest of the paper is devoted to the attempts made to mitigate the sufferings of the diseased and to prevent the spread of the epidemic. Then it recommends the following improvements.

(1). A survey of the city with a view to the prevention of floods, and the working out of a general plan of improvement to be carried into effect piecemeal whenever a great flood or fire or earthquake makes it possible to Hausmannise any particular quarter.

(2). The rebuilding of the burnt out quarter upon strictly sanitary lines, with wide main streets, and all lanes and alleys wide enough to permit the passage of conservancy carts.

(3). A systematic attempt to place the conservancy of Srinagar on a proper footing by the provision of public and private latrines, and an efficient system of scavenging.

(4). A supply of pure water distributed in pipes throughout the city, with hydrants at such short intervals as shall take away all temptation to use and all excuse for using any other water.

(5). The deepening of existing canals, and the provision of means for flushing them, so as to remove as much as possible all sources of impurity. In connection with this a scheme of surface drainage to carry off rain water.

(6). The prohibition of further burials within the city and the provision of new grave-yards outside.

(7). The provision of play-grounds and open spaces as lungs for the city.

(8). The relegation of cow-houses, tanneries, and slaughter-houses to the suburbs.

(9). The forbidding of the digging of holes—which are rapidly converted into middens to obtain earth for building purposes, and the filling up of the hundreds already existing.

## THE HYDERABAD DEFAMATION CASE.

### THE CASE FOR THE PROSECUTION.

In the Residency Bazaar Court, before Mr. O. V. Bosanquet, C.S., Second Assistant Resident and Magistrate, the first hearing came on Monday, the 29th August, of the case in which Nawab Mehdi Hassan Fattey Nawaz Jung charges Mr. S. M. Mitra with defamation in a pamphlet entitled "A Shocking Social Scandal" purporting to have been printed at Lucknow and to have been written by one "Bakir Hussain, Aminabad, Lucknow." The complainant is the Home Secretary of the Nizam's Government. The accused, showily dressed in Hyderabad fashion, with a gold and jewelled swordbelt, was a conspicuous figure beside his counsel, Mr. Eardley Norton, of the Madras Bar, instructed by Mr. Edgell, solicitor of the Bombay High Court. Mr. Inverarity, of the Bombay bar, instructed by Messrs. Forbes, Gribble and Fitzpatrick, local pleaders, appeared for the prosecution.

The Magistrate having taken his seat, Mr. Inverarity at once rose and opened the case. The defamation complained of, he said, was contained in a pamphlet, printed on the 13th of March last, by the order of the accused and published in April. It was of two kinds, as both Mr. and Mrs. Mehdi Hassan were attacked therein. Mr. Mehdi Hassan only prosecutes on the present occasion, leaving for another occasion the defamation on his wife. To sum up shortly the main defamatory allegations in that pamphlet are: (1) That Mr. and Mrs. Mehdi Hassan were never married; (2) that well knowing she was a loose woman he palmed her off as his wife; and (3) that sending his alleged wife to certain officials, and specially to the late Sir Salar Jung II., it was by her influence, thus obtained, that he became Home Secretary of the

Nizam's Government. Counsel would prove that all and each of these allegations were absolutely untrue. Mr. Mehdi Hassan made the acquaintance of his wife in her father's house before he was married; since then and before she led a perfectly pure and respectable life; that the marriage was perfectly a valid one, and, above all, that Mr. Mehdi Hassan has all along asserted and believed it to be so, and does so at the present moment. Among the first things to be noticed in the pamphlet is that it purports to be issued by a person who avowedly wishes to be responsible for his statements. He gives his name. Inured to the pleasures of the *zenana*, he has himself, he says, enjoyed this lady's favours; he declares himself to have been a pupil of the Canning College, and it was her position, he asserts, in Hyderabad society into which he was introduced when here on a visit that prompted him to write what he did. But all the circumstances so suggestive of truth are entirely false. The name is a fictitious one; no such person was ever known to Mr. Mehdi Hassan or his wife; no pupil of the name was ever at the Canning College, and no such person as a visitor to Hyderabad had been ever heard of in society there. All this is, of course, very material in the event of any attempt at justification, if good faith is to be proved. Mr. Inverarity here referred in some detail to the reasons alleged in the pamphlet itself for its publication, and laid emphasis on the fact that while *apparently* courting on the document the fullest inquiry, the most absolute and systematic precautions were taken for concealing not only the real authors, but even Mitra's connection with the defamation. The political character of this vile document will also be observed from the fact that it was written two years before it was published. The state of the political atmosphere did not favour its publication at that time. We get at this fact by undesigned and intrinsic evidence in the pamphlet itself. The real object of the attack was, of course, the Ministry of Sir Asman Jah, but the conspirators were evidently afraid then to use the weapon they had so carefully prepared. That this pamphlet was really written in 1890 is seen from p. 3, where the writer refers to the events of 1872 and 1873 as "eighteen years ago"—the period that is when some of the pupils mentioned were in fact as stated, at the Canning College. And if among these pupils there was no Mirza Bakir Hussain capable of writing this pamphlet, there was another person there, who in his person answers to the description Mirza Fakir Hussain gives of himself. This person openly mentioned elsewhere in the pamphlet as having also enjoyed this lady's favours is Mr. Syed Ali Belgrami; he, indeed, was at the Canning College in 1873, and went up for his degree and was plucked, and the events of his career otherwise correspond to the description of the fictitious Bakir Hussain. Under Section 105 of the Evidence Act, the onus of proving the fact that brings the defence within the exceptions in the Penal Code falls, of course, upon the accused. Most of the persons mentioned in the pamphlet are present and available in Hyderabad, and we will look to the accused to put all these persons in the witness box. When Syed Ali Belgrami comes into that box, if he ever dares to come there, I shall have some very ugly questions to ask him about this Bakir Hussain, and the similarity of that personage's experience to the events of his own life. The accused Mitra is, of course, only a fool in the hands of the real persons intriguing against the Nizam's Government behind him, hoping that through the Home Secretary they will injure and damage the entire Ministry. Another point is that no less than nine persons are alleged in the pamphlet to have been criminally intimate with Mrs. Mehdi Hassan. First, we have the writer himself and three others—the joint-stock company, of these, Mahomed Akbar Khan is in the Nizam's Police. We must see that the defence calls him. Another person is Rafi-ud-din, who is a brother or cousin of Nawab Sarwar Jung—another very important gentleman in this case, whose presence in the witness-box, on behalf of the accused, I look forward to with particular concern, as I hope to extract from him some interesting information regarding the authorship of this vile pamphlet. On p. 5 the names of three more persons are given, who either enjoyed this lady's favours, or are perfectly acquainted with all her antecedents. Among these are Sarwar Jung himself and Syed Hussain Belgrami and Syed Ali Belgrami, while the ninth person is Shuja-at-Ali. I have already alluded to the particulars so fictitiously circumstantial which place the defamation in the most malicious manner possible. It purports to be both written under the writer's own signature, who is only too willing to come forward to support his statements. Two of these nine persons wrote at once absolutely denying the allegations concerning them, and Syed Hassan and Shuja-at Ali will come here to entirely repudiate all connection with, and knowledge of, the circumstances mentioned concerning them in the pamphlet. As to the seven others, we will expect to see them here in the witness-box called on behalf of the defendant. No other evidence will do, if that mentioned in the pamphlet itself is deliberately withheld when the persons are present and their evidence available in Hyderabad. With reference to the truth of these allegations, I may again repeat that it is absolutely untrue that Mrs. Mehdi Hassan was other than a perfectly pure and respectable woman when my client offered to marry her; and after the marriage she

has continued to live with him, wherever he was living, always as his honourable and faithful wife. I am reluctant even to suppose such a thing, but even if Mrs. Mehdi Hassan were such as she is alleged to have been, it would not affect the charge against Mitra, unless he can prove Mehdi Hassan's complaisance, and that he acted with the knowledge he is alleged to have acted with. Even if these allegations were true nothing but a feeling of loathing and disgust arise to see these things raked up after twenty years. Mrs. Mehdi Hassan's father was Captain Donnelly, a retired Warrant Officer from the Ordnance or Commissariat Department, who, like other respectable lads (?)—and might have done worse in his youth. His brother, more fortunate, was a Deputy Surgeon on the Madras side. Her mother was the daughter of Captain Mitchell. In 1872 she was living with her father at Lucknow, when Mehdi Hassan made their acquaintance, and where the affection between them began, which has happily continued unabated to the present day. The father objected to his daughter marrying Mehdi Hassan, and she returned with her father to the Punjab, where she lived with him up to the day of his death in 1873. After that event she corresponded with Mehdi Hassan again when she was living with her friend, Mrs. Evans, at Delhi. Mr. and Mrs. Evans are still living, and I shall probably apply for a commission to examine them. While living there the marriage was arranged for, and Miss Donnelly was brought to Lucknow by Mrs. Evans, where after Mehdi Hassan's return from Jubbulpur the ceremony was gone through. Two witnesses were present and signed the contract of marriage; another of the attesting witnesses arrived too late for the ceremony, but signed the contract. His relatives were naturally opposed to his marrying a person not of his own race, but Miss Donnelly became a Mahomedan before marriage, and for nine or ten years observed purdah. Later on, however, she has been attending Christian places of worship. This contract of marriage is signed by both Mr. Mehdi Hassan and his wife and attested, first by the witnesses of the marriage, and afterwards by three others, two of these Mehdi Hassan's uncles and the third a near relative. Of these attesting witnesses Inayat Ali is, unfortunately for us, dead, and yet the event is perhaps not so unfortunate, for as we can prove his signature, that fact itself, the death having occurred so many years ago, will go a long way to prove the genuineness of the document. Moreover, the marriage was never kept a secret. Within a week all his relatives were informed of it, and from the time of the marriage Mrs. Mehdi Hassan was recognised and visited by all the best Mahomedan families as his wife. Then we come to Hyderabad, where Mr. and Mrs. Mehdi Hassan have always lived in the full light of the public eye. It is impossible, therefore, that she could have carried on a career of infamy, and, if she did there can be no difficulty in calling the host of minor officials who were criminally intimate with her, and proving that Mehdi Hassan was her accomplice. There is another matter I would refer to, one of the allegations reflects on the character of a nobleman now dead, and it is stated that through her influence it was that Salar Jung advanced Mehdi Hassan to be Home Secretary; that they were seen together at all hours of the day and night. I need hardly go any further at present. If there is any attempt at justification, I shall of course claim to call witnesses in reply, for it is impossible at this stage to foresee what case the defendant is going to set up, or what witnesses he will call. The first that should be called are, of course, those named in the pamphlet. If not called, we shall have the natural inference from their absence, and if they come into the witness-box, we hope to have the falsehood of the statements in the pamphlet shown out of their own mouths. I may say again that we have made enquiries at the Canning College. It is alleged that three of the four persons who formed the "joint-stock company" for keeping Miss Donnelly went up for their degree and were plucked; the result, it is suggested, of their debauched conduct and neglect of their books; we have ascertained that no such person as Bakir Hussain was at the Canning College in those years; that Rafi-ud-din was there, but never went up for a degree, and therefore was not plucked; that Yusuf-ud-din did go for his degree and was plucked; and that Mahomed Akbar Khan was not a student at all, and of course, was not plucked. I do not expect to see him here, but if I do, we may learn something from the coincidence. Anyhow, it is curious, that Syed Ali Belgrami did go up for his degree that year and that he was plucked; that he is no fictitious person, but is now in Hyderabad. This, of course, does not enable us to proceed against him, but the fact is important. There is another person also whom we cannot prosecute; Nawab Sarwar Jung is not within the jurisdiction of this Court, but belongs to the Nizam's household, and his Highness has not given permission to do so as yet. I may say that the whole procedure adopted in regard to this pamphlet negatives good faith. The proper course would be, supposing the writer to be actuated by the motives alleged in the pamphlet, to report the matter to the Nizam, to the Minister, or to the Resident instead of posting large quantities of the pamphlet from Bombay to Hyderabad to every official and every Mess and Club and to other parts of India. The object was, of course, a political one—to ruin Mehdi Hassan, and through him to ruin

the Nizam's Ministry. It was of course known that Mehdi Hassan was not at the time in Hyderabad, and we all know that if a lie has half an hour's start the truth seldom overtakes it, and most men are unfortunately only too ready to believe scandal, and evil of others. As to the accused, we know he is a mere tool well paid, as we shall show, to receive and endure the imprisonment to which he may be sentenced. I shall call evidence to prove that he was even prepared to sell the opposite party, his own friends, if he was paid his own price for it.

#### A ROAD FROM COOLPY TO CHANNEL CREEK.

Baboo Prasad Dutt of No. 1, Sickdarparah Lane, Calcutta, has circulated to those interested the following letter:—

I beg to submit the following facts for your consideration:

2. After years of fruitless endeavours for securing an easy means of communication with that vast tract of the country below Coolpy, in the subdivision of Diamond Harbour, 24-Pergunnahs,

Raja Peary Mohun the marginally noted grantees of Sagor Mookerjee, C. I. E. Island\* have at last succeeded in securing

Messrs. Cally Coomar the following expression of opinion from the Government on the humble self.

From the letter from the Board of Revenue cited in the preamble, it appears that the allegation of the petitioners that not a rupee of the cesses raised within the District is expended on Sagor Island, is substantially correct. So far, therefore, the petitioners seem to have a just ground of complaint against the District Road Committee of the 24-Pergunnahs. The Board of Revenue will be requested to impress upon the Committee the necessity of allowing the Sagor Island an adequate proportion of the grant for village roads, having regard to the other demands upon the District Road fund and to the claims of other parts of the District."

3. The District Board of the 24-Pergunnahs with the object of giving effect to the above cited Government Resolution have been since making an annual grant for the Sagor Island roads. The Chairman of the Board in reply to my enquiry was pleased to say as follows:—"Rs. 1,000 was provided for in the current year's budget for improvement of communications in Sagor Island, but as the amount has not been drawn by the grantees, it has again been entered in the budget for 1886-87, together with an additional sum of Rs. 475. The total amount thus available for expenditure in Sagor Island during the ensuing cess year is Rs. 1,475."

4. On this the District Engineer of the 24-Pergunnahs recommended certain allotments of the above sums for repairing village roads of the five grants in the Island, and the Chairman of the Board was pleased to ask my opinion on the subject.

5. Believing, as I do, that the question of public good is of much more importance than seeking the interests of our individual grants, I submitted to the Chairman the following proposal, namely, that out of the annual allotments for the improvement of communications in Sagor Island the question of the construction of a fair weather road in the main land from the top of Channel Creek river to Coolpy should have prior consideration, as the construction of this road, it is hoped, will provide a desirable, safe and continuous link to inland communication with the town. I also pointed out that although the grant was too small, it would be better expended if a commencement was made of this road, and it was gradually expended from future annual grants. I also submitted to him that if he thought it undesirable to commence a big project with so small a grant, either the annual allotments might be set apart as a separate fund for the construction of this road and when a respectable sum had accrued the work might be taken in hand, or it might be reserved to meet the payment of interest. From borrowed capital the work may be undertaken. I also expressed to him my belief that annual voluntary contributions equal to the amount of road cess payment can be had for the construction of this road from those who are interested in its construction, if the amount of the cess of the locality, which will be benefited by this road, be exclusively expended in the construction thereof. I further informed him that if the apportionment of the present grant in no way prejudiced the interest of the most important question about the construction of the proposed road I might then submit my views on the question put to me.

6. Mr. Forbes, the then Chairman of the District Board, with his wonted love for fairness, took up the subject in right earnest, and had a resolution passed, an extract from which, as has been communicated to me, is as follows:—

"The proposal of Babu Prasad Doss Dutt, one of the grantees of Sagor Island, for the construction of a fair weather road from the Coolpy Road to the northern part of Channel Creek was then brought forward for discussion; resolved that the construction of a road from Coolpy to Channel Creek being very desirable the Board will be prepared to undertake the work provided the grantees agree to subscribe one-half of the cost, and that on their concluding arrangements in this respect with the Board, provision be made in the budget for 1888-89 and 1889-90 to carry out the work."

7. For the purposes of ascertaining the views of the parties to be benefited by the proposed road as to the question of raising half the cost as required by the District Board, a meeting was held at the Diamond Harbour subdivisional office, but only four persons attended the same; however, it was resolved that those who will be benefited by this road should pay twice the amount of cesses which they pay and give up the land required for the road free of all charges.

8. The Chairman of the District Board has been pleased to inform me that an estimate and plan of the proposed road is now ready, and the cost of the road has been estimated at Rs. 31,520 including cost of the land to be acquired, Rs. 12,480. I was asked what plan I would propose to adopt for ascertaining the views of the Zemindars concerned as regards the land required for the road. I have also been informed that the Chairman is desirous of asking the Zemindars concerned to attend a meeting or circulate a letter on the subject of the land.

9. In my reply to the Chairman I have pointed out the difficulties of moffassil men to attend the meeting, and give a decisive opinion on the subject without mastering the full facts of the case. I therefore suggested that a history of the past proceedings should be conveyed by a circular letter to all the parties to be benefited by the road, asking them to communicate their views within a given time, and then to hold a meeting to discuss the question. I have not heard what steps have been taken on the subject.

10. I have also quite recently drawn the attention of the Chairman to the fact that the proposed road is intended to be commenced and terminated on the mainland, thus the residents of the northern portion of Sagor Island even cannot therefore expect to reap equal direct advantages with the residents of the mainland on whose lands it would be constructed, whilst the residents of my Dhoalat estate, being further separated by about 20 miles of dense jungle from the last inhabited quarter of the northern part of the island, can expect little or no advantage; nevertheless the grantees of Sagor Island have not only consented that the annual grants sanctioned for the village roads of Sagor Island should be transferred for the construction of this road in the mainland, but have also offered to pay in addition 5,812-9-6, the two years' cesses they pay for Sagor Island. This shows that they are not selfish in any way. I have, therefore, submitted that if the residents of the locality over which the road is to pass refuse to bear their portion of the just burden, and if the District Board do not take into consideration that the locality below Coolpy (which has not a single road, but is annually contributing at least on account of cesses Rs. 20,324-6-6 without receiving any return whatever) is justly entitled to this road which has been estimated to cost Rs. 31,520, with such contributions which may be got from the people and the provincial fund, then the question of the construction of this road must drop, and the sum at credit of the village roads in Sagor Island should be expended on legitimate purposes for which they are sanctioned.

11. I am now asked to ascertain the views of the parties who own lands on the line of the proposed road, or who would be benefited by its construction, and a list of the names of those gentlemen has been sent to me. I have, therefore, taken the liberty to address you on the subject.

12. Need I say that the proposed road will be of much benefit to the poor residents of the locality below Coolpy. It is unnecessary to dilate on this point. It will facilitate the opening out of *bats* and *marts*, thus bringing in direct returns to the Zemindars concerned and enhancing the income and the value of their properties. I say nothing regarding the luxury of doing good to the poor rayyets of this backward locality who have an undoubted claim for assistance in such a matter from their landlords. We all know that the fund at the disposal of the District Board is not adequate for the full requirements of the District, and if we were to insist on the actual fulfilment of the following behest of the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India "that the benefit to be derived from the rates should be brought home to their (people's) doors—that these benefits should be palpable, direct, immediate," an ugly question for the general enhancement of the local cess arises. Sir Rivers Thompson, in his Tarkessur speech, clearly pointed this out. I therefore think it prudent to offer voluntary contributions and get the important and urgent works carried out quietly. May I request you to be good enough to express your views as to what contribution you will be pleased to make in aid of the construction of the proposed road regarding (a) free gift of all the lands within your zemindari that might be necessary for the construction of the road (b) and cash contribution.

13. I request you will be good enough to express your views within one month and send it to the care of the Vice-Chairman, District Board, 24-Pergunnahs, Alipur, to enable me to submit a report on this subject to the Chairman of the District Board for a final settlement of the question one way or the other. I may say that he will be very glad to call a meeting if the majority of the gentlemen to be benefited by the proposed road are disposed to attend the same.

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Vol. XI. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1892.

} No. 542

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Her lips, around them gathered  
A smile in some wondrous wise,  
And tears as of yearning sadness  
Stood glistening in her eyes.

And down my cheeks the tears, too,  
Flowed on in unbidden stream;  
And oh, that I've lost thee, darling,  
Seems only a wildered dream.

"*Warum sind die Rosen so blass?*"

WHY are the roses so wan of hue,  
Oh, say to me, darling, why?  
And why, love, why is the violet blue,  
In the green, green grass so shy?

The lark, why sings he so sad a chime,  
As he soars in the sky o'erhead?  
Why, why exhales from the fragrant thyme  
An odour as of the dead?

Why wears the sun all the livelong day  
A look of such chill and gloom?  
Oh why is the earth so ashen-grey,  
And desolate as a tomb?

And why so heart-sick and sad am I?  
Oh say, love, why this should be!  
Oh say, my heart's very darling, why  
Hast thou forsaken me?

"*Liebe, sollst mir heute sagen?*"

SAY, love, art thou not a vision?  
Speak, for I to know were fain,—  
Such as summer hours Elysian  
Breed within the poet's brain?

Nay, a mouth of such completeness,  
Eyes of such bewitching flame,  
Girl so garnered round with sweetness,  
Never did a poet frame.

Vampires, basilisks, chimeras,  
Dragons, monsters, all the dire  
Creatures of the fable era,  
Quickened in the poet's fire.

But thyself, so artful-artless,  
Thy sweet face, thy tender eyes,  
With their looks so fond, so heartless,  
Never poet could devise.

LORELEY.

I CANNOT imagine what daunts me,  
And makes me feel eerie and low:  
A legend, it troubles, it haunts me,  
A legend of long ago.

The air chills, day is declining,  
And smoothly Rhine's waters run,  
And the peaks of the mountains are shining  
Aloft in the setting sun.

A maiden of wondrous seeming,  
Most beautiful sits, see, there!  
Her jewels in gold are gleaming,  
She combs out her golden hair.

With a comb of red gold she parts it,  
And still as she combs it, she sings;  
As the melody falls on our hearts, it  
With power as of magic stings.

With a spasm the boatman hears it,  
Out there in his little skiff;  
He sees not the reef, as he nears it,  
He only looks up to the cliff.

The waters will sweep, I am thinking,  
O'er skiff, ay, and boatman ere long;  
And this is, when daylight is sinking,  
What Loreley did with her song.

—Blackwood.

## THE ELF-KING'S YOUNGEST DAUGHTER.

DOWN the merry streamlet dancing,  
Through the flickering shadows glancing,  
Foam about her white feet creaming,  
All her wayward hair out-streaming,  
Laughing on the laughing water,  
Dances down the Elf-King's daughter—  
Youngest daughter fair.

All the trees bend low toward her,  
All the rocks are strong to guard her,  
All the little grasses whisper,  
And the low-toned breezes lisp her  
Praises everywhere.

All around the warm air lingers  
Lovingly, the while her fingers,

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With a dainty upward gesture,  
Seem to draw a shade for vesture  
Of her loveliness.

Yet meseems she moves so purely,  
Gliding on her path demurely,  
Looking with clear eyes serenely,  
She were clad not half so queenly  
In a royal dress.

Now she's lightly onward sweeping,—  
Now she stays half-glad, half-fearing,  
O'er the ledge of granite peering,  
Eyes the headlong torrent leaping—  
Eyes far down the sullen boulders,  
While the long locks round her shoulders  
Gather tenderly.

Now with little laugh a-tremble,  
Glad her shrinking to dissemble,  
Flashing through the diamond shower  
With her white feet launched below her,  
And her hair drawn out above her,  
Swift as lady to her lover  
Down the fall goes she.

Now when quiet night has clouded  
All the river board and stately,  
Down the stream she rides sedately,  
By her soft hair warmly shrouded,  
Lulled by melody.

Down amid the dim trees greeting,  
And the drowsy wheat's repeating,  
Dreaming on the dreaming water  
Floats the Elf-king's youngest daughter  
To the dreaming sea.

—Blackwood.

J. R. S.

## WEEKLYANA.

THE *Lancet* urges legislative action to prevent boys from smoking. We say ditto.

WE read in the *Hindoo Patriot* of the 12th September,

"The Afghan, says the Indian proverb, holds the first rank in duplicity."

There is no such proverb, Indian or extra-Indian.

SOME honest, far from over-burdened wight has been calculating that—

"Should Queen Victoria live another year, she will have reigned longer than any English monarch, except George III. Fifty-six years was the length of Henry III's reign, and the Queen was crowned fifty-five years ago."

AT Tel-el Amarna, a literary collection has been found—a regular Babylonian Library 3,500 years old.

SIR Edwin Arnold has unearthed one of the noblest romances of the East, the "Story of Adzuma," on which he has written a four-act play in blank verse. He hopes to bring it out at Chicago during the World's Fair. Sir Edwin has written for the American Press a fervid and beautiful introduction to the "Story of Adzuma."

AN American publication offered a prize of 50 dols. for the most astounding fish story. Many MSS. were presented, of various lengths, but the prize was won by one F. T. Ranson, who had sent in the following story:—"Several days ago a friend and I went fishing in Silver Lake, but didn't catch anything."

THE *Malabar and Travancore Spectator*, in an article on Mr. Gladstone keeping out Mr. Labouchere from his ministry at royal dictation, passes in review the latter's recent career as a publicist and politician. Our

contemporary notices the outspokenness of *Truth*, saying that that freedom of language would, if "Labby" were writing in Russia, soon procure him the knout in a Siberian dungeon. Then with a fine felicity of compliment our Malabar brother adds:—

"But the grand old monarchical constitution of England is also, if we may say so, to a great extent democratic, and Mr. Labouchere is allowed to live on and write. There are thousands who pin their faith on his democratic doctrines, and the rulers of England suffer such things to be."

WE learn that the *Courier* of Cochin having started a Scandal Column, there are in consequence flutterings in many local dovecots. One item runs:—"Ten elopements on the *tapis*; nine of them married people, and one unmarried." Thereupon, "This is rich," remarks the *Malabar and Travancore Spectator*. We should say, it was too much of a good thing. But our Malabar brother knows his own. Or rather, his neighbours. He asks the pertinent question, "How many wife's sisters in the case, we wonder, for, perhaps, to Cochin Benedicts the description of the Englishman by a German may be applied, to the effect that John Bull is a husband who always makes a mistake and marries the wrong sister."

REFERRING to the movement lately set on foot in Switzerland to prove that Count Mattei's so-called electro-homœopathy and his cancer cures are a delusion and a fraud, and the *British Medical Journal's* assertion since that an Investigation Committee has shown the system to be a failure or worse, the *Malabar and Travancore Spectator* calls upon Father Fr. Muller, of Mangalore, who has had a dispensary of the treatment for more than ten years, to declare his experience of the alleged fraud.

IT is reported that sixteen packages of gold, valued at Rs. 804,873 have just been despatched from Kolar Gold Fields to Bombay. Whatever may be the case with the Jhoot Moot Companies of Bengal, Mysore gold is not a myth.

IT is said that Mr. Sorabjee Ruttonjee, of Sorabjee and Co., has discovered pure alum in large quantities in a mountain known as Jurgoon, about twenty-eight miles east of Quetta, near some coal mines.

WE learn—

"Spaniards have invented a novel form of duel. Combatants being mounted on bicycles each armed with a knife, rush full tilt at each other. A collision thus arranged, appears to be tremendous."

That discovery is worthy of the nation which to this day patronizes bull-fights. Still for savage personal encounters in cold blood, the Americans do not yield even to the Spaniards.

IT is reported that Mrs. Annie Besant is about to publish another theosophical manual, this time dealing with Re-incarnation. Upon this the *Bengal Times*:—"We strongly suspect she is a subject of transmigration, and could almost hazard a guess of her form previous to her appearance as an atom of humanity." That is a brilliant guess in the Natural History of Creation.

WE learn—

"Numerous silkworms, which were brought to Gokak from Nilgiri and other mountains by Sultan Saheb Kotwal, at a heavy cost, are said to have been destroyed by an Englishman. He then went to Madras—so it is reported—and did similar mischief there, to a silk factory, which was also in its infancy."

There is so much method in these mischiefs, that one cannot help suspecting that this vandalism is pursued in the interest of some place or trade.

THE Bombay Small Cause Court has held that forward contracts for the sale or purchase of Government paper are merely wagering and gambling contracts, and therefore not enforceable by law.

THE *Strand Magazine* contains an account of an interview with the illustrious President, R. A., with illustrations. Sir Frederic Leighton early showed his genius in the direction of Art.

"His family went to Rome when he was ten years of age, and the boy began taking lessons from Signor Meli. When he was fourteen his father took some of his sketches to Hiram Powers, the American sculptor. 'And what is the verdict, Mr. Powers?' asked Mr. Leighton.

Shall I make him an artist?' The reply was: 'You can't help yourself, sir; nature has done it for you.' 'Will he be an eminent artist?' then asked Mr. Leighton. The answer was: 'Sir, your son can be as eminent as he pleases.'

THAT decided the choice of a profession. But it was not without great and unremitting exertion that the boy of genius grew to the accomplished painter. The habit remains. Even now, when he might well rest on his laurels, the great President works as hard as any struggling young artist.

"He always works wearing spectacles with divided glasses, the upper part being used for seeing his model at a distance and the lower for painting. He cannot work under any constraint, and has the greatest objection to being watched while he is painting. Sir Frederic is not a man of one work. He believes in keeping several going at once. 'I never give my whole attention to one picture at the same time,' says he; 'I invariably have six or seven canvases going, and I find it gives me all the rest I need to go from one to the other, working a little bit here and a little bit there. By this means the eye is constantly refreshed; I get through a good deal of work by this system.'

The late M. Dumas also had the same faculty of detachment in a wondrous degree. He kept supplying six journals regularly. How he could get a wink of sleep with a brain worked at such high pressure and a mind crowded with plots and "sensations"—with nastinesses and offences, *contrefempts* and crimes—is a wonder.

THIS paragraph is going the round:—

"We understand that the first Indian who visited England was a Parsi. One Mr. Framjee Rustamjee left the shores of Bombay in 1723, long before the great Raja Ram Mohun Roy was born. His object was to get redress to the injustice done to him by the agents of the East India Company in the matter of a factory which he owned at Bombay."

We know better than that writer. The first Indian who went to England was Kadir Bux Khansama—unless it was his uncle Hosnoo the Lascar. In fine, beyond question, the credit of pioneering belongs to Islam.

THE present representatives of the people are being analysed from different points of view. We have already given the respective strength of the different professions returned. As regards parliamentary experience, the new House of Commons is a set of greener horns than those of 1886, but not so raw a levy as the delegates in 1885. Thus, the number of new members this time is 217, (102 Liberals, 75 Conservatives, 11 Liberal Unionists, and 29 Nationalists, including 1 Parnellite), in 1886 the number of new members was only 140, while in 1885 it was no fewer than 330.

Taken as a whole, the new House of Commons is decidedly older than its predecessor. The ages range from 22—Mr. W. Allen (L) and Mr. T. B. Curran (N) were both born in 1870—to 90. Mr. Villiers is again the Father of the House at 90, and the other veterans are Mr. Isaac Holden (85) Mr. Gladstone (82), and Mr. C. Wright (82). All four are Liberals, but Mr. Villiers is a Unionist. There are 40 members whose ages range from 22 to 30 inclusive; 143 from 31 to 40; 197 from 41 to 50; 173 from 51 to 60; 78 from 61 to 70; and 4 from 81 to 90. In 1886 there were 44 between 20 to 30, and 16 whose ages were 71 and upwards.

100 Liberals are in favour of woman's suffrage; 112 Conservatives; 11 Liberal Unionists; and 19 Nationalists, including 3 Parnellites. Thus there is a grand total of 252, as against 337 in 1886.

Since 1886 most of the Liberals who then stood out for Local Option have been converted to the Direct Veto. In the new House are 263 Liberals favouring the Direct Veto, 16 Liberal Unionists, and 14 Conservatives. This gives a grand total of 293 as compared with 1886, when there were 172 supporters of the Direct Veto, and 111 of Local Option. Of the 14 Conservatives 10 are Irish. The other four are Messrs. A. J. Balfour, A. G. Murray, H. Seton-Karr, and Mr. J. Stewart. Mr. Curzon is pledged to Local Option and Sunday Closing. Not a single Nationalist seems pledged to the Direct Veto. Messrs. J. Austin, S. Evershed, H. E. Hoare, J. Stansfeld, and E. Whitbread—all Liberal brewers—approve the Direct Veto.

Pledged to the principle of the Eight Hours Bill for miners are 175 members:—143 Liberals, 17 Conservatives, 9 Liberal Unionists, and 6 Nationalists. A still greater number believe in the payment of members and of election expenses. The grand total under this head is 188, made up of 177 Liberals, 4 Conservatives, 2 Liberal Unionists, and 5 Nationalists.

THE following is going the round of the press throughout the globe as an editorial which recently appeared in a Western newspaper in the United States:—

"We begin the publication of the *Rocky Mountain Cyclone* with some phew diplicities in the way. The type phounder phrom whom we bought the outphit phor this printing ophis phailed to supply any ephs or cays, and it will be phor or phive weex bephore we get any. We have ordered the missing letters and will have to wait until they come. We don't lique the idea of this variety of spelling any better than our readers, mistax will happen in the best ov regulated phamilies, and if the ephs and the exes hold out we shall ceep (sound the c hard) the *Cyclone* whirling aphter a phasion till the sorts arrive. It is no joque to us; it is a serious aphair."

That is so rich that we strongly suspect it to be a specimen of contributorial ingenuity of the press of the Union. There are other grounds which precipitate the suspicion into certitude. Neither the date nor the place of publication of the newspaper is given. Then, *Cyclone* is too grotesque a designation for even a journal on the slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Besides, the word is not American, or English, either. It was not in Webster nor Worcester. Again, the States have been overspread with a network of railways, and no newspaper in any part of the country need labour under such an embarrassment. Lastly, the neighbourhood of the Rocky Mountains has long ceased to be an inaccessible savage land.

There is a still more clinching ultimatum. This very paragraph had once before, many years since, made the grand tour, when we, with others of our contemporaries, reprinted it.

THE prospect of a new field of inquiry is opened in the following paragraph:—

"The American Professor Garner, who is going to Central Africa to study the 'language' of apes, has been in London, and was interviewed for *The Pall Mall Gazette*. He is taking a phonograph with him to record the sounds made. He will 'try and get some young monkeys,' and thoroughly domesticate them, and learn their language. He has demonstrated that they have speech just as much as we have, and has already mastered twenty words of their language. He secured a phonograph record of the Rhesus monkeys' talk in the New York Central Park, and when he tried it on a new batch, just arrived from Asia, 'the seven new monkeys answered quite vociferously.' He has learnt nine words of the Capuchin monkeys' language. That for food he has 'initiated with a little flute concern,' and on hearing it they give him food. The Professor is going on a novel and interesting mission, the results of which will be curiously awaited. Who knows but that the monkey may yet be educated up to the reading of newspapers, and to the election of members of a Simian Parliament?"

The adventure is worthy of the nation. A fellow-citizen of Edison's, Professor Garner goes out armed with a phonograph to report the speech of monkeys. The audacity of man is up to anything.

When the Professor returns after his successful mission to the Mountains of the Moon, he will sound a return to the times of primitive simplicity (to speak under, lunar influence, in confused and contradictory language), to

—days of yore when time was young,

When birds conversed as well as sung.

It will be a jolly time, indeed, when *Aesop's Fables* will be history.

## NOTES & LEADERETTES

### with OUR OWN NEWS.

WE are not surprised to find it reported from Afghanistan that religious feeling is running high between the Sunnis and Shias. It is stated that, by an official edict, all Shias who die at Kandahar are to receive Sunni burial. Our readers are, we believe, aware by this time, of the cause of such bitterness and resentment of the Sunnis against the Shias. The *Tubarra* is at the bottom of all the mischief.

THE Chuprassi Commissioner of the Natore Municipality has, after all, resigned. It being brought to the notice of the Magistrate of the district that since the election of the messenger the majority of the Commissioners were absenting themselves from the meetings, and that, in consequence, the municipal work was at a stand-still, he used his influence with the employer of the Chuprassi and got the latter to resign. An accidental circumstance, if we mistake not, enhanced the weight of the official counsel.

WHAT an audacious thief he must be who stole a live elephant from the Dacca Kheddah the other day, and actually drove it to Comillah, and there sold it to a Zemindar. He was, however, caught,

tried, convicted, and sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 50. We have heard of theft of buffaloes and horses, but this is the first time that we come across an elephantine enormity of the light-fingered gentry.

HERE is testimony in favour of opium by Dr. Lawrie, the Residency Surgeon of Hyderabad :—

"I came out to India twenty years ago with violent prejudices against opium, which it took a long time to uproot. If opium-eating is a vice, it is not to be compared in the harm it does with alcohol. Alcohol destroys the health and leads to crime; opium does neither the one nor the other. All men, and more especially all women, in health are much better without alcohol than with it; but I very much doubt if the same can be said in India about opium. On the contrary, an immense number of people in this country owe their health to opium, and would not only fall an easy prey to disease but would actually suffer in general health if they did not take it."

Few medical men have had a wider range of experience in different parts of India than Dr. Lawrie, and no one is entitled to speak more authoritatively in an inquiry into the effects of particular habits on the health of the people. His opinion on the influence of the opium-habit, therefore, is of the highest value. He confesses how he had shared the universal prejudice of the drinking races against the harmless drug, and how it took him long to shake himself free from it. So far from being a rank poison which should, on no account, be countenanced, he virtually acknowledges that opium is one of the most useful and beneficial articles and has, at least in this country, preserved the health of thousands. To the native of India this is no news, but Dr. Lawrie has shown considerable courage in avowing a truth so strange among Europeans. If truth is the object of the anti-Opiumites, this sort of testimony of men like Dr. Lawrie and Sir W. Moore will lead them to raise the siege against the Government of India.

MEDICAL men are divided in opinion as to the superiority of boiled over unboiled milk. With us Indians, it is the universal custom from time immemorial to drink milk boiled. But there are men of science who prefer to have it unboiled. They seem to think that boiling deprives the milk of its nutrient properties and makes it indigestible. They hold further that the bacilli of anthrax or tuberculosis, &c., are not destroyed in the boiling. Hence it is a needless operation. But the latest experiment conducted by Dr. Chamonin supports the native Indian view. He fed a number of kittens with boiled and an equal number with milk direct from animal. The former grew twice as fat and healthy as the latter; but a kitten left to its mother was the fattest and healthiest of them all, as the deficiencies supplied by the maternal instinct were beyond the resources of the laboratory. Then he examined the cause of the infant mortality in Paris, and traced it more to intestinal disease than to anything else, directly or indirectly. Carrying on his investigations further, he was happy to find that the simple precaution of boiling milk before feeding saved proportionately a large number of infants.

IT is scarcely to the credit of the great Indian journals that we should receive the earliest and most copious information about the East from Europe. The following picture of the Amir at Home is by a correspondent of a London paper :—

"The simplicity of his attire was in marked contrast to the gorgeously bejewelled raiment often displayed by the Indian Chiefs and Princes present at that historic meeting. His style of living is said to be equally plain, and, abandoning the almost universal Oriental custom of eating with the hands, he uses a knife and fork at table. Similarly, he has taken to smoking cigars, in place of the Eastern 'hookah' or water-pipe, a change which some connoisseurs in the use of tobacco will declare to be a mistake. Other indications of the tendencies of his mind are shown by the introduction of the electric light in Kabul, by the construction of new streets and a new palace, by the establishment of workshops fitted with expensive machinery imported from England for the manufacture of military material, and controlled by English engineers, and by many embellishments and improvements which he has wrought for his capital. Take him all in all, the Amir is not such a bad fellow as many apparently imagine him to be. It is at once his weakness and his advantage that he considers himself a very mighty potentate indeed. To his inordinately exalted opinion of himself rather to express ill-will is to be traced much of the friction which has occurred between him and the Indian Government. It would be much to the benefit of all concerned were he to carry out his desire of paying a visit to this country."

That description, although it proves that he is very far from an ogre, does not exalt the Amir in our opinion. It shows him a vain old boy. Abdur Rahman's residence in Russian cities and his intercourse with Europeans, seem to have done him both good and bad.

His starting workshops under Europeans for supply of military material is just the thing. We would even indulge him in the manufacture of wine or spirits out of the fine grape of his country, like old Ranjit Singh, if his heart yearned after the "water of life," though a gouty man had better avoid the alluring but forbidden draught. But what is this nonsense of electric light for in a land still groping in the stinking oily *cherag* stage of illumination? He may have his knife and fork, if he do not run the risk of cutting himself, but why cigars? And then, cigars to the abandonment of the *hookah* is a distinct step backwards. But the electric light at Cabool! The conversion of the Bala Hissar into a University with Haraprasad Shastri for Professor of Political Philosophy and Diplomacy, would be a less romantic reform.

ONE of the largest meetings of the Great Eastern Hotel Wine and General Purveying Co., Ltd., was held on the 8th September. The attendance of share-holders in person was not large, only twenty being present, but the votes recorded were as many as ten thousand short by only 77. The meeting was specially convened to do away with the services of Messrs. Wilson, Calder & Co., and to authorize the Directors to propose new arrangements for the conduct of the Company's business in Great Britain. It was claimed on behalf of the Company that on account of the retirement and death of Mr. Alex. Calder, the senior partner of Wilson, Calder & Co., that firm, under the operation of clauses 124 to 126 of the Articles of Association, had ceased to exist and that the clauses were inoperative. Messrs. Wilson, on the other hand, contend that the death of their partner does not release the Purveying Company from their obligation to them, and gave notice that they would contest in court any such resolution carried at that meeting as illegal and invalid and not binding on them. Notwithstanding the protest, and in spite of a proposition to adjourn the meeting for eight weeks, a resolution was carried dispensing with the services of Messrs. Wilson, Calder & Co. Mr. Shirley Tremenearne, the Chairman of the meeting and the managing director of the Company, had anticipated the opposition and was forearmed with the votes of the absent share-holders. Mr. Tremenearne is equal to any combat that may follow.

MR. A. M. Nash in a huff has "chucked" up the registrarship of the Calcutta University. In addition to his Rs. 400 monthly, he had claimed a sum of Rs. 1,200 for summing up the numbers in the last Arts examinations. The Syndicate having decided that the Registrar was not entitled to the extra remuneration for work which legitimately fell within his duty, Mr. Nash at once resigned. There was, however, Mr. W. Griffiths with a soul above Rupees, Annas, and Pies, who would drudge through any sums in addition without recompense beyond the arithmetic pleasure, and he was elected Registrar. The Fellows would do well to take extra care of their upper extremities.

IN noticing our article "The Hedjaz the Home of the Cholera," our contemporary of the *Statesman* takes exception to our remark as to the insanitary condition of Jerusalem. We did not speak without the book. We would refer our contemporary to a letter published in the *Lancet* of the 18th June 1892, in which Mr. Hingston Fox, of Finsbury Square, thus speaks of the place :— "The Christian pilgrimage to Jerusalem towards Easter time is not wholly unlike the Mahomedan in its sanitary aspect as I can testify; but the numbers are much smaller and the mortality far less." The eighth edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, which contains more information than the ninth, at least with respect to Jerusalem, does not speak well of the Holy City of the Christians and the Jews. The old buildings which are still far too numerous are very much ill-ventilated, while most of them are in a ruinous state. The majority of the population live in these houses which are generally overcrowded, and the crowding is increasing at a rapid rate on account of the incoming Jews. The old method of water supply from rain-water preserved in cisterns, is yet followed. In the ninth edition, only the addition of a few hospitals, hotels and schools is mentioned. As for the statement that "the climate of Jerusalem is healthy in comparison with that of the plains beneath it," it must be accepted with some reservation. For the description following does not put it on a sound footing. "A fresh sea breeze blows throughout the day in the summer, and the average daily maximum temperature is 86°F. August is the hottest

month, but in May the prevalence of dry east winds is specially trying. The autumn months are very unhealthy." As for the city of Mecca, Ali Bey, who preserved the thermometrical readings at different times, gives the maximum heat—in February—87°F and the minimum 67°5F. Medina is a cooler town in comparison either with Mecca or Jerusalem. According to Dr. Abdur Razzak, who is impartial in his report of the Hedjaz, the sanitary arrangements of this city would be creditable to any civilized country of the present day. Altogether, in a comparison between Mecca and Jerusalem, the latter falls short in many respects, especially in the water supply, which is one of the principal factors in the generation and the spread of any kind of disease.

THE situation in regard to Afghanistan remains unchanged. The Ameer has not yet sent a reply to the Government of India's second letter, acknowledging his answer to the offer to send a mission to him. It is daily expected. Meanwhile, the news that Lord Roberts was to head the deputation to Afghanistan had caused the greatest anxiety in political and military circles in England, although strangely enough there was no intimation from Reuter. We hope the Government was apprised, though we did not hear that the idea of sending the Commander-in-Chief has been abandoned. The anxiety "at Home" is perfectly just. There ought to be no more tempting of Fate. Lord Roberts is too valuable a "pillar of the state" to be risked in this way. He is worth whole dozens of Cavagnaris and Quintons.

In point of fact, the delay over the negotiations has saved us from incurring the risk. His Lordship's time is up and he will now be going home for retirement.

There are as yet no signs of Hashim Ali quietly surrendering himself or being surrendered.

The Mehtar of Chitral suddenly died on the 30th August—at the, in those blessed highlands, premature age of seventy odd years. His younger and favorite son Afzalool Moolk, who was present, at once seized the arsenal—containing 700 Sniders from the Government of India with ammunition—and all the cash and proclaimed himself the Mehtar. The eldest son, Nizamool-Moolk, was absent in his Government of Yassin. A war between the brothers is a matter of course. It is astutely thrown out in the *Pioneer* that the elder brother is no good, being an "inveterate schemer," while the lucky younger dog is the perfection of a native Chief as one who "has always had the warmest regard for such British officers as have visited Chitral." The policy of the Government of India may be divined.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, September 17, 1892.

### THE HYDERABAD "SCANDAL PAMPHLET" PROSECUTION.

WHATEVER opinion may be formed at the present day, or whatever verdict may be passed hereafter, on the management of affairs by the Prime Minister of Hyderabad, his administration is not likely to be forgotten. If it is not memorable for the doings of the Minister, it will be remembered at least for the notable, not to say notorious, doings which have taken place during the ministry. In this respect, certainly, it has been an eventful administration. It has overflowed with "sensations." Unlucky beyond most Premiers even in the Deccan, Sir Asman Jah's memory is associated with multitudinous scandals. His five years of office have witnessed no end of stirring incidents, mostly in the shape of legal and political or quasi-political proceedings, which have ranked almost as events. On the flight of the Boy Minister imposed on the Nizam by the will of Lord Ripon, suddenly recalled from Europe, to undertake the perilous responsibility of governing the great Mussulman State, he had no sooner stepped into office than he was confronted by the disclosures of the Deccan Mining Company,—in which Sirdar Abdul Huk acquired world-wide notoriety, having made

fabulous wealth in a fabulous way, and spent it, we may add, in the fabulous way of an Indian Prince in London, so much so that people in England generally took him for His Highness the Nizam himself! That enormous scandal had scarcely abated when the Much Ado About Nothing of the Sowar Commission came to be played. On the heels of that inquiry occurred the notorious City Murder, in which a young Mahomedan scapegrace of respectable connections was implicated as having murdered a young Native Christian woman of parts and attractions and booked the dead body at the railway station as a parcel for despatch by train! That case is still dragging its slow length along, while the murderer is still at large. Next came the Salar Jung Debt Commission, which, it is believed, hastened the death of the young, amiable and good Munir-ul-Mulk, the second son of Salar Jung I. and the only prop of that illustrious family. In this connection may be mentioned what is locally known as the Bribery Case, in which a high official was accused of having received a heavy gratification from the ladies of the Salar Jung family to oil the wheels of Nizamat justice. For the accused official himself appeared to be the Judge, inasmuch as the Hyderabad Government Resolution on the subject embodying the Minister's decision, was issued from the office, and under the name, of that official—the name printed in large type—the whole circumstances furnishing an illustration of the Oriental proverb—*Khud Kuza, Khud Kuzagaro, Khud gil-e-Kuza*, that is, himself the goglet, himself the goglet-maker, and himself the clay out of which the goglet is made. Of these several cases, the most important and of the most general interest was the first,—the Loot over the Hyderabad Mining Bubble, affecting as it did men at a distance—in Europe—and involving the characters of eminent Englishmen. The rest are of Hyderabad, Hyderabad. Scandalous as they are, the scandal is local, being confined to the City of the Nizam. If the dirt and slime have not been properly washed or have been wholly neglected, the reeking linen has been stowed away at home without being suffered to go abroad. Not so another case which occurred only last year. We refer to the unhappy dispute over an article with a respectable and loyal tradesman well known to the Nizam, which has become historic as the famous Diamond Case. These several matters comprise the first-class "sensations" pieces. A detailed and chronological enumeration of the incidents of minor notoriety would take up a long time and large space. But the following may be mentioned at random as the chief among them—the Roy Royan's case, the Anagundy case, the Gudhawal case, the Gorkunta and other Samasthan and Jagirdars' cases, the Sowcar case (in which Sowcar Balkrishna was fined a lac of rupees by the Nizam's High Court), the Treasury Frauds case and the Jewellery case. But in point of sensation the Pamphlet Defamation case has surpassed all the previous dramas. Already the sensation caused is unprecedented within living memory. On no previous occasion was the interest so general, or so stirring. Now all Hyderabad seems to be in a ferment. In the palaces of nobles, in all domestic circles, European and Native, in the public offices, clubs, playgrounds, shops and bazars—everywhere—the Pamphlet case is the chief topic of conversation, and not unfrequently of hot and excited discussion.

The causes of this intense, wide-spread and unprecedented sensation are not far to seek. The *purda*-keeping Indian is proverbially touchy in every-

thing affecting the honor of his wife. He has exaggerated or superfine notions of delicacy in all matters concerning his female relations. But of all races, the Mahomedans, perhaps, are the most touchy on this point. His sensibility in this connection is of the keenest sort. As an instance in illustration of this may be cited Nawab Mehdi Hassan's own statement in Mr. Bosanquet's Court the other day. On being asked to mention the name of his aunt by the Defendant's counsel in cross-examination, he refused to answer the question, saying that it was against the custom of Mahomedan society to mention the names of one's female relations. Such being the case, it can easily be imagined how humiliating it is for a Mahomedan to be questioned, and to be obliged to answer all sorts of unpleasant and indelicate questions about one's wife in an open Court. As the investigation proceeded and the complainant's cross-examination with regard to Mrs. Mehdi Hassan by Defendant's counsel became more and more minute and searching, the sensation in the public mind grew more and more intense, till the entire Mahomedan community of Hyderabad was stirred beyond all description. The attendance in Court increased daily, and the Court room could not find accommodation for all, the doors had to be closed against many, but crowds of these surplus visitors, instead of returning home, chose to loiter about the precincts of the Court house till the end of the sitting, in the hope of getting crumbs of information by chance. The Nobles who would not attend Court personally through fear of compromising their dignity, deputed their *Hurkuras* and *Akhbaris* to report to them the day's proceedings. By special arrangement, the daily proceedings were translated into Urdu, with breathless expedition, and despatched to the Nizam and the Minister at night, without any consideration of the lateness of the hour, and both of them are said to have read those proceedings with equal avidity and interest.

Never before was a high official of the Hyderabad Government subjected to such humiliation, and never before was the Hyderabad Government scandalised in such a manner. The mind of the orthodox Hyderabad is agitated with various feelings. He feels sympathy for Nawab Mehdi Hassan, as one Mahomedan would naturally feel for another in such a situation. He also feels—most keenly—for his Government, for, he believes that in Nawab Mehdi Hassan's humiliation, the Government is humiliated. And, therefore, he curses the hour when Nawab Mehdi Hassan instituted these proceedings. He thinks that Nawab Mehdi Hassan would have done better if he had treated the pamphlet with the "contempt of silence," as he had been advised to do by one of his best friends—himself a high official. He thinks it would have been better if Nawab Mehdi Hassan had resigned his post and left Hyderabad for ever. He thinks it would have been far better if Nawab Mehdi Hassan had left it to time—the great corrector of wrongs—to vindicate his character or to obliterate his own and his wife's personality from the mind of the public. Such are the feelings and such are the opinions of the genuine and orthodox Hyderabad on this scandalous business.

The case has its political aspects also. They are of a more serious nature. But it is not yet time to look on that side of the picture.

## THE MEDRESSAH MEETING.

A RATHER interesting meeting of Mahomedan gentlemen was held the other night at that ancient seat of Mahomedan learning, founded by Warren Hastings in 1781, the Calcutta Medressah. Although the chief business of the evening was a Lecture on the Moral Precepts of Islam, delivered by Moulvi Abdool Jabbar Khan Bahadur, the Suburban Police Magistrate, for the benefit of the rising generation of the Mahomedan community who have acquired an English education, yet the discussion which followed the Lecture, digressed into a direction which came home to the entire Mahomedan community. There was present a couple of unfledged Mahomedan Barristers fresh from England. Charmed with the society of English ladies, they seem to have discussed between them while in England the question of the *purdah* system and Female Emancipation in India, and determined to create a revolution in that connection, by the force of their arguments and with the help of stray passages from Sale's Koran, on their return to India. The meeting offered a very good opportunity for displaying their eloquence and knowledge of the religion and social customs of the Mahomedans of India, and they gladly availed themselves of it. They accordingly delivered an attack upon the *purdah* system—to the evident dissatisfaction of the audience. One gentleman offered to refute the barristers from Europe, from the Mahomedan scriptures, but the Chairman would not allow that meeting to be an arena for polemics. Nawab Abdool Luteef Bahadur was now asked by Mr. Rowe, (the Chairman,) to speak. In responding to the call, the Nawab made a remarkable speech, in the course of which he clearly showed how the Mahomedan boys in English seminaries, were, now-a-days, growing up without the slightest education in their own religious and moral books. This not from choice, but from the necessity of fulfilling the requirements of a hard University test, which allowed no time whatever to the boys to learn their own religious doctrines and moral precepts from original sources. The result was that whatever knowledge of religion or morals or social proprieties the Mahomedan youth acquired in the course of their College career, was derived from English books, such as Addison's *Spectator*, Bacon's *Essays*, Scott's *Talisman*, and the manual of geography published by a Missionary Society, or, at the best, from Sale's translation of the Koran. He was, therefore, not surprised to find young Mahomedan gentlemen fresh from England, give expression to ideas repugnant to the feelings of the Mahomedan community. We have no doubt that the Nawab's views will be echoed by the generality of Mahomedans. And what he said about his own people, applies in the main to Hindus as well. He has supplied matter for serious reflection for both denominations. The meeting having thus turned out a most interesting one not only to the Mahomedans but to the general community, we give below an abstract of its proceedings.

The First Anniversary Meeting of the Medressah Debating Club was held in the hall of the College on the 3rd September at 6-30 P. M. There was a large gathering of English-educated young Mahomedans. Several leading men of Mahomedan society with a few European and Hindu gentlemen were also present. Mr. F. J. Rowe, the Principal of the Medressah, was in the chair, and opened the proceedings by calling upon the Secretary of the Club to read the report. It appears from the report that the society was founded last year with the object of providing "a healthy and delightful mental recreation and opportunities to young men of the Mahomedan community of meeting every week to discuss literary, scientific and moral subjects (political and religious being scrupulously avoided), to acquire facility in writing and speaking the English language, and to obtain a greater command over it than they can possibly have by mere College training, which consists in getting through the curriculum of studies fixed by the University, and the last though not the least to strengthen the cause of unity and enhance social sympathy among themselves."

The report being read, the Chairman introduced Mr. C. R. Wilson, a Professor of the Presidency College, and

requested him to give an introductory speech. Mr. Wilson delivered a short but impressive address. In an earnest manner and in lucid language, he said that the most valuable lessons which they could learn were those which they taught one another; these lessons were far more precious than those taught by their professors. After dwelling at some length on the moral and intellectual advantages conferred by discussion in a Debating Club, the speaker enforced the necessity for physical education, which he said should not be despised, as it formed the basis of their mental powers.

Moulvie Abdool Jubbar Khan Bahadur then delivered his promised Lecture on the Moral Precepts of Islam. The learned Khan Bahadur spoke with his usual fluency and force and altogether handled the subject in a way worthy of his position and learning. He quoted many original passages from the Holy Koran and the Traditions and commented on the same showing the relation between religion and morality. His conclusion was that religion was the fountain of morality, and that without religion morality had no firm basis to stand upon. He said that the Mahomedan religion was divided into two parts, suitable to all classes of men and conditions of life. The first related to religious devotions, while the second referred to moral duties and social affairs. When a person was convinced that there was an Almighty God, he would fear, love, and obey Him, and desire to know what he was to do to please his Lord. Consequently, the Prophets had communicated what things were pleasing to God, and what displeased Him. The speaker then referred to the vices strictly forbidden by the Mahomedan religion, chief among which were slandering, lying, drunkenness, gambling, the gratification of the passions in an improper manner, &c., and dwelt on the regularity of prayer, respect and obedience to parents, charity, feeding of poor relatives, orphans, &c., as highly recommended by the Koran. In conclusion, he stated that it had been said that in these days the students did not pay the respect due to their teachers. He did not see why boys of the present age should not follow the example of their ancestors, who were invariably submissive and respectful to their teachers. He did not mean that by being submissive they should lose their independence, but independence should not be confounded with insolence. They should all respect their teachers, who communicated to them those treasures of knowledge and moral precepts which alone were calculated to benefit them in this world and the next.

The President of the Club in a short speech proposed a vote of thanks to the learned lecturer as well as to Mr. Wilson, which was seconded by one of the members of the Club. The chairman then called upon several Mahomedan gentlemen to address the meeting. The first to respond to the Chairman was Mr. A. F. M. Abdur Rahman, Barrister-at-Law, who in an animated speech stated the past history of a similar Debating Club which had existed at the time of the late Mr. Blochmann under another name and of which he was a member, as he then was himself a student in that old Institution. Adverting to the Lecture of the evening, the speaker pressed upon his young friends to think over the excellent moral precepts of Islam, digest them and act accordingly. Lectures of that kind were calculated to bring about good results upon the minds of the Moslem youths. He exhorted the Mahomedan young folks to respect their parents and elders, to always speak the truth, to be scrupulously honest and straightforward and to avoid everything that was bad or vicious. He reminded them of the great duty that was awaiting them in the near future, that is to take the place of the elders of their community in the real battle of life. He then wished to make an observation on the Report of the Club.

He found that the chief object of the Club was to discuss literary and moral subjects, "political and religious subjects being scrupulously avoided." But it appears that subjects like "Female education in India" and the "Purdah System" were freely discussed during the year under review. The speaker said that Mr. Blochmann would never have allowed them as not coming within the legitimate scope of young Mahomedan students, and of whose object, origin and growth, the school boys could not be expected to possess sufficient knowledge. There used always to be a quarrel after their discussion. He thought these subjects fairly came under the ban of prohibition being "reli-

gious" and "political." Controversial subjects of the kind should be avoided and then the members would find their Club prosper and pay much better.

He was followed by Mr. Abdoor Rahim, a young Barrister, who in few words (which could not be distinctly heard) thanked the learned Lecturer for his able and interesting lecture, but observed that the moral and religious education of Mahomedan boys should be undertaken by their parents, and that female education should be properly attended to. He could not concur in the views expressed by Mr. Abdur Rahman regarding the Purdah system and Female Education, as he saw no objection to those subjects being discussed by the students.

The next to speak was Mr. Mahtabuddin Ahmad, only a few days ago enrolled as an Advocate of the Calcutta High Court. He was sorry he too could not agree with Mr. Abdur Rahman that the discussion of such subjects as Female Education and the Purdah system had better be left to the elders of the community, inasmuch as they were evidently religious and political questions, and did not come within the scope of a schoolboy debating club. He said that he had been wanting an opportunity like the present for giving out some of his views on Female Education. He observed that the condition of women in India was most deplorable and that, while in England, he and his friend Mr. Abdoor Rahim had thoroughly discussed the question, and had resolved upon effecting some reforms in this direction when they came out to India. He spoke in strong terms against the Purdah system, and tried to support his views by quoting certain passages from Sale's Koran. At this stage, he was asked by the Secretary of the Club to cut short his speech—and he sat down.

Then came the turn of Moulvie Shumsul Hoda, Pleader of the High Court. Before, however, he got up, Moulvie Badiul Alam stood up and said that he was ready then and there to refute the arguments and logic of the last speaker on the subject of the Purdah System, with proofs more authentic and substantial than what the last speaker could advance in support of his arguments. The Chairman here interposed observing that the present meeting was not intended for such discussions. After this Moulvie Shumsul Hoda tried to justify the action of the Members of the Club in discussing the Purdah System and Female Education, which he considered not political but social subjects. (Here he was reminded by a gentleman that they were religious.)

On the Moulvie's resuming his seat, the Chairman said that the proceedings of the evening would not be complete without a few observations from Nawab Abdool Lutef and called upon him to favor the meeting with a few words. In responding to this call, the Nawab, after thanking Mr. Rowe for the honor done to him, spoke as follows:—

The most grateful thanks of the general Mahomedan community were due to Moulvie Abdool Jubbar Khan Bahadur for the very able, instructive and useful lecture which he had that evening delivered to the large number of English-educated young men of the Mahomedan persuasion. By such lectures he, the speaker, expected that much benefit might be derived by the English educated Mahomedans in general and the student class in particular, in getting acquainted with their religious principles and in the formation of their moral character. He only wished with all his heart that lectures of such a valuable character were more often delivered for the benefit of the rising generation of the Mahomedans. He had a very good reason for expressing such a wish. It was well-known that now-a-days the University course of education exacted such hard work from the students, as to allow them no time at all to study their own religious books or learn the moral precepts of their own religion from original sources. The curriculum of the University course did not, for obvious reasons, embrace instruction in religious subjects. There was a time when Mahomedan parents considered it their duty to impart religious instruction to their children at home. But those times are gone. The pressure of the University and the prevailing system of education have absorbed all the faculties and the entire attention of the learning population. And the University tests are becoming more and more difficult every day, and additional subjects are being imposed upon the students almost every year.

The result is that unless a boy enters the English school at the age of 6 or 7 years and toils hard not only in school but also at home, and actually devotes the whole of his time to his school course, to the entire neglect of his religious education, he is unable to pass the Entrance test, to say nothing of the higher examinations.

In his earlier days, as he the speaker remembered, there were not a few Mahomedan families, most of them descended from historic ancestors, who were in opulent circumstances; but where are they? Many of them have entirely vanished, while others have dwindled into poverty and insignificance. Of the rest of the genteel part of Mahomedan society, the chief means of support of the majority consisted of emoluments from Government service and of the legal profession,—trade and commerce not being in their line. But owing to administrative and other changes of recent years, the Mahomedans were all but completely elbowed out of both these professions. The system of education completed what the change in administrative policy began. Regard for their classical literature and veneration for religion impelled the Mahomedan parents to make their children devote a portion of their time to the acquisition of Persian and Arabic and the principles of Islam, with the result that Mahomedan boys were unable to compete with their Hindoo schoolmates,—not thus handicapped,—and exhibited a very poor figure at the convocations of the University. The Mahomedan community were then blamed all round that they were too proud and did not care to keep up with the times, that their children devoted more time to the study of their own literature and religion, and culpably neglected their English studies. Mahomedan students found it extremely difficult to satisfy the requirements of their religion and of their society, and at the same time to qualify themselves for the public service and the professions.

The authorities were simply inexorable, and declined to show any indulgence to the Mahomedans, notwithstanding the repeated representations of the leaders of Mahomedan society, and went on laying down more and more difficult tests for competitive examinations, the passing of which alone, irrespective of all other considerations, could qualify Mahomedans for Government appointments.

The door of the public service as well as of the professions, was thus entirely closed to Mahomedan students, who, in deference to their social and religious requirements, did not devote their whole time to the study of subjects prescribed in the University course. Seeing this, and feeling most keenly, that they were being deprived of the only means of their subsistence, the Mahomedan parents were at last constrained to discontinue the practice of making their children give a portion of their time at home to acquisition of religious and moral instruction, and to insist upon their devoting the whole of their time to fulfil the requirements of the University course.

It will thus be evident, what opportunities young Mahomedans have of gaining moral education from their own religious sources. They are admitted into schools for teaching English, at the age of 6 or 7, and after a number of years' incessant hard labour, either obtain their degrees in the University here, or proceed to England to complete their education there, or study law in one of the Inns of Court, and thus at the age of 22 or 23 they enter public life in some capacity or other. Notwithstanding that these young men are brought up with little or no religious training whatever, it may be said to their credit that many of them exhibit great zeal and attachment for their religion. But in addition to the very imperfect knowledge imbibed from their surroundings at home, their chief acquaintance with the principles of Islam is derived from English authors whose tendency towards the Mahomedan religion was too well-known to be mentioned here.

The earliest notion respecting his Faith which the little Mahomedan boy learns in English schools, is from the saying attributed to Mahomed, namely, "If the mountain would not come to Mahomed, Mahomed would go to the mountain." That is probably the first lesson the little boys learn of the character of their Prophet. This, the speaker most vehemently denounced as the grossest libel imaginable—a palpable and absurd falsehood invented by some mischievous non-Mahomedan to ridicule the religion of Islam and its Prophet, as he was quite certain that no such incident ever occurred in the life of the Pro-

phet. Then the Mahomedan boys are made to learn from their English books, that their Prophet was an "impostor," that "Islam was a false religion," that "it had been spread only by the force of the sword," and so forth. In almost every English book, the boys come across passages containing direct or indirect attacks upon the Mahomedan religion, and, having no distinct knowledge of the latter of their own, are led to believe that these representations are correct. Again, from time to time, books are prescribed as compulsory subjects of University examinations, containing the most abusive and outrageous allusions to Islam and its Founder. Those objectionable passages the Mahomedan boys are compelled to con over, to study, and even, maybe, to learn by heart, and the effect of such training in young lads may be more easily conceived than described. He, the speaker, said that ever since he has had the honor of being appointed a Fellow of the Calcutta University, he had, though single-handed, tried his best to bring to the notice of the University the objectionable books prescribed in the curriculum, and pointed out the particular passages against Islam, and moved the highest authorities to interfere in the matter. The result was that certain essays of Addison's in the *Spectator*, one of Walter Scott's novels, the *Talisman*, some passages in *Bacon*, &c., were, he was glad to say, expunged from the University course. He further said, that he regretted that he had not sufficient leisure at his disposal to go through all the Text books of the University, but whenever he got information of any such book, he took prompt steps to remove the evil. He thought that if the Boards of studies discharged their duty, they ought to take special care that books containing such objectionable passages should not be selected as Text books. It was with the greatest surprise that he had, not long ago, come to know that a "Manual of Geography" prepared and published by the "Christian Vernacular Education Society," had been made a Text book for the Entrance Examination for 1893 and that the said book was that very moment being taught in that noble Mahomedan seminary in the Hall of which he was then standing. That book contained the grossest libels and abominable falsehoods regarding the Prophet of the Mahomedans, their religion, their character and their women. He, the speaker, had made some enquiries, and found that there was not a single Mahomedan Fellow in that Board of studies which selected that book. A Mahomedan Fellow had brought the matter to the notice of the Board of Studies for History and Geography at one of its recent meetings, but the majority decided that as the book had been selected for the examinations of 1893 and 1894, it could not, under some byelaw or other, be now altered or discontinued under any circumstances. That book had thus continued to remain a Text book, and Mahomedan students had to learn by heart those passages from that book that dealt with their religion, their character and the degraded state of their women. He most emphatically protested against the Boards of studies patronizing such books published by Missionaries, whose avowed object has always been to convert the Mahomedans and Hindoos to Christianity. His surprise was all the greater to find that even the Principal of the Calcutta Medressah had allowed the introduction of that book in this Institution, when there was an alternative book, namely, Clarke's geography, in the Text book list. He, however, hoped that under the wise supervision of the present Principal, Mr. Rowe, who had always evinced the greatest interest in the wellbeing of Mahomedan youths, the complaints of the Mahomedan community would soon be removed. In conclusion, the speaker would make one more remark. Considering that the sources, from which young Mahomedans who had acquired an English education, derived their knowledge of their religion, their moral principles, and their usages and customs, were only such English books as the *Manual of Geography* just spoken of, Addison's *Spectator*, Bacon's *Essays*, Scott's *Talisman*, Sale's *Koran*, &c.; it was no matter for surprise if they gave expression to non-Mahomedan ideas and opinions regarding female education, the purdah system, female emancipation and so forth.

Before, however, resuming his seat, he, on behalf of the Mahomedan community, thanked Professor Wilson, of the Presidency College, for the interest he had taken in the cause of the Mahomedan students and for the able address with which he had entertained the meeting that evening.

Owing to the lateness of the hour, Mr. Rowe would not address the meeting at any length, but in a few chosen words briefly reviewed the excellent work done by the Club during the last year, and while expressing his great pleasure at the very interesting lecture delivered by the Khan Bahadur, remarked that although he had heard many lectures before in his life, he had never derived greater benefit from any of them than from the one he had heard that evening. He added that he was a warm friend of the Mahomedan community, and had a great respect for their religion; and that this was the first time, that he had come to know that an objectionable book on geography had been introduced into the Calcutta Medressah. In conclusion, he conveyed the thanks of the meeting to the Khan Bahadur for his excellent lecture and to Mr. Wilson for the very useful observations made by that gentleman on moral and physical education.

After a vote of thanks to the chair, the meeting dispersed at 9 P. M.

### THE DOORGA PUJA HOLIDAYS.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—The Hindu community of Bengal and the *keranis* in particular owe you a debt immense of endless gratitude for the services you have rendered them in the matter of the curtailment of the Dooorga Puja holidays. In these days it is very difficult to find a man who is a real patriot and who really feels for the general body of the community. With the honorable exception of your worthy self there was none amongst us who cared to take up the cudgel to fight for the helpless *keranis*, when in 1890 they were attacked by the huge monster the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. The British Indian Association which is now a mere shadow of its past self proved a traitor. During this critical moment help came from an unexpected quarter. It was then you, Sir, who most willingly came forward to help with all your might the prostrate and crushed down *keranis*, and though you failed to rescue them from the iron grip of the all-powerful Chamber helped by the then setting sun of Belvedere, yet the poor *keranis* remember the right yeoman's service that you rendered them at the time and your sustained effort even now to rescue them from their terrible fate.

It is a great pity that our so-called leaders and pseudo patriots are most busy in calling meetings and making demonstrations in matters which affect the middle class population of Bengal the least, while they are perfectly indifferent to questions of most vital importance to the community. For instance, in the next Provincial Conference they do not think it their worth while even to put the Holiday question on the board for discussion, while that of "Sea Voyage" has been selected as a subject of sufficient importance. Admitting, for argument's sake, that the Joint Secretaries Baboos Surendra Nath Banerjee and Janokey Nath Ghosal (both of whom are England-returned) are not actuated by any consideration of self, I do not see the importance of this question. It is not a question at all. In fact, there is nothing in it to call for any discussion. What is required is merely action and nothing more. But apart from that consideration, is it not a matter affecting even less than the microscopic section of the community in comparison to the vast number of the people directly or indirectly affected by the curtailment of the holidays? There is nothing which debars our England returned youths from coming into society. They are all freely invited to take their dinners on social gatherings and festive occasions. The only difficulty is on the occasion of the marriage of their children. It requires only a little moral courage on the part of the agitators to make the first plunge, and then many will follow. But as is always the case with these so-called public spirited men, they are always loud in talk while loath to do the thing. They only want to show to the rulers that they are now getting reformed and therefore eligible for political privileges. It is only some inexperienced young men pressed by notoriety-hunters that are making all this fuss about nothing and thereby materially injuring the cause they profess to support. By their agitation they are simply inviting opposition. If they leave the matter alone and only try to bring about some marriages with the England-returned Babus or their children, all opposition will quietly die out, and they will gradually be merged into society. Of course, it requires a little tact, and, above all, a spirit of conciliation, on their part. If they live in society according to its rules, there will be no cause of complaint. They, however, prefer to defy society and live out of it as Sahebs, giving themselves the airs of the jackdaw in the fable, as if they are superior to the community they belong to. This, society naturally resents. I cite this only as an example to show how our so-called leaders are loud in their professions of patriotism and public good, while they really do nothing which does not promote their own private purposes. The question of the reconstitution of the Legislative Councils, for instance, they say, is put forth for the public good, but in fact for the purpose of

promoting their own position. While thus they are really attempting to obtain seats for themselves in the councils of the Empire, as representing the great middle class and with the help of the very class, they are quite blind to their grievances. Alack the day when such selfish public men will be our rulers! These people are absolutely indifferent when the middle class population is aggrieved, they never care to move a finger to get their grievances redressed. For who form the backbone of the middle class population of Bengal? Is it not the clerks in the Government offices and in private employ? and have not their lives been rendered almost unbearable by the curtailment of these essential holidays? While our so-called leaders and pseudo-patriots in the capital will enjoy the Doorgotsab, the poor clerks must pine away their lives in their respective offices, away from their family and children, their religion gone, and deprived of all mirth during the universal national jubilation, and yet these are the people who expect that we shall respect them as our leaders.

The question of the Holidays has not at all been studied by these public men. Had they done so, they would assuredly have found that there are many points which require careful consideration. Allow me to explain one and that a most important one. It has been proved by an overwhelming majority of Smartha Pandits that the opinion of Mahamahopadhaya Mahesh Chandra Nayaratra is totally erroneous. It was an unpardonable offence on his part to have described the *shasthi* as not a day of religious necessity. The Pandit should be made to confess his error publicly and upon that confession the Government of India should be moved for the reconsideration of the order based upon a wrong issue, which again is based upon a still more erroneous opinion. In case the Pandit is so stubborn as to stick to his mistake, is it not incumbent upon our leaders to pay a little more attention to this subject, to become less apathetic to this call of duty and take the necessary steps to convince the Government of the necessity of granting holidays on the *shasthi* as an indispensable day of worship, equal in religious value to the *Saptami*, *Ashtami*, *Navami* and *Dasami*, and that a holiday on the *Panchami* day is necessary to enable the people to make the enormous preparations absolute for the Poojah which commences on the *Shasthi*? Failing in our representations here, I think it is incumbent upon the public bodies and our public men to move Parliament and appeal to the foot of the throne. But alas! where is that patriot who will do all this for the poor *keranis*, who and whose children fill the pockets of so many self-seekers in the garb of patriots to carry on their political agitation in the vain hope that it will ultimately do them or the country good.

A KARAN.

### THE EXCHANGE DIFFICULTY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE Times.

SIR,—May I ask your insertion of the enclosed letter which I have just received from Sir David Barbour, and which I think is of sufficient public interest at the present time to justify my request?

I am, your obedient servant,

W. H. HOULDSWORTH.

Coodham, Kilmarnock, N. B., Aug 19.

"Simla, India, July 25, 1892.

"My dear Houldsworth,—It is nearly four years since we parted in London, and it occurs to me that you may like to know how the experience of the last four years, during which I have been in charge of the Indian finances, has affected my opinion on the currency question.

"On that point I can give you a very decided answer. I have no hesitation in saying that a common standard of value for England and India is absolutely essential to the well-being of this country, and that by far the best and safest method of attaining so desirable a result is, to the best of my judgment, the adoption of the system of double legal tender by international agreement.

"The continuance of the present state of things is ruinous to Indian interest; the fluctuations in exchange affect our foreign trade most injuriously; the theory that the evil effects of such fluctuations can be eliminated by the exchange banks is not supported by facts. For example, a merchant in Calcutta may simultaneously buy piecegoods in Manchester, sell them in India, and fix his exchange, but if exchange rises (say) 20 per cent. before the goods are paid for in India, the Indian purchaser finds that others can import the same goods 20 per cent. cheaper, and undersell him to that extent.

"In such case the Indian trader either suffers a ruinous loss, or he breaks his engagement and refuses to take delivery.

"I enclose copy of a petition by native traders in Kurrachee which shows how seriously they feel the evils from which we suffer. And I may say generally that merchants and bankers in India are very much disheartened and thoroughly dissatisfied.

"The extent to which their opinions have turned in favour of bimetalism is remarkable, though on the Bombay side there is a strong party in favour of maintaining the *status quo*, in consequence

of the belief they entertain that a silver standard and a falling rupee give them an advantage over Lancashire.

"But, unfortunately, this conversion to belief in bimetallism is accompanied with a feeling of helplessness, as it is feared that the opposition of England will stand in the way of a satisfactory international agreement.

"On this account many men in India begin to contemplate the establishment of a gold standard, arguing, I believe, that the gold standard would either prove a remedy for the evils from which they suffer, or that it would produce a state of things which would force on international bimetallism.

"The effect on Indian finance of the want of a common standard with the rest of the Empire is deplorable. In the Estimates of the current year I had to provide for an additional charge of Rs. 1,700,000 on account of the fall in exchange; for next year I anticipate a further charge of Rs. 1,500,000.

"If there is a surplus, I am afraid to recommend the remission of a taxation, as a week may see the surplus disappear. If there is a deficit, I cannot propose a taxation, as a turn of the wheel may convert a deficit into a surplus.

"In public, as in private finance, such a state of things produces a certain amount of recklessness which is not favourable to economy. Whether we are economical or the reverse, the question of a surplus or a deficit depends, not on any action of ours, but rather on the course of exchange, and the course of exchange depends on we know not what.

"There are many thousands of miles of railway that might be made in India with great advantage to the country, which would at once return a moderate rate of interest on the capital and which would ultimately pay well. The fear of a fall in silver, however, stands in the way of their construction. If it was probable that these railways would return a large percentage of profit at once they would no doubt be constructed, whatever the Indian standard of value might be, but with the small, though certain, profit which Indian railways are likely to return for the first few years, the risk of investing capital in a country with a silver standard deters the prudent investor, while such railways have no attraction for the more speculative.

"Meanwhile English capital flows into fraudulent companies, and is lent to foreign States where bankruptcy is only a question of time.

It is an uphill fight which you have before you, but the principles of bimetallism have made great, though quiet, progress, and perhaps the reform may come more quickly than we now anticipate.

"It used to be said that the Europeans in India merely wanted 2s. for their rupee. It was an ungenerous taunt at the best of times, and it is certainly not true in the present day. Almost any ratio between gold and silver would be gladly accepted if it were only permanent and stable.

"I am, yours very truly,

"D. BARROUR.

"Sir Wm. H. Houldsworth, M. P."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "TIMES."

SIR,—Rumour has been busy in the City as to the intentions of the Government of India in view of the persistent fall in the price of silver and the consequent position on the Indian exchange.

This rumour specially refers to the proposal that the Government of India should refuse to coin freely for all comers, in order, I suppose, to limit the use of silver as money in India. Allow me to say that I think such a proceeding would be dangerous for several reasons.

In the first place, it would amount to a blow aimed at silver by those who use it most. It would be a sort of proclamation that silver would probably be discarded as standard money not merely in Europe but also in the silver-using East. People would, I think, take it to be the first step towards the demonetization of silver in India. It might not be so intended, but it would probably be so regarded by the suspicious and astute natives, who are a people easily alarmed. They now hoard silver. Might they not take to hoarding gold, even more than they now do, if a want of confidence in silver were shown by the rulers of their country? Such people would argue, we shall soon have gold as our standard of value. That change has been advocated by some and, having been freely discussed in the Press, any such action of Government would naturally be regarded as preparing the way. It would even be suggested that before long silver would cease to be legal tender, and every Native who has saved money in coin or ornaments would, I fear, be alarmed and disposed to get rid of silver in good time, so as not to be caught unawares.

In order to avoid the demonetization of the rupee, it has been suggested that, gold being the only standard, the rupee should still pass as legal tender money at some fixed ratio of value to gold. But the question arises, What is the ratio to be? Only 1s. 3d. the rupee would be too shocking, so 1s. 6d. has been suggested. But Native holders of rupees might fairly consider even that arrangement as a sort of robbery by Government. So far they are

not suffering from cheap silver; for prices in silver have not risen much, if at all; but if the law should create a fixed depreciation of the rupee where now there is none, or none that can be clearly seen, prices stated in rupees must advance seriously in consequence of the change of standard.

Again, some large holders of rupees might demand gold in exchange for their silver at 1s. 6d., seeing that elsewhere the price of a rupee is less than 1s. 3d., and it is possible that such holders might be so numerous as to apply for an amount of gold which Government could not supply. Better the present position than one equivalent to bankruptcy created by the act of Government.

Gold might, however, be freely coined in India into sovereigns and half-sovereigns of the same weight and fineness as our own, such coins being legal tender here, but not in India. They would find their own value there, and would, it is said, be popular as gold was in England 100 years ago, when silver was our standard money.

Such a change would not endanger the value as money of the enormous mass of silver rupees now used in India and might not create any extraordinary demand for gold, as there are large gold hoards in that country. What we have to avoid is any hasty change that might involve consequences little anticipated by the currency doctors who write and speak so glibly on these intricate questions, and ignore difficulties.

Difficulties abound, as is plain to every one. All I ask is that much caution should be used in a matter which may have most serious political as well as economical aspects.

I remain yours faithfully,

Moor-hall, Harlow, Essex, Aug. 20.

WILLIAM FOWLER.

General Sir George Chesney writes to the *Times* (Aug. 23) :—In your article to-day on the Indian currency question, and with reference to the proposal which has been made to close the Indian mints to the free coinage of silver, you say that the danger must not be overlooked of such a measure in the stimulus it would give to unlicensed private coinage. On the value of the rupee being thus artificially raised, it would become profitable to coin rupees of good metal with a counterfeit stamp. This is true, but I think that all persons practically conversant with the conditions of India will agree that such counterfeit coinage on any appreciable scale would be immediately detected, while any large importation of such counterfeit coins would involve the extravagant condition that the business should be undertaken by mercantile houses of standing, under the risk, indeed almost certainty, of eventual detection, with all the consequences involved. I venture to think that the chance of any failure of such a measure on this score may be altogether disregarded. The English shilling being now actually worth only about fivepence, a powerful stimulus has been given to the illicit coinage of counterfeit shillings, but of full weight and value, and it is probable that many such shillings have been got into circulation, but there is no reason to suppose that their number bears more than an insignificant proportion to the whole quantity of that part of the currency.

The measure proposed would certainly give an impetus to a class of crime artificially created by it, and would involve the establishment of a special preventive establishment. The same may be said of our customs duties. But the need for raising revenue is held to justify the creation of an incentive to the artificial crime of smuggling, and the desperate necessities of the Indian Government may surely be held to justify any possible evils to arise from petty illicit coinage of counterfeit rupees.

Until the world is converted to bimetallism, the only remedy open to the Indian Government in its present and increasing financial embarrassment is by closing its mints to free coinage to give a scarcity value to the rupee. And the remedy would be effectual, while, by conferring stability on the Indian exchanges, it would restore confidence to trade with India, and replace what is now commercial gambling of a most disastrous kind by sound and rational commercial business.

Under these circumstances, Mr. William Fowler writes to you to deprecate "hasty changes," and urges that "much caution should be used in a matter which may have most serious political as well as economical aspects." As if the India Office needed advice of this sort! Much caution is the one and only quality which so far that authority has exhibited in the matter. More than twelve years ago I brought to notice in the pages of the *Fortnightly Review* a proposal to put an end to fluctuation in the Indian exchanges and give stability to the rupee by partially closing the Indian mints. Ever since then the Indian currency question has been under consideration. The Indian authorities cannot therefore be charged with the exhibition of a tendency to "hasty change," while it will hardly be contended that the result of doing nothing for so long has not been to bring about "most serious political as well as economical aspects." Matters having come to their present pass, Mr. Fowler's advice recalls to mind the apology made by a French General for the failure of Bazaine to save his army from having to surrender, that if he had tried to break out of Metz that army would have suffered "a catastrophe."

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OFFICE: 1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane, Wellington Street, Calcutta.

DROIT ET AVANT.

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1892.

No. 543

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### THE WAR-CALDRON.

DOUBLE, double, toils and troubles !  
Burns the fire, the caldron bubbles !  
And, the hell-broth boiling over,  
We its elements discover.  
From the bottom springs to light  
Brain of wily Muscovite,  
And his hand, its gauntlet hid  
In the skin of peaceful kid,  
And his tongue of treachery  
Cancered with a chronic lie,  
And a flint-stone, shaped with art  
To the semblance of a heart.  
First stock, these, for broth of war  
Cooked in kitchen of the Czar.  
Double, double, toils and troubles !  
Burns the fire, the caldron bubbles !  
Hissed from out that seething pot,  
Comes a whisper, "Trust him not !  
Murd'rous is the Islamite !  
SLAV, ERE SMITTEN, RISE AND SMITE !"

After pause, the same voice, "Lo !  
Islamite ! the Christian foe  
Plots thy death this very hour ;  
STRIKE FOR LIFE, THEN ! CRUSH THE GIAOUR "

Double, double, toils and troubles !  
Burns the fire, the caldron bubbles !  
Straightway from its lips of bale  
Burst all sounds of mortal wail—  
Shriek of woman, infant's cry,  
Strong man's shout of agony.  
Welt'ring, then, upon a flood,  
Mixed of lurid flame and blood,  
Lo ! the doomed, the dead, the dying ;  
Lo ! the chaser and the flying ;  
Lo ! the headsman's grisly knife ;  
Lo ! the shreds of comely life :  
Awful eyes in dying stare ;  
Hands lopped off in act of prayer ;  
Limbless trunk, and trunkless head :  
Beauty's flower dishonoured—  
All adown the ghastly spate,  
Whirled by murder, lust, and hate,  
Drunk with venom from the tongue  
That o'er the land Fear's poison flung.  
Lo ! the whisp'r'er's handiwork,  
Wrought on Christian and on Turk ;  
Lo th' ingredients, sleeping got,  
By "Holy Russia" for the pot.

Double, double toils and troubles !  
Burns the fire, the caldron bubbles !  
Next appear—farrago odd—  
Things of Mammon and of God ;  
Certain drops from Truth's clear well,  
Fouled with slime of nether Hell ;  
"Facts" from correspondent's maw,  
Cooked, but bloody, yet, and raw :  
Metempsychosis clearly seen  
In new Pythagoréan Bean,  
Kenn'd (from frailer optics hidden)  
By microscopic eye of Liddon ;  
Gall of placeman, *ab agendo* ;  
Scream of doctrinaire, *crescendo* ;  
True and tender British heart  
Squeezed by demagogic art ;  
Stomach of a goody-good,  
Sickened with the smell of blood ;  
"Liver of financing Jew ;  
Pound of flesh for "Bond" long due ;  
These, by Russia's charm of trouble,  
Make the hell-broth boil and bubble.  
Double, double, toils and troubles !  
Burns the fire, the caldron bubbles !

Next a greedy Russian ear  
Stretched all foreign sounds to hear ;  
Smug Schouvaloff's juggling hand  
Waving fervid William's wand ;  
Damaged thorax of the latter,  
Strained all Russian views to flatter,  
With his goosequill polyglot,  
Swell th' ingredients of the pot.  
Double, double, toils and troubles !  
Burns the fire, the caldron bubbles !

Cometh up, a seal'd book,  
Bound in iron of doubtful look,  
Labelled with the legend, "'Ware  
Bismark's schemes ! Within they are !"  
Next a weathercock, that shows  
How the Austrian weather goes—  
How, when winds from Wien set west,  
They take an eastward turn at Pesth.  
Double, double, toils and troubles !  
Burns the fire, the caldron bubbles !  
And some shrivelled things appear—  
Pluck of Servain volunteer ;  
Palate without taste for fight ;  
Mask of Russian dropped in flight ;  
Turkish pæan sung to Allah—  
Bitter pill for Russ to swallow !  
Oil to lubricate his throttle,  
Poured from diplomatic bottle ;

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

"Hobbles" to keep back the Turk  
 From the finish of his work ;  
 "Halt" of Turk (who takes advice)—  
 Wrapped in it, an ARMISTICE ;  
 Ultimatum *ex-post-facto* ;  
 Russian credit quite intact (Oh !).  
 Quieter now the toil and trouble,  
 Scarce the war-pot seems to bubble ;  
 Diplomatic "*pan*" and "*altar*"  
 Come in place of bloodier matter ;  
 Now a Russian *billet-doux*,  
 Which says to each, "All rests with you."  
 "A friendly meeting might do good.  
 It might. Who knows? *I'm* sick of blood ;"  
 Then a British note, replying,  
 "All the Powers with Russia vying  
 In humanity's sweet work,  
 Mean to harmonise the Turk.  
 Therefore will we all at Pera  
 (No great good in meeting nearer)  
 Hold a concert. 'Twill be best ;  
 For music soothes the savage breast.  
 There, rehearsed, a little song  
 To suit all voices, weak or strong—  
 We'll teach our Turkish friend to chant it.  
 Docile, he will do what's wanted.  
 Thus affording guarantee  
 Of future Turkish harmony."  
 Double, double, toils and troubles !  
 Europe's concert squeaks and bubbles.  
 First that song of Ignatieff—  
 "Set a knave to watch a thief ;"  
 Chorus of the other Powers—  
 "Suits your voice, too high for ours ;"  
 Scroll of comic variations,  
 In the styles of all the nations ;  
 Turkish *bouffe*—"My constitution,"  
 Quite beyond Turks' execution ;  
 English song—"Yes, do ; but don't ;  
 He *must*, yet needn't, if he won't ;"  
 Then a spick and span new version  
 Of the Russian hymn, "Coercion,"  
 With some crotchets, dropped to win 'em,  
 Then some quavers, then a minim,  
 Writ on paper, torn by tricks  
 From mangled deed of 'fifty-six ;  
 Then a song which all can compass,  
 Save the Turk, who makes a rumpus ;  
 Last, the Turkish cavatina,  
 Which split the Russian concertina.  
 Double, double, toils and troubles !  
 Burns the fire, the caldron bubbles !

From its centre casting up  
 Yankee cartridge, gun of Krupp ;  
 Tons of Russian bounce and brag ;  
 Half unfurled, the Prophet's flag ;  
 Bulls and Bears, of every nation,  
 Goring, roaring "Death ! Damnation !"   
 Armies swarming 'cross the Pruth ;  
 Not one little word of truth ;  
 Then a lull, half hope, half fear,  
 And, with eyeballs red and blear,  
 Oozes forth sleek Ignatieff,  
 Whisp'ring, "War to us is grief ;  
 But from oath there's no recoiling ;  
 Czar has sworn—his blood is boiling—  
 His great name is compromised ;  
 Then, our troops are mobilised ;  
 We've borne the last that honour may,  
 In vain, my Lord. Oh ! by the way,  
 Perhaps, if set in different key,  
 The beastly Turk might fail to see  
 The *motif* of that little song,

And take and sing it? Can't be wrong  
 To hoodwink kite in such a cause ;  
 Well, sing he must, or lose his claws ;  
 For, as I said, we're compromised,  
 And, zounds ! your Lordship, mobilised."

Soon from out the caldron pour  
 Fresh editions of the "score"—  
 Of that simple little lay,  
 Which, somehow, doesn't seem to pay :  
 England's version, with compression ;  
 Russia's, with far more "expression ;"  
 Then some six, in one connected,  
 Labelled "Protocol selected :"  
 Tacked to it an English thing—  
 Duet for Turk and Russ to sing—  
 Words, "Sure fighting is but folly,  
 Let's *both* disarm, and *all* be jolly ;"  
 Last the Russian Ariel-song,  
 With symphony for Tartar gong,  
 "Come unto our icy land,  
 Turk ! and kiss your Master's hand."  
 Double, double, toils and troubles !  
 Burns the fire, the caldron bubbles !  
 This last fuze for Turkish bomb,  
 Meets it in the caldron's womb :  
 Europe, hushed in expectation,  
 Waits the awful detonation ;  
 Russia's waiting game is played ;  
 Cozen'd world's last say is said :  
 And now, since Turk is flesh and blood,  
 Russia's charm proves *fin* and good.

L. W. M. L.

—Blackwood.

## WEEKLYANA.

THE Post Office at Calcutta will observe the Doorga Pooja holidays thus :—

"Only two deliveries daily will be made from the Calcutta General Post Office and its Town Sub-Offices on the three great days of the Doorga Poojah Festival, *viz.*, the 28th, 29th and 30th September 1892.

The delivery arrangements on these days will be in all respects the same as on Sunday.

The other Departments of the General Post Office and its Town Sub-Offices will be open as usual to the public for the receipt of registered and insured articles and of parcels, and for the issue and payment of Money Orders, as well as Savings Bank transactions."

THE Comptroller-General has published the following notice :—

"Notice is hereby given that the Public Debt Office, the Government Savings Bank, and the Government Account Department at the Bank of Bengal, will be open for the transaction of business and for the receipt and payment of money on Government account on the following days during the Durga Puja holidays :—

The 26th and 27th September and 3rd, 4th, and 7th October 1892.

The Paper Currency Office at Calcutta, and the Comptroller General's Office, will also be open on the above dates."

THE Collector of Customs's notice runs thus :—

"The Durga and Lukhi Puja holidays this year are from the 26th September to 7th October, inclusive :—

On the 26th and 27th September, and 3rd, 4th, and 7th October, the Custom House will be open during the usual hours for transaction of all business.

The Treasury on these days will be open.

On the 28th, 29th, and 30th September, and 1st, 5th and 6th October, the Custom House will be open on notice being given free of charge from 11 A.M. to 12 noon for entering or clearing any vessel, and for the issue of bills of entry or shipping bills covering free goods from or to the same.

The Treasury on these days will be closed."

THE Bengal Bonded Warehouse Association notify :—

"The Warehouses of the Association during the ensuing Durga and Luckmi Puja holidays will be open to receive and deliver goods on the following days :

September 26th and 27th, Monday and Tuesday.

October 3rd, 4th and 7th, Monday, Tuesday and Friday."

THE Collector of Stamp Revenue, Calcutta, informs the public that

"The Stamp Department of the Calcutta Collectorate will, for the transaction of *urgent* business, remain open from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. on the following days of the Doorga and Luckmi Poojah holidays :—  
September 26th, Monday, 27th, Tuesday.  
October 3rd, Monday, 4th, Tuesday, 7th, Friday."

AFTER the termination of the protracted proceedings in the land acquisition case, Mr. C. B. Garrett, District and Sessions Judge, 24-Pergunnahs, has well earned a leave of one month and twenty-eight days. Mr. T. D. Beighton, the District Judge of Dacca, on leave, will act in the same capacity in the 24-Pergunnahs.

NAWAB Syed Ameer Hossein takes a leave of one month and thirteen days, Khan Bahadar Abdul Jubbar relieving him in the Calcutta Magistracy.

Mr. G. C. Scounce, Chief Judge, Court of Small Causes, Calcutta, has obtained furlough for one year. Mr. A. P. Handley, the 3rd Judge, becomes, as previously arranged, the Chief Judge, Mr. K. M. Chatterjee gets a lift to the third Judgeship, Baboo Jadunath Roy, the Additional Judge, officiates as third Judge, Mr. Abul Hassan, Registrar and Chief Ministerial Officer, acting as Additional Judge. It is given to Mr. C. D. Panioty (Barrister-at-law) to supply the place left vacant by Mr. Abul Hassan, with powers of a Judge for the trial of suits in which the amount or value of the subject-matter does not exceed Rs. 20.

### NOTES & LEADERETTES

with  
OUR OWN NEWS.

It is notified by the Foreign Secretary on behalf of the Governor-General in Council under the Foreign Jurisdiction and Extradition, Act, 1879 that :—

"(1) Every Assistant Superintendent and *ex-officio* Assistant Superintendent of the Tributary Mahals of Orissa for the time being may exercise the powers of a District Magistrate and of a Court of Session as described in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1892.

(2) The Superintendent of the said Mahals for the time being shall exercise the powers of a Court of Session and High Court, as described in the said Code, in respect of all offences over which magisterial jurisdiction is exercised by any Assistant Superintendent or *ex-officio* Assistant Superintendent of the Mahals: provided that no Assistant Superintendent or *ex-officio* Assistant Superintendent shall commit an accused person for trial to the Superintendent acting as a Court of Session.

(3) The Superintendent for the time being shall exercise the powers of a High Court, as described in the said Code, in respect of all offences over which the jurisdiction of a Court of Session is exercised by an Assistant Superintendent or *ex-officio* Assistant Superintendent.

(4) In exercise of the jurisdiction of a Court of Session conferred on him by these orders, an Assistant Superintendent or *ex-officio* Assistant Superintendent may take cognizance of any offence as a Court of original criminal jurisdiction without the accused person being committed to him by a Magistrate, and shall, when so taking cognizance of any offence, follow the procedure laid down by the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1882, for the trial of warrant-cases by Magistrates.

(5) A trial before an Assistant Superintendent or *ex-officio* Assistant Superintendent in the exercise of the jurisdiction of a Court of Session conferred on him by these orders may be without jury or the aid of assessors.

(6) These orders apply to all proceedings, except—

(a) proceedings against European British subjects, or persons jointly charged with European British subjects; and

(b) proceedings pending at the date of this notification, (5th September 1892) which should be carried on as if this notification had not been issued."

IN spite of the orders of the Bengal Government and the High Court, the apprehensions of a breach of the peace between the Shias and Sunnis at Bhagulpore do not seem to have come to an end, as the following in the *Indian Daily News* shows :—

"Our Bhagulpore correspondent informs us that almost all of those who have given evidence in favor of Shias, in the case now pending before the District Judge, have been severely handled by the Sunnis, who have vowed to lynch the former and every one who is on or will go over to their side. Indeed, the feeling between the two sects is so strained that even the rival Sunni *akhbaras*, armed with clubs, banded together (a thing unheard of) last Tuesday night, and paraded the streets as they do in Mohurram, ready to attack the Shias, if only they dared to bring out the *alum*. And still worse, this spirit of intense hatred has caught the boys of the local Madrassah, who, but for the timely action of Mr. Wincope Smith, the headmaster, might have wrecked the house of Moulvi Irtiza Hossain, a very wealthy Shia

Zemindar, who was supposed to have engaged a dozen *lattials* for the purpose of thrashing the schoolboys who are Sunnis."

It is a great pity, that the Shias should have by a departure from time-honoured practice irritated their Sunni brethren. But on the other hand the Sunnis must be careful not to go beyond the law or take it in their own hands. The Shias must be protected from violence of sectarian rivals.

WHATEVER opinions may be held of the justice in the late Rampore State Trials, or of the regularity of the methods by which the accused were brought to book, there is no doubt about the wholesomeness of the whole general effect, and the complete success of the policy of the Government of the N. W. Provinces in a difficult situation. The little principality once more breathes freely. Rampore is peace. It was not so. Ever since the murder of General Azimooddeen Khan, and the transfer of the administration to a European officer, during the minority of the Chief, there was great consternation in society. Nobody's honour or life was safe. It was a Reign of Terror. Suspicion and anxiety filled every breast. Arrests were daily made. At the information of a malicious enemy any man might be hauled up for trial as a murderer. Thank God, all that is over now. Society has recovered its normal tone by a good deal. The seal has now been set on the return of civil peace by a social function which took place on the 2nd instant, when a respectable citizen of Rampore, Moulvie Mahomed Zuhoor-ul-Huck, entertained Major H. A. Vincent, the President of the Council of Regency, at an afternoon party. A number of the leading gentlemen of the state were present, and the President mixed with them on most cordial terms. This was the first occasion on which the European Administrator found an opportunity of mixing with the Mahomedan gentry of the town, at a social gathering.

Refreshments were served to the guests in the European style, and they were all very much pleased with the hospitality of the host and the affability of the President.

A MOST unseemly controversy has been raised by the *Patriot* and the *Mirror* on the extension of service granted to Moulvie Abdool Jubbar Khan Bahadoor. These journals only prove the worthlessness of the native Press. They do not even represent their countrymen unless they represent the worst Hindu prejudices. The public entertain a very high opinion of the ability, integrity and independence of the Moulvie. We know him to be strong enough to render most efficient service to Government for another five years in whatever capacity he may be placed, and we only wonder that the Bengal Government have allowed this distinguished member of the public service, an extension of only one instead of five years.

It causes us a good deal of surprise, and not a little pain, that the two Hindu journals should raise their voice against extension being granted to a most deserving Mahomedan gentleman, while they had not a word to say when announcing the grant of frequent extensions to several officers of the Hindu persuasion. If there were any truth or sincerity in the complaint on the score of such indulgence blocking up promotion, it would certainly be heard equally on such occasions.

WE learn from Hyderabad that the Nizam after staying several days at the Falaknoma Palace as the guest of Nawab Vikarul Omra Bahadur, has returned to his own. He was very much pleased with the Nawab's hospitality, and, as a mark of satisfaction, made a present of two valuable diamond rings each to the Nawab, his Begum (sister of His Highness) and his son Nawab Sultanooll Moolk Bahadur, and distributed Rs. 1,500 and 500 gold mohurs to the servants and attendants of the host. This is right royal style.

Our Hyderabad Column below adds some interesting particulars on this subject.

*Holloway's Ointment and Pills.*—Dangerous Chest Complaints.—The enumeration of these diseases is scarcely necessary, as, unfortunately, most Englishmen know them to their cost. Coughs, common colds, influenza, bronchitis, asthma, pleurisy, inflammation of the lungs, and even consumption in its early stages, are best treated by rubbing Holloway's Ointment upon the chest and upon the back between the shoulders. It penetrates internally, checks the cold shiverings, relieves the overgorged lungs, gradually removes the oppression from the chest, and restores the obstructed respiration, hitherto so distressingly disagreeable and highly dangerous. In treating this class of diseases, Holloway's Pills should always be taken while using his Ointment; they purify the blood, promote perspiration, and allay dangerous irritations.

## OUR HYDERABAD COLUMN.

Hyderabad, the 18th September, 1892.

YOU have noticed the fact that His Highness was recently staying at Falaknama, as the guest of Nawab Vicar-ul-Omra. His Highness's stay at Falaknama extended over a week and odd days. Could you form an idea as to what amount of money it cost Nawab Vicar-ul-Omra to entertain his guest? Would you believe it?—the kitchen expenses alone amounted to Rupees six thousand a day. I cannot vouch for the truth of my information, but I can assure you, though the amount may seem much too high to people outside Hyderabad, it does not seem so to us, who are accustomed to hear of lacs, where thousands would surprise others. From this one item you can easily form an idea of the entire cost.

THE sensation caused by the Pamphlet case was about to abate a little, when it received a fresh impetus. A rumour is afloat that it is in contemplation to dissolve the Home Secretariat, of which Nawab Mehdi Hassan, the prosecutor, is in charge. How far the rumour is correct, is yet to be seen, but the fact is, within the last few days two of the principal departments—the Medical Department and the Court of Wards—have already been separated from the Home Secretariat, and the Post Office and the Mint, it is said, will soon follow suit, leaving, for the present, only the Judicial and the Municipal (conservancy) Departments in the hands of the Home Secretary. While the work of dissolution is going on here, Nawab Mehdi Hassan is absent in Upper India busy collecting evidence in defence of his honor and character. What connection there is between the Pamphlet case and these sudden changes in the Home Secretariat, I cannot say. The perverse public seem inclined to attribute the one to the other, though the connection is not distinctly visible.

YOU will be glad to hear that Mr. Rudra has really got back his sunnud to resume practice in the Nizam's Courts. I say really, because the news which was published some months ago by some of your contemporaries, was premature. On that occasion, he was about to be re-enrolled, when some obstacle was thrown in his way most unexpectedly and he was disappointed. But this time the matter is settled *pucca*, and the High Court's order will appear in the next issue of the *Jarida*. I believe the circumstances which led the Nizam's High Court to strike Mr. Rudra's name off the roll of its Advocates, are well known to you. But for the benefit of those of your readers who may have forgotten the facts, or may be entirely ignorant of them, I hope I may be permitted to recapitulate them here in brief. In March 1891, Mr. Gribble, late of the *Deccan Times*, instituted criminal proceedings in the court of Mr. Bosanquet, second Assistant Resident, against Mr. Gallagher, late of the *Deccan Standard*, charging him with defamation. Mr. Rudra appeared for Mr. Gribble, and in defence of his client, happened to make the following remarks:—"It is a well-known fact the Government of Hyderabad is a personal one; it is also a well known fact that Justice in Hyderabad is a toss-up; and that the Judges are all more or less partizans of the Government." The remarks gave umbrage to the Minister, and had the ultimate result of depriving Mr. Rudra of his sunnud. Mr. Rudra fought hard to get back his sunnud, and it is gratifying to observe that his efforts have at last been crowned with success. The odds against him were so very strong that another man in his circumstances would most probably have quietly left Hyderabad without even an attempt at reinstatement. But Mr. Rudra is not a man to be overcome by difficulties, and the perseverance and courage which he has displayed in this matter surely redound to his credit.

THROUGH the active exertions of the patriotic and public-spirited Mr. Ram Chunder Pillay, one of the leading Pleaders of this place, and under the presidency of Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk (Madhi Ali), Political and Financial Secretary to the Nizam's Government, a public meeting was held at Secunderabad, on the 5th instant, "to express the gratification of the general community at the election of Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji as a Member of Parliament" and to thank the electors of Central Finsbury. Nawab Mahdi Ali's fame as an Urdu speaker is not confined to Hyderabad. It is believed that in this respect he has no superior even in Northern India—the home of the Urdu language—and but few equals. His diction is faultless and his delivery easy and graceful like that of a finished speaker. The speech which he delivered the other day at Secunderabad as President of the meeting, fully

sustained his well-established reputation. While fully sharing with the nation the joy that this remarkable event—the election of Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji as a Member of Parliament—has caused, the Nawab cautioned his audience "not to form any exaggerated hopes, or to draw any unwarranted conclusions" from it. For, he said, "if they did this, they would at once see that the objects on which they had set their hearts could not be realized by the admission of a single Indian gentleman into the House of Commons. They would not be achieved, indeed, unless they had in the House at least 350 Indian gentlemen, or a similar number of other members, who entirely sympathized with and supported the objects in question. What could one vote do in a body composed of six or seven hundred members? A single voice in such a large assembly is like the chirruping of a sparrow in the midst of a brass band." In my humble opinion, Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk takes a most sensible view of the situation, and each of his remarks is characterised by sound and sober judgment. The speech has been translated into English, and I have much pleasure in sending you a copy of the printed translation. It bristles with humorous anecdotes, which caused roars of laughter among the audience. I leave it to you to reproduce the speech in its entirety or to make extracts from it, with your own remarks on them in your own exquisite style. The speech, I am sure, will repay perusal.

MR. F. H. B. Skrine has gone to Darjeeling on special duty. We believe he is engaged on the decennial report which is due.

MR. Lokendronath Palit must have improved rapidly to be appointed officiating Magistrate and Collector of Rajshahi, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. J. C. Price. We have great pleasure in hailing him thence of Glamis.

THE *Englishman* of the 8th September contained this curious editorial, which the pressure of other matters prevented us from noticing earlier:

"It is evident from the report of the British Consul at Jeddah that there is no falling off in the popularity of the Hadj, in spite of the hardships which are involved in the pilgrimage. A pilgrimage to Rome is an easy and pleasant act of devotion. The pious traveller gets into a train, just like anybody else, and he arrives at the hour fixed. If he go in company, Messrs. Cook undertake the arrangements. They will carry a child to Jerusalem without a hitch, on due notice. But under such agreeable conditions, do forty-seven thousand pilgrims, rightly so described, visit Rome in the twelve month? That is the number, within a fraction, who landed at Jeddah last year. Messrs. Cook are responsible for a large proportion of these also, but only from port to port. Before reaching the ship, and after landing, most of them have gone through perils and sufferings, such as our forefathers underwent in the Middle Ages. Besides they know what awaits them before starting; but religious enthusiasm tempts them to brave the worst. It may be regretted that the Consul did not add, how many of the forty-seven thousand returned. In the days before Cook, it used to be reckoned that one in three must perish—among Far Eastern pilgrims at least. We observe the nationalities with interest. Nearly a quarter were British Indians, another quarter are returned as 'Javanese,' among whom, doubtless, our fellow-subjects of the Straits, zealous Hadjis, are counted. If a Shereef of Mecca could arise, such as Islam formerly produced, a born leader of men, he might be a power in the world; and there are such in abundance among the true Arab stock. But he will never be permitted to show himself while the Turk rules—which may or may not be a matter for congratulation."

That is an extraordinary editorial for a leading journal. We strongly suspect the devil—the enemy of scribes if not of mankind—has carried away the editor's head. After the opening sentence on the popularity of the Hajj—or, as he puts it in the orthodox European way, Hadj—notwithstanding all the hardships of that pilgrimage, the writer goes off at a tangent to the Christian pilgrimage to Rome and describes its easy terms by way of contrast. Then, without notice, he proceeds all the way to Jerusalem, with a child under the protection of Messrs. Cook. Thence he turns back to Europe and asks an incoherent question about forty-seven thousand pilgrims visiting Rome. We suspect here a derangement of epitaphs, or at least of geography. For the writer, without dwelling at Rome, immediately takes the same number of pilgrims to Jeddah and speaks of their antemortem and postmortem perils and sufferings, likening them to the experiences of Christian pilgrims in the days of mediæval barbarism. Thenceforth he sticks to the poor Hadjis. So far so good. But his mind is not completely recovered, for he concludes with another plunge into incoherent speculation about the possible rise of a Shereef of Mecca a born leader of men—wherefor, the philosopher telleth not. Such a Shereef might be a power in the world, but why is he wanted at all?

what need of the world or of Islam for such a leader? we are not informed, and we are wholly left in the dark as to the possible mission of the Hero. The whole aspiration has a nightmare look. The advent is by no means an unlikely event. At any rate, there are such in abundance, we are told, in the true Arab stock. Only they have no chance in the present political arrangements of Islam. These strong leaders of men dare not air their pretensions in the dominions of the Sultan. Those indomitable heroes have a wholesome dread of the Pasha's bastinado. So much for the *Englishman's* dream of a heroic Shereef of Mecca of the true Arab stock! Of course, no excursion of these writers on Mahomedan politics can be complete without a passing kick at the unspeakable Turks.

THE Amir is all submission. As desired by our Government, he has agreed to withdraw his troops and agents from Wano and Waziristan to Ab-i-Istadah. He is besides grateful that the Afghans will be allowed to remain in possession of the other doubtful points, such as Asmar and Chageh, pending the conference with Lord Roberts. The date of that conference he is still unable to fix, on account of the continuance of the troubles with the Hazaras. He repeats the assurance that no sooner they are ended, he will write to the Viceroy when he will be able to receive and meet Lord Roberts. Already, preparations are making for his reception. Three proclamations have been issued—one posted on the gate of Jellalabad city, the second sent to the elders of Mazina, an important village in Rud-i-Hissarak, and the third addressed to the Muftis and Kazis of Kajja, all enjoining that respect should be shown to the British Mission on its arrival.

THE CURRENCY CRISIS,

OR

THE DEPRECIATION OF OUR SILVER COIN.

THE exchange quotations on Friday last, the 23rd September 1892, closed thus:—

|                                                              |     |     |             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------------|
| Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight                               | ... | ... | 1-2-23/32 a |
| Ditto ditto at 3 months' sight                               | ... | ... | 1-2-11/6 a  |
| Ditto ditto on demand                                        | ... | ... | 1-2-21/32 a |
| Bank Telegraphic Transfer                                    | ... | ... | 1-2-5/8 a   |
| Credit Bills (1st class) at 6 months' sight                  | ... | ... | 1-2 15/16 a |
| Document Bills (1st class) for acceptance at 6 months' sight | ... | ... | 1-2-15/16 a |
| Ditto for payment, 6 months' sight                           | ... | ... | 1-2-31/32 a |

To shew the difference of the present day, we give below the quotations of thirty years ago:

5th January 1861.

Agra and United Service Bank, Ltd.

|                 |     |     |       |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-------|
| 6 months' sight | ... | ... | 2/0½  |
| 4 ditto         | ... | ... | 2/0½  |
| 3 ditto         | ... | ... | 2/0   |
| 2 ditto         | ... | ... | 1/11¾ |
| 1 ditto         | ... | ... | 1/11¾ |
| At sight        | ... | ... | 1/11½ |

Commercial Bank of India.

|                 |     |     |       |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-------|
| 6 months' sight | ... | ... | 2/0½  |
| 4 ditto         | ... | ... | 2/0½  |
| 3 ditto         | ... | ... | 2/0½  |
| 2 ditto         | ... | ... | 2/0—  |
| 1 ditto         | ... | ... | 1/11¾ |
| At sight        | ... | ... | 1/11¾ |

4th January 1862.

Agra and United Service Bank, Ltd.

|                 |     |     |       |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-------|
| 6 months' sight | ... | ... | 2/0½  |
| 4 ditto         | ... | ... | 2/0   |
| 3 ditto         | ... | ... | 1/11¾ |
| 2 ditto         | ... | ... | 1/11¾ |
| 1 ditto         | ... | ... | 1/11¾ |
| At sight        | ... | ... | 1/11½ |

How hast thou fallen, Lucifer, son of the Morning!

THE Centenary of the French Republic was celebrated on the 22nd September at the Pantheon. Fêtes are being held throughout France in celebration of the event.

THE report that the Duke of Connaught is coming out to India to succeed Lord Roberts, is said to be without foundation. But who is to be our next Commander-in-Chief?

THERE has been a death from cholera at Hull, the victim being a fireman on board a steamer from Hamburg.

A DACOITY of American proportions is reported from Kansas in a railway train. The robbers removed the rails at a certain part of the line in the prairie, the train was wrecked, five passengers killed and many injured. In the confusion that followed, the robbers decamped with one million dollars of the Mexican Central Railway.

THERE have been serious disturbances in Sydney. A crowd of six thousand miners and others assembled in the town and sent a deputation to wait on the Premier and demand the release of the leaders of the strikers at the Broken Hill Mines. The Premier declining to receive the deputation, the crowd charged the entrance to Parliament House, to force an entry. They were, however, repelled. The charge had its effect on the Premier, for he consented to receive the deputation, though he would not release the leaders imprisoned, as the law must take its own course.

FOR the seizure in July last of three British sealers by a Russian gun-boat off the Copper Islands, the *Times* now demands an apology from Russia for the insult to the British flag and an indemnity for the crews for their sufferings and loss.

CHOLERA has broken out in Galicia and Cracow, and Holland. In the second it is increasing. There have been numerous fatal cases in Brussels. Russia is not yet free from the disease. It is on the decrease in Hamburg.

THE *Daily News* speaks of a Convention just entered into between Russia and China for the establishment of Russian Consulates in Central China and in Manchuria and Mongolia to oust the British commerce.

THE rumour of an offensive and defensive alliance between France and Russia is positively denied at St. Petersburg.

IT is reported from St. Petersburg that Colonel Yanoff has immediate orders to withdraw to Ferghana.

REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, September 24, 1892.

THE DOORGA POOJA.

INDIA is a land of religious Fasts, Feasts and Festivals. Not a month—scarcely a week passes without its special observances. This time of the year is peculiarly sacred: more occasions of demonstrative piety are crowded within the months of October and November than any other sixty days of the three hundred and sixty-five. The Doorga Pooja inaugurates the Hindu season of worship in Bengal. The worship of the ten-armed Amazonian of the Indian Olympus is here most popular. All Hindus, particularly those of the Sakta and Saiva sects, recognise the duty of devotion to Sakti (Force) the female principle, but it is in the Gangetic Delta of all parts of India that this principle—Sakti—is formally worshipped as Doorga—one of its myriad forms. It is on this worship that the Bengali concentrates all the pious ardour of his soul—lavishes all his wealth. The occasion is also utilized for secular enjoyment—for family gatherings and social amenities. Holy days—the word *holiday* has lost its original import—holy days are not necessarily red letter days. There are races whose religious days are grim and awful days of hard and harsh exercise. Intent upon the due observance of the prescribed ceremonies, they scarcely care to look upon the glorious sun and sky, moon and stars, or listen to the song of birds, or inhale the perfume of the flowery fields wafted by the appreciative breeze. Nor are such things unknown in this country. Thus, the principal religious demonstration of the Mahomedans is, from top to

bottom, from beginning to end, one round of agony, or would be so if they rigidly observed their law. Not so with the Hindu. Although unfeignedly religious, he is not sombre and lugubrious. His religion, too, is agreeable. His conception of Divinity is more Hellenic than Hebraic. God with him is no terrible scourge—not a Nadir Shah of infinite puissance—nor are the gods and goddesses so many Legrees—slave-driving task-masters. Nor does he wholly abandon himself to religion. According to his rude ideas of life and happiness, he enjoys himself to the full on the most solemn occasions. The procedure of his religion admits of his doing so. The worship is wholly performed by his priests so that he is left entirely free to make the best of the occasion. The days of Fasts are the only exception. These have to be kept at personal cost. They cannot well be observed vicariously. Although the fasts are usually followed by feasts, the fasts have to be endured *in propria persona*; and they are very real trials, particularly in this valley of the Bhagirati. The privation of the Catholic Lent is a joke in comparison with it. The cumulative effect of the absolute Mahomedan Ramadan fast during the whole day from day-break to sun-down, repeated in due succession for a whole month, may be more crushing, but the Bengali Hindu's total and unbroken abstinence from food and drink for the space of a whole day and night—full twenty-four hours—is far more difficult. But these exercises of personal devotion are, with scarcely a single exception, unconnected with the popular demonstrations. The stoical ascetic side of Hinduism is very properly kept out of view. Its practice is personal and lonely, or at most confined within the seclusion of the domestic circle. The public ceremonies are very different in character. They are all Feasts and Festivals. The Hindus have no public worship in the Western sense—no gathering of many people in a single house for prayer together under the ministration of a priest. They pray individually, in private and in silence, with or without the assistance of a priest. Their public worship is the spectacular ceremonies observed before the symbols of divinity—statues of gods and goddesses—accompanied by the exercise of respect and consideration to relations and connections, courtesy to neighbours, and good will to all men, with charity to the poor, clothing many and feeding all comers, with music and song and dance, and general merriment. Let no man from this think lightly of the religious side of these Festivals. There is not a more earnest worshipper than the orthodox Hindu, and the religious element in these Poojas is thoroughly genuine. On these occasions, his whole soul is stirred, and he is filled with a passionate sentiment of religion—a sense of the presence, or at least neighbourhood, of Divinity. Yet such is the harmonious correlation between his faculties of devotion and enjoyment that he can make the most of these Festivals in the best secular way. The duty of attending to the divinity being left to the priests, the master of the house who celebrates the Pooja is free to attend to his guests, feeding and amusing them, and ministering to their enjoyment, according to his means and taste. The gods and goddesses themselves are very human in their ways, dispositions, and views. The religion of every race is tainted with anthropomorphism, for man cannot transcend himself. Hinduism is deeply, almost avowedly, anthropomorphic. If God created man in his image, man has created innumerable gods and goddesses in his own. Our divinities are, like us,

delighting in eating and drinking, in singing and dancing. Hence the Hindu Poojas are characterized by these features. Of these, the grandest is the Doorga Pooja. It is a protracted Festival extending, in its full integrity, through a fortnight, and culminating in the last five days. We are already in the midst of it. It is the Carnival of Bengal. Its functions in this country as Christmas in Christendom.

#### TERRIBLE ACCIDENT ON BOARD THE TROUT.

THE river steamer *Trout* of the India General Steam Navigation Company has just escaped a colossal accident. It was of course a providential escape. But, humanly speaking, the preservation was due to the prompt action and coolness and prudence of some of the passengers and, above all, the untiring exertions of the crew. The navigation of the Pudda is notoriously difficult at all times. The great river, always formidable, is, during the latter end of the rainy season, truly terrible. The swollen stream with its vast volume of water flies through the country like an arrow, sweeping everything before it in its resistless course. It was a terrible accident that overtook the *Trout*, but luckily it was not completed.

It was at about 4 O'clock in the afternoon of Monday last that the steamer, packed full to suffocation with passengers from Rampur Baulia, steered out for Damukdia Ghat as usual. For nearly four hours she ran down the current with the wind in her favour, safely and neatly without a hitch or break, when, all of a sudden, in the dark, at about 7-30 P.M., she received a rude shock which brought babies down to the ground from the enclosed lap of their mothers, tumbled down the olden folk from their respective seats, prostrated those who sat on the floor in native-fashion, and sent others who lay stretched on the ground rolling about, causing a great disturbance and confusion in all quarters on board, and no small consternation. After careful enquiry it was found that she had unfortunately grounded at one of the many sandbanks. All efforts to extricate her proving unsuccessful, there was a compulsory halt. So the passengers stopped, with the prospect of passing the night in the very centre of the Pudda, a mile off from either bank. While lying in this unpromising situation, they, after a short time, began to feel as if the steamer was making a slow movement. But it was so slight and almost imperceptible that they took no special notice of it. At half past 11 O'clock, however, as the passengers lay quietly in their respective quarters, trying, with more or less success, to drown in the oblivion of sleep the anxieties of their precarious situation in mid stream, some of them found reason to suspect that the hold was filling. Inquiry was silently directed to ascertain the truth. The suspicion being verified, one of the crew was sent down below to take the measure of the water. On the man jumping into the hold all his body, except the head, became quite invisible. Further inquiry brought to light the fact that a plank 3 cubits long and 1 broad had fallen off the bottom. The feelings of the passengers at this ugly disclosure in the heart of the great Pudda, far from any possible help, may be better imagined than described. They had already been frightened enough, but now they were paralyzed with fear, as if confronted by death and no mistake. It was lucky that at that hour of midnight only the passengers of the most

educated and advanced class were apprized of the imminent danger, or else the consternation on board would have caused such confusion and disorder as would have precipitated the vessel to its doom.

The commander—a native—was wide awake and unremitting in his efforts to save the vessel, and the whole crew seconded him admirably. They at once set to work to pump out the water. But the quantity already in the hold was so great, while the gap in the bottom was so large admitting fresh water in huge bucketfuls, that the struggle with the element seemed hopeless. They made heroic exertions, however, and at last towards dawn the carpenters were able to repair the leak, putting a new plank in place of the lost one. With the coming of day, the hopes of those on board revived, and their joy knew no bounds when early in the morning they were landed safe and sound at their destination. And never perhaps in their lives did they offer up prayers with such unfeigned devotion as on that occasion.

Within the last two months nearly half a dozen accidents of this kind have taken place, but, though they were not so fraught with danger, they nonetheless caused great inconvenience and trouble to the passengers. The navigation of the Pudda is most difficult and dangerous, particularly at this time when the water is rapidly going down. It is, we believe—it certainly was, we know—the rule with the steamers plying in this river never to run after sunset. They are bound to anchor before sunset, but as the Rajshahi steamers cannot keep punctuality in starting from Damukdia and Baulia so they cannot generally reach their destination in time. The company have been running their steamer at night till 10 or 11 P. M. without the least regard for the safety of the passengers, against all rules and experience. There was complaint before this accident, and a high Government official who personally experienced these difficulties and dangers reported to the head office this most disgraceful and discreditable state of things in very strong terms. Even that report had no effect upon the company. There is no commander or captain of the ship as far as command is concerned, and therefore no fixed time is kept for departure or arrival. The new agent at Baulia does not insist upon keeping time, and apparently only cares for increase the number of passengers and weight of luggage and goods. No ferry boat can show such a miserable state of confusion, filthiness and want of discipline and order as is seen on board these steamers. The furniture is such that no gentleman nor lady can conveniently or safely use for the nonce. The seats are dirty and rickety and broken. The arrangement for food is simply disgraceful. Instead of cooks, coolies seem to have been employed in the kitchen, who cheat the passengers. Over a little quarrel between the serang and the goods' clerk, one hour of valuable time is lost. The very coolies do not obey the commander. If the Railway goods' clerk smokes, the passengers have to wait for him, and for numerous such other reasons the steamer is detained. If an accident takes place, no information is given at Dumukdia for the information of the passengers. No telegrams when the steamer leaves one station or arrives at the other. It is said in Mr. Bell's (local agent formerly) days better arrangements prevailed. He used to look more closely into the work of the serangs and clerks and insist on punctuality. No limit is fixed for the number of passengers for each steamer nor for the goods. Any number of passengers and any quantity

of goods are taken and the steamer is dangerously overloaded. No responsible officer seems to examine these steamers. We hope Government will order a sifting and thorough enquiry into the matter by some high officers, and that they will examine the respectable passengers, among whom we may mention Babu Mohendernath Sanyal, Government Pleader, Babu Nobin Chunder, Sub-Judge, Rajshahi, Moulvi Shamsul Hoda, High Court Pleader, Moulvi Syed Mahomed, Deputy Magistrate, and others.

The company get Rs. 200 monthly from the Rajshahi District Board as a subsidy for running the steamer, and that body too might well demand an explanation.

After the water in the hold was discovered, the crew and the serang with all other men on board did their best to save the steamer, and they were successful.

In a dark night when one cannot see 10 yards before him, how is it possible for the pilot to see his way? We hope Government will not allow any company to ply their steamers in this careless, hazardous and irresponsible way, and will frame stringent rules for guidance and constant inspection by experts. Government is responsible for the life and property of its subjects.

The night navigation should be strictly forbidden.

The number of men and the quantity of goods for each steamer should be fixed and punctuality enjoined.

## A BULL FIGHT IN BENGAL.

*Barnagore, New Year's Day, 1864.*

AND here am I these eight days, laid up, violently ill of my eternal complaint, confined to this *ultima thule* of civilization, far from wife, and banished from friends and the activity of life. For the first time this afternoon I put out my head in the open air. I sallied forth from my den into the street and found the whole town out to see a bull-fight—not, thank God, a fight between a man and a bull—the Bengalees have not reached enough courage to be so audacious and bloody as the Europeans—but a fight between a couple of bulls, without any human interference. Their amphitheatre was the old Bârowaree site, now a waste—I wonder it has been suffered to remain so in the cry of the Europeans for waste lands. It is very conveniently situated in the centre of the neighbourhood, and is the most public spot in the whole place, being on the thoroughfare, and exactly at the confluence of two public roads. The spectators occupied two of the boundaries of the field, namely, the great thoroughfare to the west and the footpath to the south leading to the house of the Banerjees, and were so ranged in lines that it required a slanting ground beneath their feet to give you a gallery, and make the idea of amphitheatre complete. The women occupied the house tops, the daughters-in-law—who by the custom of the country are bound to seclusion more absolutely than the daughters—taking advantage of the intense attention of the men to the sight, no longer struggling through the thick veil of the long single robe (*saree*), and the daughters drawing to the full upon the liberty allowed them by custom of appearing in public without the inconvenient intervention of a veil. When I reached the battle it was raging above half an hour. The whole neighbourhood was there, but the news had gone forth and people from the more distant parts of the town were hurrying breathlessly to the scene—some unlucky fellows, as will always happen in the hurry, the nails of their feet striking violently against obtrusive stones which, as in every road, like rocks in the sea, raise their heads above the surrounding level, coming to grief, tumbling down, stretched on all fours, calling piteously for help, and none so slow to give them heed, and serve a brother's turn, still, minding less the streaming blood than regretting, in more than a Titus' spirit, the minute lost, limping on, no sooner than prostrate, and coming down again from sheer heedless hurry, which leaves them peculiarly at the mercy of the rocks

and shoals of land navigation. Carriages passing the thoroughfare stopped in obedience to the magnetic attraction of numbers. A few invalids and other unfortunates who had been left in charge of houses were essaying to take in the fun as best they could from their confinement. A few zealous "lovers of sport" had closed their business to take their places as bustling oracles in the "race-stand," while others had come out into the street in front of their shops to see the combat. In a word, the whole town was up. All eyes were directed to the contest, all save those of a knot of idlers whose time is occupied between stimulating drugs or beverages, and dice—played of course not for money—and who were now at their favorite game. They were there from an early hour. They were too interested in their game—far too absorbed in the progress of the sham hostilities of the wooden pieces on their board, to notice the battle of living creatures fought in bloody earnest at their side, not twenty-five yards off. Not but that they did not know what was going on. From time to time notice was given them, by sympathetic friends; indeed, the tumult of the bulls and men left them not the poor pretence of ignorance. But they were not to be moved. Once only, indeed, when the crisis of a game was past, they raised their slightly relieved minds and less vacant faces, and asked, what all that tumult in their peaceful neighbourhood meant, but the crisis the next moment relapsing in right earnest, the answer was lost upon the deepening embarrassment and abstraction of their minds. Once again, and but once, when one game was concluded, and the pieces were being arranged for another,—this is the time when players take a leisurely pull of the hookkabs they had left off their hands, and discuss the battle closed—how far, in what proportion, generalship and good fortune influenced the issue, how the best tactician as well as dashing warrior must fail when fate made a dead set against him—and deliver other like observations—it was then only that they turned their backs to see the fight—it was but for a moment, and then they turned their backs again to resume their play with a look of profound pity for the multitude crowded to an amusement so supremely tame, which was eminently rich. For the rest, they were in that state of mind in which the player at another cognate game, the chess, being informed by a messenger who had run from his house to tell him that his son had been bitten by a deadly snake, pertinently enquired—"whose snake?"—in that state in which the absorbed philosopher was when, without budging an inch or doffing his clothes, he was continually calling out for his servant to take the grate away whence his garments had caught fire. Why, even now, you could see that couple of sharp youngsters acting the part of lookers on, pretending to follow the game with all imaginable earnestness, but really intent on dislodging the ready tobacco-and-fire-pots (*chilms*; *Bengaltee, kolkis*) from the hookkabs of the players and pulling at them from theirs, while the others fancied they smoked as they vainly plied their cold lifeless steam engines.

From a distance, through the interstices of a bush, I had descried a great cloud of dust raised by some bulls bounding to and fro. When I reached the scene, the dust had subsided, the bulls I found were three. It was a single combat. Two only were engaged, and I could not with certainty discern the functions of the third—whether it was an umpire or simple spectator like ourselves, whether it was excited by the sight, or whether it was burning to join the fight—there it was—in the ring but not fighting—not fighting but far from inactive—watching the struggle mad with a terrific restlessness—now clearing the path of the belligerents of all bush and prickly shrub and now ploughing up the field with its effective horns, now going out of the ring and out of sight altogether, as if it would not return, and again suddenly entering appearance with greater fury than ever, now bounding and butting and savagely charging the bystanders, as if for their impertinence and barbarity in quietly looking on and enjoying while two of its race—perchance two brothers—inflicting such dreadful wounds upon one another, and anon raising a genuine bull war-cry which sent all children unto the arms of their mothers a-crying. But the combatants themselves—oh the horrid combatants! Perfectly bullish! There they are,—the heads of both resting on the ground, the horns of each planted into the head of the other—in a

statuesque stillness, yet in an attitude scaring, by its downright significance—one of the eyes lacerated by fearful incisions of horn but uncomplaining, and all flashing not fire but lightning! You speculate on the perfect stillness in the unmistakable hostility of the situation. You hear they have been hotly engaged over half an hour in which the black elderly gladiator has had much the worst of it, having been pushed to a corner and then felled to the ground and bayoneted, though not rendered out of time. Of course, they are now taking breath. Five—ten—fifteen minutes. The spectators, erewhile breathless with the excitement of expectation of some great *coup*, give way to symptoms of disappointment—some sit down on the ground, some call for the pipe of peace, some yawn, others crack jokes, and others again, more knowing, turn about and cast their eyes for a moment on faces and bosoms they may not have another opportunity equally good of beholding. Some among the mob of the Bhadracracy, wearied with dancing attendance, joined the younger rowdy plebeians in imitating the bovine battle cry and pelting the bulls with brickbats in order to rouse them to action; but against this savage amusement some plebeian Nestors, I was glad to note, raised their voice with all but complete success, only one young gent, picqued at the humane remonstrance of the plebs, continuing to make a show of pelting after the others had desisted, and defending himself on the adroit plea that the pelting would have the effect of separating the belligerents and ending the demoralizing sight! Vain conceit! the hypocritical "swell" was dying for the moment the brutes would begin again to dig each other's frame!

Meanwhile, the lovers and the sweethearts and the gallants are looking out. Opportune moment blessed interregnum for them! Monee is intently watching her tall Durwan of the opposite Baboos', who, in a pair of embroidered Cabul shoes, a nice clean dhootee, a peeran, an embroidered cap, and a piece of fine scarlet broadcloth passed across his shoulders—all these elements of dress of such quality as his masters rarely venture upon—and feeling himself in the presence of her love, and of beauty-dom,—is flourishing his great moustache, which would be Napoleonic if it had been less Hindustanee, and she congratulates herself on the excellence of her taste as she finds his head stand 6 inches above the tallest gallant in the assembled *beaudom*, and half his moustache outweigh the jungle on the upper lip of the whole fraternity. That dwarfish little *sans-hair*—a gallant in his own way—has drawn his spotted Cashmere over his head, lest, if the feathery world spare him, some of the old maids who wanton with him—rather than he with them—strike his inviting head with the fallen flowers and undeveloped little fruits of the coconut tree. Ráyi—tusked Ráyi, who would frighten away any number of children who had not been accustomed to her characteristic anatomy, Ráyi, the Soorponakha of Barnagore, and the great spoiler of its young men and old, who is always thrusting her love upon gentle or low,—was in high feather, and busy at her game.

But the Bulls? They had not moved. Though more than an hour had passed. There they remained a spectacle as before, like stuffed animals articulated in the attitude of engagement in a museum. Human patience could stand it no more, and the crowd dispersed. For myself, the first indications of the evening dew warned me back to my dormitory.

#### A LOYAL OFFER TO HER MAJESTY.

Political Department.

Ditto Branch,

No. 44 P. D.

From—H. J. S. Cotton, Esq.,

Offg. Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

To—The Commissioner of Patna.

Dated Darjeeling, the 8th May 1892.

SIR,—With reference to the letter from your office No. 6, dated the 5th January 1892 and its enclosures, I am directed to say that Her Majesty the Queen-Empress of India has intimated that she will be pleased to accept the piece of mechanism constructed by Prayag Ram of Dumraon representing the domestic life of Hindu woman.

I have, &c.,

(Sd.) H. J. S. COTTON,

Offg. Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Memo No. 410G.  
Patna Commissioner's Office.

Bankipur, the 23rd May 1892.

Copy forwarded to the Magistrate of Shahabad for information with reference to his letter No. 3918 dated 24th December 1891 and for communication to Petitioner. It is understood that the donor wishes to have his handiwork placed before the Empress as a mark of loyalty only. If this is the case the Magistrate should take over the article and send it to the Chief Secretary for transmission seeing it is securely packed.

By order,  
(Sd.) NOBIN CHANDRA MITTER,  
Personal Assistant to Commissioner.

No. 1619.  
Home Department.  
(Public.)

Simla the 5th October 1891.

Office Memorandum.

To--Prayag Ram, Goldsmith,  
Dumraon.

With reference to the communication from Prayag Ram to the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy dated the 4th ultimo, regarding a certain contrivance invented by him for showing the domestic life of Hindu agricultural household, the undersigned is directed to inform the writer that he should make his representation in the first instance to the Government of Bengal which will decide whether his invention is worthy of being presented to Her Majesty the Queen Empress of India.

(Sd.) J. P. HEWETT,  
Dy.-Secretary to the Government of India.

#### THE BEHAR CADASTRAL SURVEY.

The blue-book on the Behar Survey concludes with the following despatch from Lord Cross, dated 24th December, 1891 :--

My Lord Marquis,--I have considered in Council the important papers forwarded with your letter, No. 85, dated 28th October, 1891, concerning your decision that a cadastral survey and record-of-rights should be effected in four districts of North Behar, namely, Mozufferpur, Durbhanga, Sarun, and Chumpran.

2. Chapter X. of the "Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885," empowers the Local Government, with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council, to direct that a survey be made and record-of-rights be prepared for any local area in Bengal. Proposals for undertaking this work in Behar have been discussed for some years, and three successive Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal have held that the relations of landlords and tenants in Behar will never be placed on a secure and definite basis, until the land is surveyed and rights are recorded. This general proposition may probably be applicable to a great part of Bengal, and it is certainly true of North Behar, where an extremely dense population subsists by agriculture alone, where the competition for land is severe, where the average rental has been enhanced since 1840\* by 114 per cent., and where landlords are exceptionally strong and tenants are exceptionally weak. Experience in other parts of India has shown beyond the possibility of doubt that until an accurate and authoritative record of landed rights is prepared, tenants cannot be protected in the enjoyment of the rights which the law declares that they possess, and the maintenance of which is essential to the prosperity and contentment of the country.

3. In the permanently settled districts of the Benares Division, adjoining North Behar, a field survey had been made and a record-of-rights had been prepared 40 years ago; yet in 1878 it was decided that "a re-survey and a revision of the record-of-rights was essential to the well-being of the peasant classes in those districts and was expedient from a political as well as from an administrative standpoint." In 1877, when the work had begun, the Local Government expressed its hope that "the result would be a decrease of litigation and a settlement once for all of quarrels that for years have been the bane of many villages." When the Local Government reviewed the work in 1889, after the survey and record-of-rights for the five districts had been completed, the Lieutenant-Governor was able to say that there could be "no doubt" regarding "the necessity of the work of survey and record, and the value of the results, although much litigation took place before rights were finally ascertained and recorded. And it did not appear from the five voluminous reports on these operations that any section of the landed classes objected to the work or to the results thereof."

4. After the investigation and record-of-rights in the Benares Division, the Local Government was able to say that there did "not appear any reason to suspect the existence of rack-renting" in those districts. The land is mostly divided into very small pro-

perties, and many of the land-owners were said to be "of a status differing little from that of tenants." But in North Behar much of the land is held by large landowners, and the experimental survey, effected in North Behar during 1877 over an area of 411 square miles, showed that the great increase of rents during the last 20 years was not justified by the extension of cultivation, or by any improvements in the fertility of the soil, or by the rise in the price of staple produce. Mr. Collin, who conducted the survey operations, reported that the enhancement of rents in the tract he had investigated had been "obtained from the most part arbitrarily, and on no fixed principle, and had not been legally obtained." The raiyets' consent to enhancements had, he added, often been obtained "by concealment of facts . . . and by improper pressure upon the raiyets." There seems no reason to doubt that the tract surveyed in 1877 was fairly typical of North Behar, and the need for a survey and record-of-rights is probably much stronger in that tract than it was in the Benares Division.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, while he is decidedly of opinion that the survey of North Behar ought to be undertaken, warns your Government that the landholders as a body will disapprove and oppose the measure; that the indigo planters will not be unanimously in its favour; that the leading raiyets, some of whom are now holding their land on favourable terms, will oppose the survey and record-of-rights, while the majority of raiyets will not appreciate the benefits of survey, will certainly dislike the temporary trouble and expense that will devolve upon them, and in any case, are unable to make their voices heard through the same channels as the landholders.

6. The main arguments urged against the survey appear to be three, namely :--

- (1.) That it will harass the people, and cause ruinous and unnecessary litigation.
- (2.) That it is unnecessary, as the gradual working of the Tenancy Act is giving protection to the raiyets.
- (3.) That, if the survey is made, the Government ought to pay for it from the public treasury, and ought not to compel the landowners to bear the cost.

As to the first point, it may be admitted that in the districts of the Benares Division the preparation of the record-of-rights was attended with a good deal of litigation; but the disputes which came to a head were in existence, they were not fomented by the survey, and the information obtained at the survey enabled the Settlement Officer and the Courts to settle those disputes once for all. It is not possible to forecast with certainty the course of litigation during the North Behar Survey. Concerning the experimental survey in Mozufferpur Mr. Collin wrote :--

"The number of objections filed were 3 per cent. of the number of separate holdings, but it sometimes happened that one petition contained objections to the entries of rent payable by, or to the area of land held by a number of raiyets. The number of objections is therefore not strictly a test of the extent to which the records were disputed; nor is it a test of the litigation due to the survey, for a number of objections were disposed of without dispute. It would be fairer to take the number of contested objections which became civil suits, and which were made into suits between the individual parties. The number of such contested objections was a little less than 3 per cent. of the number of holdings. As the landlords and raiyets were given copies of their jamabandi slips, and had every opportunity of disputing the correctness of the entries, the small proportion of objection suits may be taken as a proof that the work was generally correctly done. It is a proof, moreover, that the proceedings were not calculated to give rise to unnecessary disputes or needless litigation. This result cannot but be considered satisfactory, when it is remembered that it was anticipated by some that the survey and settlement would (to quote the words of the late Babu Kristodass Pal) plunge the country into a flood of litigation, stir up the worst passions of both the landlord and the tenant, open a wide door to perjury and forgery, and throw the agricultural population into a sea of trouble, expense, and loss."

During surveys made by the Bengal Court of Wards in recent years it has repeatedly happened that differences regarding rates of rent and holdings have been amicably adjusted by compromise between landlords and tenants, and these operations have not led to any serious increase of litigation between zemindars and raiyets on Wards' estates. It will be remembered also that precisely the same predictions were made seven years ago by the opponents of the Bengal Tenancy Bill; they said that the new law would set class against class and would flood rural Bengal with a sea of litigation. Five years have passed since the Tenancy Act came into operation; and the Board of Revenue have been able to report year after year that the Act has not caused any serious increase of litigation or agrarian trouble.

7. As to the second point, it is quite true that the Bengal Tenancy Act has wrought a great and valuable improvement in the legal status of the majority of Bengal raiyets. But in North Behar a vast number of the raiyets will not reap the advantage of the law until their status and rights are authoritatively ascertained and

\* At para.69 of Mr. Collin's report on the experimental survey in Mozufferpur, it is said that "the greater part of this increase has taken place within the last 15 or 20 years."

recorded. It was probably a surprise to the landed classes in Behar, landlords as well as tenants, and it was perhaps somewhat of a surprise to the revenue authorities, when the experimental survey in Mozufferpore revealed that 91 per cent. of the rayyets possessed tenant rights of a valuable kind. As might be expected, the rayyets are reported to value the extracts from the record-of-rights which certify to their status, and to have been disappointed at the closing of the cadastral work in 1877. I see no reason for doubting the correctness of the late Sir Rivers Thompson's view, who, as Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, wrote :

"No matter how excellent and liberal the rights provided for by law may be for such a population as we have to deal with, it cannot be doubted that, until a record of rights shall have been completed, the peasantry will, to use Sir John Strachey's words, remain the victims of chicanery and oppression, and our Courts will be systematically made use of for the perpetration of injustice."

8. In regard to the third objection, it is true that in other parts of India the general treasury bears the cost of a cadastral survey and record-of-rights. But in temporarily settled districts the treasury reaps an immediate increase of land revenue as the result of these operations ; and so it is just that the cost should be borne by the general taxpayer. Although in the permanently settled districts of the Benares Division the landed classes were not called upon to pay directly for the recent re-survey and record-of-rights, it must be remembered that one-half the costs of those operations was defrayed from the unexpended balance of a special fund contributed by the landholders. The other half was paid from the general treasury. In the case of North Behar it is proposed that the general treasury shall bear one-eighth of the cost, the remainder being defrayed half by the landlords and half by the tenants. The reason for thus limiting the State share of the cost is apparently because the decision of 1877 regarding the cost of the Benares survey is regarded as an unnecessarily liberal concession ; and because the land revenue paid at present by the Benares districts is very much heavier than that paid by North Behar. The North-West Provinces Government Orders of the 15th of June, 1889, show that the five permanently settled districts of Benares pay on the average a land revenue of 26½ annas for each acre of cultivated land, and that the total land revenue amounts to 39 per cent. of the corrected rental. At present there is no precise information of this kind regarding North Behar ; but I am informed that the land revenue there probably does not exceed 10 annas per acre, and perhaps does not exceed 20 per cent. of the total rental. I consider that there are good reasons for the treasury bearing a smaller share of the cost of the Behar survey than it did of the Benares survey. But if on reconsideration your Government should decide to undertake a larger proportion of the total cost, I should be prepared to accept such a decision most readily.

9. After a careful consideration of the whole subject, I cordially concur with your Government in accepting the decision of the Bengal Government that a survey should be made and a record-of-rights should be prepared in North Behar. When the work is once begun, it should be prosecuted with all the economy and expedition that may be possible without impairing the correctness of the result. I trust it may be found possible to train and employ in the undertaking a considerable number of Behar villagers, so that the survey may leave behind it an indigenous agency capable of maintaining correct field maps and records hereafter. I am confident that your officers will do all in their power to make the survey operations as little irksome to the people as possible. But some little disturbance to the people is inseparable from such an undertaking ; and it is therefore desirable to carry it through as promptly as possible.

10. In previous correspondence much stress was rightly laid on the necessity for arranging that the record-of-rights should be duly corrected and maintained year by year, when once it has been correctly prepared. I am glad to see that you are keeping this requirement in view, and that the Lieutenant-Governor promises to report hereafter his definite recommendations. I observe that, while he does not propose to establish in Behar a complete village accountant (patwari) agency and system of the North India type, still he hopes to devise a simple and economical plan for entering year by year in the record-of-rights all changes of tenures or tenancies, and all changes in the rent demand. I shall be glad to receive further report from you on this subject, and also respecting the recovery of the survey expenditure from the different classes interested.—I have, &c., (signed) Cross.

\* Note.—The estimate is framed thus :—The land revenue of North Behar is Rs. 34,96,000. The cultivated area in the permanently settled districts of the North-West Provinces is 69 per cent. of the total area. If we take the same proportion, the cultivated area of North Behar would be 69 per cent. of 12,500 square miles (8,100,000 acres), or about 5,589,000 acres. This makes the land revenue fall on the cultivated area at 10 annas per acre. The average rent-rate in the tract of the Mozufferpur experimental survey was Rs. 3¼ per acre. But the rents of some parts of North Behar are probably considerably below that rate.

No. 21, dated India Office, London, the 15th July 1886.  
From—Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India,  
To—His Excellency the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General of India in Council.

I have considered in council the letter of your Excellency in Council, No. 8, dated 4th of May last, on the subject of the cadastral survey and record of rights in the Mozufferpore district of Behar, and of the Bill to amend the law relating to canoongoes and patwaris in the Lower Provinces of Bengal.

2. My predecessor in council, while agreeing to the proposed experimental operations in Mozufferpore, directed that the cost should be borne wholly by the Government Revenues, remarking that, "as the measure at present is purely experimental, it would not be right to lay any part of the expense on the people."

3. You state that you are not willing to incur this expense from the General Revenues, and you consider that the proposal to charge it on those revenues is "tantamount under any circumstances, and especially under existing financial circumstances, to a withdrawal of the sanction to a survey and record of rights."

4. You submit certain explanations with a view of removing the objections of my predecessor in council to the levy of a cess to meet the charge, and you state that, unless these explanations should be sufficient to remove the objections, the only course to pursue is to abandon the experiment.

5. The explanations submitted, do not, in my opinion, remove the objections to levying a tax on the land for an experiment which your present as well as your previous letter shows to be not only not desired by the persons interested in the land, but to be strenuously opposed by them, whether Zemindars or rayyets.

6. I agree with you therefore that the only course to pursue is to abandon the proposed measure for the present.

No. 603R---27---11, dated Simla, the 3rd September 1886.  
From—C. J. Lyall, Esq., Offg. Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department,  
To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department.

In continuation of my telegram No. 451, dated the 16th July, I am desired to forward, for the information of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State, No. 21 (Legislative), dated the 15th idem, in which His Lordship has decided that the cadastral survey and record of rights in the Mozufferpore district should be abandoned, and that the Patwari Bill, now before the Legislative Council of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor should not be proceeded with. A copy of the despatch of the Government of India, to which Lord Kimberley replies (No. 8, dated the 14th May, 1886), is also enclosed.

2. The purport of the Secretary of State's decision should be communicated to the persons whose memorials on the subject of the Patwari Bill were forwarded to the Government of India for transmission to His Lordship with Mr. MacDonnell's letter No. 378T---R, dated 4th May 1885, and Mr. Macpherson's letter No. 1477T---R dated 9th September 1885.

3. I am now to enquire what measures His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor proposes to take to bring the survey and record of rights to a conclusion and to ask for a report on the work which has been accomplished by it. It appears from a communication\* received from the Surveyor-General that an area of 412 square miles has been surveyed during the past field season, but that this area encloses 93 square miles, of which the cadastral survey was postponed. The Government of India would be glad to learn whether the Lieutenant-Governor thinks it worth while, in order to make the work compact before removing the survey party, that this internal area should now be cadastrally surveyed. I am also to ask whether, in view of the Secretary of State's refusal to authorise the levy of any fresh taxation for the purpose of reorganising and improving the efficiency of the patwari staff, His Honour can suggest any practicable measures, in the nature of those referred to in the paragraph 8 of my letter No. 130R, dated 3rd March last, for utilising the already existing patwaris, whose maintenance by the Zemindars is required by the law as it at present stands.

4. As it is necessary at once to take measures for the disposal of the survey party hitherto employed in Mozufferpore, I am to request that a very early answer may be furnished to the first and second questions in the preceeding paragraph.

FROM E.  
ASSESSOR'S DEPARTMENT.  
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OF 1888.

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The Chairman or Vice-Chairman will proceed to hear the objections under Clause (a) of Section 136.

JOHN COWIE,  
Secy. to the Corporation.  
Municipal Office,  
16th September 1892.

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ASSESSOR'S DEPARTMENT  
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JOHN COWIE,  
Secy. to the Corporation.  
Municipal Office:  
16th September 1892.

## SPEECHES

### ON THE AGE OF CONSENT BILL

delivered by

Sir A. Scoble, introducing the Bill in Council,  
H. E. the Viceroy, on the same day,  
Sir A. Scoble, on the passing of the Bill on 19th March,  
The Raja of Bhinga,  
The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Krishnaji Lakshman Nulkar, C.I.E.,  
The Hon'ble P. P. Hutchins,  
His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal  
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OFFICE: 1, Ucheor Dutt's Lane, Wellington Street, Calcutta.

DROIT ET AVANT.

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1892.

No. 544

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### AFTERWARD.

O STRANGE, O sad perplexity,  
Blind groping through the night ;  
Faith faintly questions can there be  
An afterward of light ?

O heavy sorrow, grief and tears,  
That all our hopes destroy ;  
Say, shall there dawn in coming years  
An afterward of joy ?

O hopes that turn to gall and rue,  
Sweet fruits that bitter prove ;  
Is there an afterward of true  
And everlasting love ?

O weariness, within, without,  
Vain longings for release ;  
Is there to inward fear and doubt  
An afterward of peace ?

O restless wanderings to and fro,  
In vain and fruitless quest ;  
Where shall we find above, below,  
An afterward of rest ?

O death, with whom we plead in vain  
To stay thy fatal knife ;  
Is there beyond the reach of pain  
An afterward of life ?

Ah yes ; we know this seeming ill,  
When rightly understood,  
In God's own time and way fulfil  
His afterward of good.

F. W.

### LOVE'S SACRIFICE.

AN old man lived by the Solent Sea ;  
With his little daughter alone dwelt he ;  
The light of his life was the little maid,  
And truly his deep love she repaid.

One eventide she heard him say  
That a seaweed would take his pain away ;  
For he tossed at night on sleepless bed,  
And this weed would soothe him to sleep, he said.

On one rock alone did this rare weed grow,  
Which could only be reached when the tide was low ;  
Far out on the sand in the ebb it stood,  
And the green sea foamed around, at flood.

Soon as the dawning's dusky light  
Broke on the darkness of the night,  
The little maid was on the beach ;  
The tide was low, the rock in reach.

She climbed its top and grasped the weed,  
With joy to help her father's need ;  
But all her strength could only move  
One root—small trophy for her love.

Forgetful thus of self, too late,  
She stayed ; but tide for none will wait,  
And silently the sea had come  
To claim the maiden for its own.

One startled glance revealed her doom ;  
She thought of father, love, and home—  
For her no more. The hungry sea  
Soon high above the rock will be.

The waters quenched that life of love ;  
But, darkened here, 'tis bright above,  
And far beyond the sunny skies,  
She gathers flowers in Paradise.

Waiting and sad, her father sate  
Within their cottage-garden gate,  
For her, his love, his life's one light,  
Now sadly quenched in darkest night.

No tidings came. As evening fell,  
He sought the beach she knew so well.  
He called—no voice in answer came,  
But mocking echoes of her name.

The winds awoke ; the angry tide  
Swelled on the beach—but still he cried  
To her all night, till eastern skies  
Again aroused earth's miseries.

The dawn fills up his agony,  
And with a loud, heart-broken cry,  
He found his darling at his feet—  
But the little heart had ceased to beat.

The salt spray kissed her forehead white ;  
The seaweed, with its colours bright,  
Wove her a winding-sheet ; her hair  
Lay tangled in its beauty rare.

He knelt, and raised her from the sand ;  
But, when he took her little hand,  
Ah, what a tale of love he read !  
The small right hand, now pale and dead,  
Still tightly clasped the charmed root,  
Of love, of life, of death, the fruit

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

Gathered from out the bitter tide.  
For *this*, and *him*, his child had died !

W. J. A.

#### THE LOGIC OF LOVE.

##### I. *Her respectable papa's.*

'Dy dear, be sensible ! Upon my word,  
This—for a woman even—is absurd.  
His income's not a hundred pounds, I know.  
He's not worth loving.'—But I love him so.'

##### II. *Her mother's.*

'You silly child, he is well made and tall ;  
But looks are far from being all in all.  
His social standing's low, his family's low.  
He's not worth loving.'—And I love him so.'

##### III. *Her eternal friend's.*

'Is that he picking up the fallen fan ?  
My dear ! he's such an awkward, ugly man !  
You must be certain, pet, to answer "No."  
He's not worth loving.'—And I love him so.'

##### IV. *Her brother's.*

'By Jove ! were I a girl—through horrid hap—  
I wouldn't have a milk-and-water chap.  
The man has not a single spark of "go."  
He's not worth loving.'—Yet I love him so.'

##### V. *Her own.*

'And were he everything to which I've listened ;  
Though he were ugly, awkward (and he isn't),  
Poor, lowly-born, and destitute of "go,"  
He is worth loving, for I love him so.'

W. M. G.

#### WEEKLYANA.

TWENTY-SEVEN years ago, our spirited citizen, Baboo Jadu Lal Mullick, a grandson of the famous millionaire Baboo Nimai Charan Mullick, celebrated with befitting *éclat* the annual autumn worship of the family idol, named *Singhobahini Debee*—the Lion-riding goddess. This goddess is worshipped by the different members of that family by turns ; Baboo Jadu Lal's turn came again this year. It has been a year of drain for him. Within a few months of one another his mother died and one of his sons was married, and these are expensive events in the life of a Hindu. Notwithstanding, Baboo Jadu Lal has scarcely shown any disposition to stint in the present worship. There have been Nautches in his newly built palatial residence in Pathuriaghatta Street, commencing from the 15th and continued daily up to the end of last month. Invitations were issued to all the Hindu, Mahomedan and European gentlemen throughout the town and suburbs and the entertainments attended every evening by the *élite* of society. A great many priests have received gifts in money and clothing, and other guests, including relations, been daily treated in sumptuous style. Members of the Sonarbania caste to which the Baboo belongs have also been presented with suitable dresses, and, above all, from 1,000 to 2,000 beggars daily fed during those 15 days.

The whole programme was worthy of the wealth and position of the richest descendant of Nimai Charan Mullick. May God preserve Baboo Jadu Lal for another 27 years to celebrate the next Pooja on a grander scale !

THE storm raised over the election of Sheik Bechu as a member of the Calcutta Corporation, has subsided. It commenced with the prosecution of Sheik Nubbi for false personation at the polling-booth and his conviction. That conviction was followed up with an application for the trial of Sheik Bechu and his friend Baboo Preonath Mullick for abetment of the offence proved against Nubbi. That again was succeeded by another for prosecution of the three for perjury. The result of all these various attempts shews that Baboo Preonath more than Sheik Bechu was the object of the attentions of the prosecutions. The Babu has purchased peace for himself and his friend by resigning his office of member of the Corporation. The charges against them have

been withdrawn, or dismissed. Babu Preonath goes out of the Corporation but Sheik Bechu remains. Nothing would have forced him to resign. He is a match for all his pursuers.

FROM this week, the day for the departure of the mail from Calcutta is Wednesday and not Tuesday.

THE Sealdia Magistracy seems more determined to put down the *phooka* than the Northern Police Court of this city. While our Northern Magistrate's highest punishment has reached Rs. 20—double the sum with which he commenced—the Sealdia court has just fined a man Rs. 50 and ordered rigorous imprisonment of 3 months for another.

A PARAGRAPH is going the round to the effect that cabbage has always been said to be a cure for intoxication, though this is the first time we hear of it. It is added that the Egyptians ate boiled cabbages before their other food if they intended to drink wine after dinner, and some of the remedies sold as a preventive of intoxication on the continent contain cabbage seed.

IN *La Lumiere Electrique*, M. d'Arsonval gives interesting information with respect to electrical fishes, confining himself especially to the *Gymnotus electricus* and the *Raia torpedo*. The former is the more formidable of the two. The electrical apparatus of the *Gymnotus* is situated underneath, the positive pole at the head and the negative at the tail. This fish folds itself into a circle so as to complete the electric circuit round the body of its prey and give it a violent shock which stuns it. M. d'Arsonval possesses a *Gymnotus* which can discharge sufficient electricity to magnetize electro-magnets. In this animal, the electrical discharge is continuous and uni-directional. Not so the *torpedo*, which you can touch without receiving a shock, unless it is irritated. The electricity is generated only at the will of the fish and is not always ready for discharge within its organs.

SHORTLY before his death, the late Mr. D'Arcy, Conservator of Forests, N.-W. P. and Oudh, had completed his "Notes on the Preparation of Forest Working Plans." His widow now reaps the benefit. The Government of India have sanctioned the payment to her of Rs. 1,000 for the useful little work.

THE rain fall at Castle Rock this year is registered at 400 inches, the heaviest on record.

ONE Mrs. Lambert, residing at Ekbalpur Road, was brought up before the Alipore Police Court charged with defrauding Government by executing a maintenance bond, in favour of her daughter, Miss Winnie McKeon, on an insufficient stamp. She pleaded guilty but claimed, as a British-born, to be tried by a European Magistrate. She was ordered to produce evidence, and the case stands adjourned.

THE ways for making money are endless. Not long ago we mentioned to our readers the artificial creation of cripples in Europe. We thought that the queerest and most strange business. But there is a queerer, stranger. The inventiveness of the Celestials transcends the sharpness of the races of Christendom. We read :—

"There are many curious trades in the world, but the most strange must surely be the 'artificial manufacture of wild men.' Yet a well-known English doctor in China has just certified from his own personal experience that this art is regularly practised in the Flowery Kingdom. First a youth is kidnapped, then bit by bit he is flayed alive, and the skin of a dog or a bear grafted piece by piece upon him. His vocal chords are next destroyed by the action of caustic to make him dumb, and the double purpose causing 'etiolation' of the skin and utter degradation of the mental faculties is effected by keeping him immured in a perfectly black hole, for a number of years. In fact, by treating him like a brute for a sufficiently long time he is made into one. At last he is exhibited to the entirely credulous Chinese as a wild man of the woods, and his possessors reap a rich harvest. The priests, it seems, are adepts at the art. When a kidnapper, however, is caught by the people he is torn in pieces, and when the authorities get him they torture him and promptly behead him. Such is life under the rule of the Son of Heaven."—*Daily Chronicle*.

Truly, indeed,

—for ways that are dark, &c.,  
The Heathen Chinese is peculiar.

By notifications Nos. 3631-J. and 3633-J., in the *Gazette of India* of September 24, 1892, the Governor-General in Council takes power, for the purposes of the exercise of civil jurisdiction within, and in respect of, the cantonment of Secunderabad and the Hyderabad Residency Bazars, to direct the transfer of any particular civil suit or appeal or proceeding pending before

(a) the Resident at Hyderabad, by virtue of his jurisdiction over the said cantonment or the Bazars, to the Judicial Commissioner of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts, or

(b) any Civil Court having jurisdiction within the said cantonment or the Bazars and subordinate to the Resident at Hyderabad,

to any other Civil Court of equal or superior jurisdiction subordinate to the Judicial Commissioner of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts,

whenever it appears to the Governor-General in Council that such transfer will promote the ends of justice or tend to the general convenience of parties or witnesses.

The Court to which such civil suit or appeal or proceeding may be transferred shall, as far as may be possible, regard being had to the law for the time being in force and administered in the said cantonment or the Bazars, deal with the same as if the suit or appeal or proceeding had been initiated in such Court.

SUNLIGHT has now been calculated to be 6,00,000 times greater than full-moon-light.

IN the prosecution for defamation against Mr. Balakistna Chetty, a member of the Madras Municipality, by its Health Officer, Dr. Nield Cook, for the remark, namely, that, from the time that they had ceased to have Civilian Presidents, not only the Sanitary Department, but the whole Municipality, was notoriously corrupt, the defence pleaded privilege. The Magistrate held that the occasion was indeed privileged, but that the accused had, by his recklessness, rendered void the privilege he might have claimed for the utterance, and sentenced him to a fine of Rs. 250 or two months' simple imprisonment. In other words, the Magistrate ruled that the Municipal Commissioner was privileged, but he could not claim any privilege against the Health Officer.

## NOTES & LEADERETTES

with  
OUR OWN NEWS.

TO-DAY is the *Vijaya*—the day of final consignment of the great Doorga group of statues of gods and goddesses to the river. It is sacred to Peace and Fellowship and Good Will. May the spirit of this day reign in the hearts of all our readers and all our people and the whole population of the Indian Empire and the whole British World!

This is our last issue for the season. We now respectfully take our leave. After a fortnight's rest, we will make our appearance again on the 22nd October.

A DEPUTATION from the Church Missionary Society waited on Lord Rosebery to urge the retention by the British Government of Uganda. The Foreign Minister promised the consideration of the matter, but he was at the same time unwilling that the nation should be drawn into a venture, when it is not clear where it will end.

A BRITISH man-of-war has been ordered to Vladivostock to enquire into the recent seizures of Canadian sealers by a Russian cruiser.

THE proposed Lord Roberts mission to the Amir is viewed with distrust in Russia. The *Novosti* regards it as harmful to Russia and likely to lead to the absorption of Afghanistan by the British, thus cutting off from Russia the route to the Indian Ocean. This, the paper adds, would create a much graver motive for going to war than the Pamirs question.

HASHIM ALI still refusing to surrender, the troops under General Lockhart have been ordered to the front.

IN the August number of the *North American Review* appeared an article from the pen of the Duke of Argyll, in which he compared the Home Rule movement to the attempt made by the Southern States to ruin the integrity of the nation. In the present number, Mr. Gladstone replies to the charge, and vindicates Home Rule.

CHOLERA has shewn itself at Riga.

SIR Grant Duff has at last commenced to write himself down. He has found a notable solution of Russophobia. In the *United Service Magazine* he recommends a written alliance of peace between the Powers of Europe. He thinks that it easier to secure the peace of India by assisting to maintain peace in Europe than by attempting to meet Russia alone. At the same time, he considers it a hopeless task to try to convert the electors to his view.

NELSON's old ship the *Foudroyant* had for many years been lying up at Devonport as non-effective, and recently been purchased by a German firm and taken to Swinemunde. The English nation has now awakened to the duty of bringing her back. The sum required is six thousand pounds, for which the Lord Mayor has opened a fund. It would have been more to the purpose to detain the art collection carried off by the Court of Russia and the Chambers Sanskrit MSS. carried off by the King of Prussia.

EXCESSIVE drills and inspections have driven the First Life Guards stationed at Windsor to mutiny and rage. Eighty saddles were found, on the morning of the 26th September, to have been cut, and the men were confined to barracks. A later telegram says only twenty-four saddles were slightly damaged, the men alleging that they were unfit for use. No arrests have been made.

THE Monarchists in France held a banquet at Montauban. A representative of the *Comte de Paris* declared that the Monarchists were unable to conform to the Pope's injunction to renounce Monarchy. He proposed a union of the Catholics in France at the next elections, in view of a large and united majority.

IT is telegraphed from London that at a meeting on the 24th September, the Cotton operatives passed a resolution against the proposed five per cent. reduction of wages. The meeting was, however, in favor of assisting the masters to curtail production. There was a conference of Cotton masters and men at Manchester, in which they could not come to any conclusion. The masters declined to curtail production and the operatives refused to accede to a five per cent. reduction of wages.

THE Currency agitation has gained a step. The Home Government is of opinion that the Government of India is free, independent of Parliament, to deal with the currency question. But, we fear, nothing can be done without orders from Home, and our Finance Minister Sir David Barbour considers that the solution of the difficulty is a common standard of value for England and India and the adoption of a double legal tender by international agreement. Any action of the Government of India is sure to be opposed by those in India who are for allowing things as they are. The Government on the spot can no longer be silent. They must speak out.

AMONG our next cold weather distinguished visitors will be the minor Maharaja of Gwalior and the Prime Minister of Nepal. The latter comes on the invitation of Lord Roberts to visit the Camp of Exercise.

IT is telegraphed from Constantinople:—

"Official contradiction is given to the statement recently made by the Armenian correspondent of a London newspaper that by order of the Sultan a modified or mutilated version of the Koran has been printed. It is declared absolutely impossible that the text of the sacred book, which millions of Mussulmans know by heart, should be altered, especially by him who, in his capacity as Khalifa, is called upon to be solicitous for the scrupulous observance of its tenets. The Committee of Indian Mahomedans in England has also written to the papers denying the rumour and denouncing those who invented it."

In consequence of the general ignorance, the contradiction was

needed. But any one who knows sufficiently of Islam must have laughed at the Armenian's nonsense. The man simply does not understand what he talks about. A Dodd's Beauties of the Mahomedan Scriptures, a Bowdler's Koran which may be placed in the hands of any lady without fear of its hurting her modesty, would be just the things in Christendom, but it is out of the question in Islam. The idea is absurd—outrageous. So even in Christendom would be the idea of a similar treatment of the Bible. If the Koran contains matters that would raise a blush in beauty's cheek, much more does the Bible. Yet no Pope or Archbishop or Reformer has ever proposed to purge and purify the Christian Scriptures of their grossness. Islam is more conservative than Christianity. Such a proposition with regard to the Koran would strike Mussulmans with horror. Unless we are greatly mistaken, not even the Sultan could venture on interfering with the text of the holy volume of Divine utterance. The feat was found impracticable even in the earliest days. Otherwise, Persia would have had a different Koran.

THE Health Officer of Calcutta, Dr. W. J. Simpson, having urgent call to go to England, applied for and obtained six months' leave, and the Municipal Commissioners at his suggestion appointed Dr. J. O'Brien as his *locum tenens* on Rs. 600 per mensem, and allowed an increase of Rs. 250 to the Assistant Health Officer, Dr. R. Sen, in addition to the latter's substantive pay of Rs. 250. Dr. Sen was to carry on the entire administrative work of the Health Department, and Dr. O'Brien, who is holding the post of Professor of Anatomy and Second Surgeon in the College Hospital on a monthly salary of Rs. 1,250 and is also a Municipal Commissioner, was to officiate as the Health Officer, with liberty to practise and perform the duties of his Government appointment and thus to devote as much of his time to municipal work as he could spare from his other duties. Dr. Simpson was to get 750 Rs. being half of his pay of Rs. 1,500, and the remaining half of his pay, plus 100 Rs. which he got as horse allowance, was to be distributed as above mentioned. On the proposal being forwarded for the sanction of the Government of Bengal, the Lieutenant-Governor disapproved of this arrangement, and Mr. Risley communicated the views of Government to Mr. Ritchie in the following terms:—

"As regards the proposal of the Commissioners to appoint Dr. O'Brien to act, as Health Officer, during Dr. Simpson's absence on leave, I am to say that the proposal seems to the Lieutenant-Governor to be open to objection in more ways than one. It is a retrogression from a position taken up when it was decided that a whole time officer was required to do justice to the work: and Dr. O'Brien has already important and onerous duties to perform as a Government servant, which must prevent his giving any large portion of his time to the work of Health Officer. Sir Charles Elliott would therefore much prefer if the Commissioners can find any suitable medical officer who can devote his whole time to the work, as *locum tenens* to Dr. Simpson."

At a special meeting the foregoing letter of Government came before the Commissioners for consideration, the Chairman formally proposing that the resolution of the last meeting be reconsidered in the light of the Government letter and that endeavours be made to seek a whole-time officer by advertisement. A discussion ensued in which the difficulty of securing a whole-time officer for such a short spell as six months was dwelt upon. Thereupon Dr. Sanders proposed an amendment, that the Assistant Health Officer, Dr. Sen, be appointed to officiate for Dr. Simpson, with authority to appoint a consultative officer, paying him whatever his consultation fee may be. Several Commissioners approved of Dr. Sanders' suggestion. Mr. D. R. Lyall, however, observed that in the event of the Commissioners voting for Dr. Sen, they would be stultifying themselves. Dr. Sen might be a very capable man, but at the last meeting the Commissioners had resolved that he was not sufficiently qualified for the appointment and had therefore appointed Dr. O'Brien to officiate for the Health Officer. It was, besides, paying Government a very poor compliment and was certainly not in compliance with the request of Government to appoint the Assistant Health Officer. At the last meeting they had agreed to Dr. O'Brien's appointment as Health Officer, with Dr. Sen in administrative charge of the office. Now they threw Dr. O'Brien out and put Dr. Sen in his place. Mr. Ritchie said that he was quite taken by surprise at Dr. Sanders' proposal, and he was of opinion that there was no chance of Government accepting such a resolution. A warm discussion followed, and ultimately Dr. Sanders' amendment was put and carried by a majority of 22 to 17.

This business was not a creditable exhibition of Local Self-Govern-

ment. Nearly all the men of weight and sense of responsibility voted against the arrangement. Mr. Lambert spoke warmly against it and Mr. Lyall made a telling speech exposing it, while the Chairman reminded the meeting of its futility. All to no purpose. Neither argument nor warning had any effect upon a foregone conclusion.

IN the volume of minutes of the Calcutta University for the year 1891-92, just published, we find the following item in the proceedings of the meeting of the Syndicate held on the 14th November 1891, under the presidency of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Gooroodas Banerjee:—

"178. On the motion of Nawab Abdool Luteef Bahadur, it was RESOLVED—

That the following alteration in the B. A. Pass Course in English for 1893 be notified in the *Gazette*:—

For "Bacon—Essays" and "Thackeray—English Humourists" read "Bacon—Essays, omitting the Essays on Unity in Religion, Boldness, Atheism and Vicissitude."

"Thackeray—English Humourists, omitting the Essay on Prior, Gray and Pope."

The above evidently refers to what the Nawab mentioned in his speech at the Medressa meeting, reported by us on September 17, that it was at his instance that certain text-books of the University, containing imputations against the Mahomedan religion were, if not wholly eliminated, at least purged of their poison, that is, prescribed *minus* the objectionable parts. The most grateful acknowledgments of his community are due to Nawab Abdool Luteef Khan for his action in this connection and the vigilant watch in general maintained by him over the interests of Islam.

UDIPI SRINIVASA CHARI, a native of the South Canara District, aged about 22 years, was a cook in the service of a Malukdar in Aska. He was seen one afternoon in the company of a boy of seven or eight years who wore, among other minor jewels, a gold necklace worth Rs. 80, the lad being the son of a guest of the master. The boy was missed shortly after. In the search that followed, the parent and others asked the cook to get into a well and search the boy. Udipi obeyed and brought out the body of the deceased boy with all the jewelry except the gold necklace. The cook was suspected of the murder of the boy and the theft of the necklace, and charged accordingly. It is said that in the police enquiry, the prisoner produced the necklace from under a mat. The prisoner pleaded entire ignorance of the death and the theft. Notwithstanding, he was convicted of murder and sentenced in the Sessions Court of Ganjam to transportation for life. There was an appeal to the High Court. The Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Handley, after hearing the Public Prosecutor, for the prisoner was unrepresented, confirmed the conviction and sentence and dismissed the appeal. In ordinary course, there would have been an end of the matter. But it was not to be so. A few days after, the Chief Justice having conceived doubts as to the justice of the order, called for the record, perused it and came to a different conclusion. Convinced that he had made a mistake, he was ready to make the necessary reparation. He communicated his doubts to his colleague who, however, saw no reason to amend the order. In this situation, the Chief Justice openly intimated in court to the Public Prosecutor that the case would be taken up anew and heard by a third Judge, Mr. Justice Parker. It requires courage no doubt to confess a mistake like that, but the man who, conceiving a doubt would not go carefully into the matter again, or who convinced of error could not from vanity rectify it, is simply unfit for the bench. Madras is fortunate in a humble, human Chief Justice.

JAPAN is extending her silk trade. In 1887, Yokohama exported no more than 3,979 pieces of silk fabrics. Last year the total was 1,00,108. The export of silk handkerchiefs during the same period rose from 312,902 to 1,074,458, while the increase in silk work exported was over 60 per cent in the five years. This accounts for the decline of the Indian silk.

AT the instance of Captain F. Beauclerk, of Hyderabad, the Poona Second Industrial Conference has adopted the following extraordinarily-worded resolution on the Currency Difficulty:—

"That having consideration to all facts, internal as well as external, of the Empire's present social and economic condition, and especially to the indebtedness of the rayyet, and the absence of trade disputes

about wages, no settlement of the currency seems to be in the interests of India that enhances the value of rupees beyond the market rate, and that it would be dangerous to attempt such; but that having consideration for the trade and other advantages, especially with regard to imported capital, of a stable gold exchange, it is advisable to consider the whole question impartially in all its bearings. This Conference, however, thinks that the subject is very little understood and the Government will be well advised to commit the matter to a commission of experts, to take evidence on all matters that mutually concern production in India, and the standards of value in silver and gold-using countries with which Indian trade is conducted. The Conference fears that unless this commission sits and takes evidence in India, important facts may be overlooked, without full consideration of which no correct conclusion can be come to."

Having consideration to this, that, and the other; but having consideration for one, two and three! Having consideration to all the facts of the Empire's condition, especially to the indebtedness of the rayyet [why not, to the rayyet's indebtedness?] and to the absence.....; but having consideration for the trade and other advantages, especially with regard to,..... Such is the diction and such the construction. The matter is of a piece with the manner. The Conference cannot be accused of any rashness. It does not commit itself to much of an opinion. Its voluminous Resolution is a veritable mountain in labour. After all, its threatening array of "consideration to" and "consideration for," the Conference resolves that "no settlement of the currency question seems to be in the interests of India that.....," but that after all, "it is advisable to consider the whole question impartially." An unimpeachable doctrine as true in Currency and political economy in general as in astronomy or acoustics, as sound in art or *belles lettres* as in science. Surely, it is always advisable to consider the whole question—whatever it may be—impartially, in all its bearings. Only, no ghost of a grandiloquent Industrial Conference was needed to discover that truth. The concluding advice to Government to make over the question to a conclave of experts, is of the same character. And this is the great Poona Palaver of all the Wise Men of the East to regenerate our country and people!

AN upcountry contemporary's London staff sends a notice of Thomas Cooper, the Chartist, in which "the Purgatory of Suicides" is called "an epic poem." These London literati deserve to be sent to the Purgatory of presumptuous ignorance. They might as well have called Cooper's Poem a Pindaric Ode.

THE late Earl of Dudley provided in his will for the sale of his collection of pictures. They were offered to the public at Christie's on June 25 and realized £101,320. Here are some of the principal lots as given in an English paper:—

"View in Holland," by Hobbema and A. van de Velde, 9,600 gs., Agnew; 'Travellers passing through a Wood,' by Hobbema, 2,300 gs., Martin Colnaghi; 'The Enamoured Cavalier,' by Mieris, 3,400 gs., Vokins; 'Interior of a Kitchen,' A. Ostade, 2,500 gs., Agnew; 'St. John preaching in the Wilderness,' Rembrandt, 2,500 gs., P. Colnaghi; 'The Ruin,' Jacob Ruysdael, 1,400 gs., Lesser; 'Halt of a Sporting Party,' Wouvermans, 3,500l., C. Wertheimer; 'Panel from a Triptych' attributed to J. van Eyck, 3,400 gs., Vokins; 'La Vieja,' Murillo, 1,800 gs., M. Castagni; 'Virgin and Child,' Fra Angelico, 850 gs., Seidelmeier; 'Madonna,' with a landscape background, Giovanni Bellini, 1,100 gs., Agnew; 'a fine example of Canaletti,' 1,950 gs., Agnew; 'and a View on the Grand Canal,' by the same, 2,100 gs., M. Castagni; 'Virgin and Child,' with St. John, Lorenzo di Credi, 2,400 gs., Vokins; 'Virgin and Child,' Carlo Crivelli, 7,000 gs., Murray; 'La Simonetta,' Filippino Lippi, 1,600 gs., M. Nattali; 'The Crucifixion,' Raffaele, 10,600 gs., Dr. Richter; 'La Vierge de Nuvar,' Raffaele, 3,050 gs., J. Reid; 'Mother and Child,' Titian, 2,400 gs., Mond."

In seven years, sixteen pictures have been sold at Christie's for over 5,000l., totalling 118,156l., or an average of 7,384 each. Here they are:

|                        |        |                   |        |
|------------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|
| 1886 Rubens.....       | £7,200 | 1889 Hobbema..... | £5,460 |
| Carlo Dolce.....       | 6,600  | 1890 Turner.....  | 7,450  |
| 1887 Boucher.....      | 10,395 | Paul Potter.....  | 6,095  |
| Gainsborough.....      | 9,975  | 1891 Turner.....  | 7,450  |
| Turner.....            | 6,825  | Meissonier.....   | 6,772  |
| Millais.....           | 5,250  | Watteau.....      | 5,400  |
| 1888 Rosa Bonheur..... | 5,827  | 1892 Raphael..... | 11,130 |
| Landseer.....          | 5,197  | Hobbema.....      | 10,080 |

We may here add that Raphael's "Madonna di San Sisto" was purchased by Augustus III. King of Poland for 22,000 crowns. Murillo's "Conception of the Virgin," the greatest of his religious paintings, was acquired by the French Government at the sale of Marshal Soult's collection for 615,300 francs—about £25,000. Raphael's "Crucifixion," which at the Dudley sale fetched 11,130l. had been officially valued by the Director of the National Gallery, Sir Frederic Burton, at 115,500l. But probably the highest price fetched by a painting was paid eight years ago to the Duke of Marlborough for a Madonna of Raphael—some seven lacs of Rupees!

ONE of the commonest tricks of Anglo-Indian genius is to invent samples of the so-called "Baboo English." The result is not unfrequently a weak decoction of Anglo-Indianese. "Baboo English" is no doubt a remarkable phenomenon. But it is an extensive field. There are kinds and degress of it. Broadly divided into two kinds, there are the ambitious University Babooses and the modest unclassical jargon. The former is figurative and allusive, discursive and philosophical, bristling with wise saws and foreign phrases, and specially rich in Shakespeare. But it is not necessarily ungrammatical. The other description is plain, matter-of-fact, but nonetheless unintelligible, in many cases for the most part. We have ourselves received a communication in the latter tongue. As a genuine article, and withal not without value as a linguistic curiosity, we lay it before the reader:—

HONOURED SIRS,—With due respect and humble submission I beg most respectfully to solicit your kind favour, that your honour will be kind enough to do the necessary consideration of the following matter and issue its necessary order for your poor servant.

On the 18th instant I send 2 Carts of Teak Timber to Serampore in day time. My Cartmen were arrested for what reason I am not sure of it. Only I heard one Cartman was loaded on his Cart some Paper which his Cart at once put his cart on my Bull's leg which they make dispute to each other Cartmen which my Bull at once useless and rest other Bull of mine was killed by his Buffalo. My cartman take his 2 Buffalos and reached the Timber to the party on their return was arrest by the Police one Cartman of mine was not in the quarrel he foolishly arrested by Police Sook Deb Sing my brother.

I have the honor to be

Hd. Srs

Your most obedient servant

(Name.)

21-8-92.

THE *Indian Daily News* the other day recorded the death of its city editor, Mr. H. H. Hills. He was a broker but not doing a roaring business. He, as usual, employed his leisure in instructing the public on commercial and monetary subjects through the press. Thirty years ago, he was Secretary or Managing Director of the Company which owned the *Bengal Hurkaru* newspaper. This had been the property of Mr. Samuel Smith, once the prince of newspaper proprietors, when his paper was one of the two leading dailies of Calcutta, a position which it maintained down to the mutinies of 1857. Those events were disastrous to the press as to other business, and Mr. Smith died in poverty. The Company too, like Mr. Smith, failed and the paper was purchased by old Mr. Mendes, the wellknown Portuguese or Eurasian auctioneer of Cossitollah (now Bentinck Street.) Mr. Mendes was a rather remarkable man. He had a passion for trade and property speculation, and engaged himself in various lines of business, but, being in his way a capital man of business, he managed to succeed in most things that he undertook or took over. Curiously enough, though no man of letters, not to say an illiterate man, the business of journalism had as great a fascination for him as for the late Mr. Robert Knight. Mr. Hill was connected with many newspapers before he joined the staff of the *Indian Daily News*.

AFTER a lapse of half a century, Dr. Arnold, of Rugby fame, has been adjudged one of England's great men and is to be awarded a place in Westminster Abbey. It has been resolved that the monument shall consist of a seated figure, or bust, or medallion in high relief. It took as many years for a public memorial to Lord Byron.

Dr. Arnold was a man of note and some size. But he was no genius in contemplation nor hero in action. He was a thoroughly respectable character. He was a sincere Christian and would have been a thoroughly liberal politician but for his peculiar views on Church and State. His nature abhorred everything mean and ungenerous. When Dr. Hampden was persecuted for his Rampton Lectures, he took up the cudgels in behalf of the Doctor in a memorable article in the *Edinburgh Review* of tremendous passion. As an author, he will be remembered for popularising Niebuhr in England. His best work was as Head Master of Rugby, and his best monument is his pupil-friend Stanley's Life of his *Gooroo*.

*Holloway's Pills.*—Impurities of the Blood.—To ensure health it is absolutely necessary that the fluids and solids of the human body should be kept free from those impurities which are continually getting admission into the system by erroneous living, unwholesome atmosphere, or disordered stomach. The only safe and certain way to expel all impurities is to take Holloway's Pills, which have the power of cleansing the blood from all noxious matters, and at the same time removing any irregularities which their presence may have already produced in any organs. Holloway's Pills expel all humours which taint or impoverish the blood, which they purify and invigorate, and give general tone. They are applicable to all alike—young or old, robust or delicate.

THE long-and-much talked of charity of Maharaja Jotendro Mohan Tagore of Pathuriaghatta, is now an accomplished fact. He has made over to the Treasurer of Charitable Endowments a security of the Government of India of the 4 per cent. loan of the subscribed value of one lakh of rupees, for such support and maintenance as the terms imposed will allow, of impoverished Hindu widows of Calcutta and its suburbs. The charity is to be called "Maharajmatah Sibasundary Dabee's Hindu Widows' Fund." Though founded in the name of his mother, it is to be an appenage of his hereditary title of Maharaja. It is to be administered by "a Committee consisting of the Maharaja himself, or the representative of his own hereditary title of Maharaja Bahadur, the Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta, the Chairman of the Native Committee of the District Charitable Society, Calcutta, and the Chairman of the British Indian Association. The Committee are required to relieve as many widows as possible, the monthly payments being restricted to Rs. 4 and 3 from the interest of the security. "The recipients are to be selected by two or more members of the Committee, provided, however, that no person shall be admitted to the charity without a certificate from two respectable residents of her neighbourhood, stating that she bears a good character and is a worthy object of charity." The Bengal Government is charmed with the charity. The Government Resolution in this week's Gazette says:—

"The charity is remarkable in itself for its munificent endowment, the peculiarly Hindu purpose which it serves, and the distinctly Hindu character of its dedication. It is also interesting as the first application of property in trust for charitable purposes, under the provisions of Act VI of 1890."

The Resolution then sums up the charity of the Maharaja's life: "This splendid donation merits the warmest approbation of Government, and it affords the Lieutenant-Governor the very greatest pleasure to acknowledge the beneficent liberality of the Maharaja Bahadur, who has thus increased the claim to public gratitude which he had already established by making a free gift of a portion of the land on which the Mayo Hospital is built, and by giving handsome donations in aid of that institution, and of the Lady Dufferin Victoria Hospital and building."

The date of the official announcement lends an additional grace to the certificate.

MR. Edward Manson, of the Middle Temple, has published a neat little work entitled "Bramwelliana; or, Wit and Wisdom of Lord Bramwell." It contains an excellent photograph of his lordship, underneath which is the following quotation from the speech he made at the banquet on his retirement:—"If I had the choice whether to be a great or a good judge I would prefer the latter."

Lord Bramwell had the weakness of posing as one who never cared for popular applause. It is related that—

"On one occasion some observation in a charge to a jury was received with applause. The judge paused a moment, and then said quietly: 'I recall those words, I must have been saying something foolish.'"—(27, *Law Journal*, p. 317.)

That joke is an antique.

Lord Bramwell gave a different character to Chief Justice Cockburn, saying:—

"Chief Justice Cockburn indeed, who liked a page of the *Times* daily devoted to him and his performances, picked out of the general list cases which would afford him the gratification; but no other chief ever did."

Cockburn could not have been the orator that he was—the greatest on the British bench—unless he had shared to the full the amiable weaknesses of common humanity. After all, such a character with all its weaknesses appeals to the general heart of mankind more than does the cold austerity of the cynic.

POPULAR assemblies are often guilty of as great excesses and absurdities as the worst of princes. The most signal illustrations were offered by the great French Revolution which first asserted in the Old World the sovereignty of the People. The mob of conscript fathers of New Zealand has lately gone in for the most remarkable instances of stupid puerility in our times of any popular chamber. We read in the English papers:—

"Considerable amusement was caused in the New Zealand Legislative Assembly on the Speaker reading the correspondence respecting the petition to the Tzar of Russia. Last session, on the motion of Sir George Grey, it was resolved to approach the Tzar, urging the claims of the Russian Jews to more humane treatment. The resolution was sent in the form of a petition to Lieutenant-General de Richer, the

Tzar's aide-de-camp, who has replied that by his formal instructions he is not authorized to receive petitions or addresses from representatives of foreign countries with reference to questions, concerning the internal administration of the Russian Empire, and he is, therefore, compelled to return the address without having submitted it to the Emperor."

Each country has its peculiar humour. The humour of these New Zealanders is to laugh against themselves. There is probably no other people who are amused at their own humiliation.

Go-ahead and no mistake is the American eagle—in every respect. The Roman bird is as obsolete as the Dodo; the double-headed monster of Russia is a formidable savage—that is all. But for variety of resources and capacity for progress as well as for puissance, commend us to the North American fowl! John Bull the Great himself must bow the head before Brother Jonathan. As for Nicholas Frog and Lewis Baboon and Cousin Michael and the rest, they cannot hold a candle to him. The superiority of the Americans is patent in every thing. Favoured sons of Nature, they are great all round—in the little and the bad as well as the great and the good. Nothing like them and theirs for size! Their districts are provinces, their provinces—kingdoms, their country quite a continent; their rivers are almost impassable barriers, their cascades are sublime cataracts, their lakes are seas, their seas—oceans. Their own works are on the grandest scale. Politically, they are a multitude of states artificially bound together. Their progress has been unprecedented—their enterprize and invention are without parallel. Morally, they present opposite extremes. A generation back, the spirit of freedom and the spirit of slavery freely and familiarly hobnobbed with one another. Nor is the conflict between light and darkness over yet. In that land of anomaly which, proud of a Constitution the first article of which declares that "all men are created equal," kept down another race of men in bondage vile, the most extraordinary diversities prevail. Education and spirit are common but not morals. It is a land of religion and infidelity—of saints and sinners—in which the professed saints are gross polygamists—in which the Heathen Chinese is an angel before the heathen Yankee or the Christian filibuster. If the Penbods of America beat the charitable donors of the Old World, there are in our Hemisphere no such accomplished knaves, desperate villains and utter brutes as the United States *badmashes*. The British Eugene Aram has been surpassed by the American Dr. Webster, while the circumstantial evidence on which the scientific murderer was brought to the gallows is a triumph of American detective skill. The faint-hearted criminals of other lands are dominated by some instinct of propriety. They usually respect certain places and occasions. No such weakness with the American evil-doers. They never hesitate to perform their operations in the open day, or the illuminated night, in the theatre the court of justice, the legislative chamber, or even the house of God. Here is the last characteristic feat in American depravity:—

"A tragedy unexampled in its sensational features occurred in the city of Mexico on the 2nd August. John Palmeire, a well-to-do young farmer of an adjoining district, was married to a Miss Alice Muller, the daughter of a country doctor. The marriage was attended by a good many friends, and among them John Elias, an Ohio man, who had courted Miss Muller for several years, but in vain. When the engagement between the young couple was announced Elias made some threatening remarks, but as he and Palmeire had been friends for some years, and appeared to be on the best of terms then, no notice was taken of his remarks. The wedding took place at a little country church, and afterwards the party returned to the residence of the bride's father, where a banquet was laid out, and where later on in the evening a country ball was given. The bride had danced once or twice, when Elias asked for the privilege of a waltz. She made some remarks to her new husband about its being 'her last' dance, and accepted. In a moment the two were spinning round the room, when suddenly while the young girl was still dancing with him, Elias was seen to disengage his left hand, draw a revolver from his pocket, and raising it quickly to her forehead, blow her brains out. The whole thing occurred so quickly that the girl could never have realized what had happened. She fell dead to the floor, her bridal dress saturated with blood. John Palmeire was the first to spring towards the murderer, but, before he could reach him, Elias fired again and lodged a bullet in the young husband's chest, from which he must die. Then, before he could be prevented by the horrified guests, Elias put a third bullet through his own head, and actually fell dead upon the corpse of his partner in the waltz of a few moments before."

Murder is as old as the issue of the first man. Even single act dramas embracing three homicides including a suicide, from time to time startle us. But such a diabolical series of triple murders has probably never occurred before. Homicidal vindictiveness is common enough, and there are brutes who spare not the object of their former love. But this Ohio Elias is the very devil incarnate.

## REIS &amp; RAYYET.

Saturday, October 1, 1892.

## WHY SHOULD INDIA PAY?

AN uppretending little letter appears in the London *Daily News* which deserves more than a passing notice. It is as follows:—

## "WHY SHOULD INDIA PAY."

SIR,—In your leading article this morning on the new Cabinet, you remark: 'Economists will observe that the double appointment given to Lord Kimberley (Secretary of State for India and Lord President of the Council) saves the country from the payment of the salary attached in the ordinary course of things to the functions of President of the Council.' I hope I may be considered an economist in the sense implied by you, but I confess that I for one should have observed Lord Kimberley's double appointment with increased pleasure if it were not the fact that the salary attached to the functions of Secretary of State for India comes out of the pockets of the Indian ratepayers. Will you permit me to respectfully suggest for Mr. Gladstone's consideration that his lordship should draw part of his salary from the English Exchequer and part from the Indian—2,000*l.* from the former and 3,000*l.* from the latter? A saving to the Indian Government of even 2,000*l.* per annum is not to be despised in these hard times, when the rupee is down to 1*s.* 2½*d.* It is sometimes forgotten in England, though never in India, that the entire cost of the India Office, including the salaries of the staff, from the Secretary of State to the charwoman, is a charge on the Indian revenues. The recently published home accounts show that the amount for last year was no less than 227,985*l.* The emoluments of the Secretary of State, Under-Secretaries, members of Council, &c., alone came to 134,070*l.* Some of us who are not adherents of the National Congress fail to see why, in regard at all events to the official Parliamentary representatives, India should be treated differently from the Colonies, but that opens up a larger question, and my object now is simply to recommend a slight rearrangement by which a small measure of justice may be done to our Asiatic fellow subjects.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

S. DIGBY.

Northbrook Indian Club, Whitehall-gardens, August 17."

That is an opportune little service of no small importance, for which the Indian Empire ought to be grateful to Mr. S. Digby. The extravagant Home Charges ever waxing, without let or hindrance, are the millstone on the people which crushes them. The British sojourners in India had never cared about the burdens of the people until they were yoked to bear the same. Even when the Income Tax was first introduced in India by the late Right Hon'ble Mr. James Wilson to the universal dissatisfaction of the people, the Europeans made a virtue of the necessity of the hour. It was a time when, with the recollections of the Mutinies and all their horrors still fresh, the European community hated the natives as if every one of them was a Pandy implicated in the massacres of Delhi and Cawnpore and in the unmentionable outrages that never happened. At that time, because the natives complained of the new inquisitorial impost, the Europeans thought themselves bound to support it. They delighted to contrast their enlightened and patriotic readiness to undertake the necessary burdens of the state with the barbarous and disloyal attitude of the natives, who, by their own rebellion and the necessity of reconquering them, had involved the Empire in debt and financial embarrassments. But the citizenship of spite could not be a lasting policy. The practical operation of a measure is different from the theoretic view of it. The most scientific impost is not, perhaps, a jot easier to bear because of its strictly scientific or even equitable character. Their actual experience of the new tax disillusionized the Europeans; its recommendations according to "bookish theorick" no longer sufficed; all their political and sentimental sympathy for it vanished. They would no longer remember that there were any natives in the matter. By the time that the tax came to be introduced a second time, the Europeans' feeling had changed. They not only thought the complaint of the natives reasonable, but were almost prepared to join them in a united protest. Since then, indeed, notwithstanding racial and social se-

paration, and political differences, the Europeans have shown a distinct tendency to sympathise with one of the chief grievances of the natives—the inordinate costliness of the administration. The principal plank on the financial side of the platform of pure Indian politicians, is the impeachment of the authorities for waste of resources involved in the plethora of Home Charges and the readiness to engage in unnecessary Little Wars on the Frontiers, and sink millions in speculative frontier defences and colossal military preparations in view of a future contingency which may not happen within a measurable period, and which, at any rate, may be better provided for, and far more cheaply, by strengthening our position within—a waste which has already made the Income Tax—confessedly a burden of grave emergency, not to say a war tax,—a permanent burden on the people and is the source of other demands on the subject population. Whatever grounds may exist for the Military Expenditure, the same cannot be alleged for a great part of the Home Charges. As regards the former itself, though Military Expenditure must be incurred, Military Extravagance—the making ducks and drakes with the people's money in the name of the defence of the Empire—was certainly not needed at all. The people cry in the wilderness for relief. Formerly, the very merchants and tradesmen and others, who represented European civilization in the East, did not pity them. It is the pressure of the Income Tax that first opened their eyes and their hearts to the people's grievance. Still it was regarded as the special concern of the natives. Since then, the accelerated depreciation of the currency—the hastening ruin of the Rupee—has quickened their apprehension. Already, there is a talk of *rapprochement* between the two classes. The truth is, the Exchange Difficulty has affected the whole question of the finances of the Empire. Intelligent men see that such a currency relation as has steadily been going on between the mother-country and the Dependency, means only loss to the latter. And that loss means only increased burdens on the tax-payer. Much as the native publicist or orator may inveigh, and not without reason inveigh, against the Home Charges, a good part of them is a necessary evil. Establishments at Home are required and must be paid for. It is their extravagant scale that riles us, and their tendency to spread and absorb more and more of India's resources. Another fruitful source of increase of these Home Charges is this depreciation of the currency itself. We are in this desperate situation that, even if the Home Charges remained stationary, *our* charges on them must increase! Those Charges being all in British Currency, in making our payments for them in our own coin, we have to find more and more Rupees as silver steadily goes down.

That is a cruel position to be landed in. But there is no good in fretting. Let us all combine to extricate ourselves out of this Currency shoal, if possible. In the mean time, let us husband all our resources. Let us stop waste. Let us not be ashamed of cheeseparing and haggling. Let us take care of the pence, and though that will not lead the pounds to take care of themselves, we shall, at any rate, save many shillings, the aggregate of which comes up to a respectable sum. It is on that account that we hail good Mr. Digby's letter. If he could be a sort of Joe Hume in Indian affairs without the House, he would do more good than many ambitious orators within.

The immediate question raised in Mr. Digby's letter, is worthy of the practical attention of our politicians and our friends, the more so as a convenient avenue to the larger question which he names just to burke for the moment. That other question concerns not a paltry saving of £2,000 a year—welcome as even that would be—but very much more. It concerns not only the full salary of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for India, but also the salaries of the Under-Secretaries and Deputy and Assistant Secretaries and all the Assistants and Clerks of every grade—in fact, the whole India Office Establishment charges. There is no reason in the world for saddling India alone with the whole cost. England ought in fairness to bear a part. The point ought to be urged on the conscience of the Liberal ministry. There is no reason for treating India differently from the Colonies, except that the Colonies can speak whereas India is dumb, that the Colonies are powerful and would stand no nonsense and India is weak and must submit. But this is not the reason of Liberal politics, and it is not enlightened government.

#### HOWRAH.

*Shibpur, Sep. 23.*

A sensational case of much importance in which one Kalachand Nuskar, by caste "Podh," of poor means, charged one Gocul Chunder Gangooly, of respectable connections, with having enticed away his alleged lawful wife of prepossessing appearance from his legal protection, came on for hearing, on Saturday last, before Mr. Grierson, the District Magistrate of Howrah. This was a reference-case from the Court of Baboo Brojodullub Huzrah, under section 349, along with a judgment to shew that Gocul was found guilty of the charge framed against him, but he deserved to be punished more severely than what Baboo Brojodullub Huzrah is empowered to inflict under section 489 as a Deputy Magistrate of 2nd class powers. Mr. D. White, barrister-at-law, assisted by the experienced pleaders of the Court, appeared on behalf of the accused Gocul Chunder Gangooly, and Baboo Asutosh Bosh, pleader, for the prosecution. The Court was unusually crowded on the occasion and Mr. Grierson was obliged to order his chap-rasis to clear the Court. The learned counsel for the defence made short work of the case. After some preliminary observations, he pointed out that the prosecution had utterly failed to prove that Nando Dassi is the lawful wife of the complainant Kalachand Nuskar, and that in the absence of proof of marriage the case could not proceed. The Magistrate was satisfied and at once discharged the accused. The crowd outside the Court house on hearing the news of acquittal burst out in thanks to Mr. D. White for his advocacy which did not occupy more than three quarters of an hour, and went away almost surprised, with such conscience as is illustrated by one of the eminent thinkers of the West in—"A housemaid may be deterred from going to meet her lover in the garden, because a howling ghost is believed to haunt the laurels; but she will go to him fast enough when she discovers that the sounds that alarmed her were not a soul in torture but the cat in love."

A VISITOR.

#### AN ENQUIRY.

SIR,—I have read with great gusto your able and learned article on the Hyderabad case in which Mr. S. M. Mitter, whom I suppose to be a near relative of a native Civilian of Bengal, is just now involved. In the course of this admirable article, you have as Nestor of the Indian Press, alluded in somewhat ambiguous terms, to the noble service rendered by a Calcutta gentleman to Babu Surendranath Banerjee at the time of the acceptance of his bail in the contempt case. As a biographer of Babu Surendranath, I respectfully solicit you to publish the full name and designation of that noble-hearted gentleman who stood bail for him in that famous case, when he was deserted by the "crushing crowd" of false admirers and friends and left to chew the cud of bitter disappointment at that dangerous hour of severe trial and peril.

RAMGOPAL SANYAL,

Author of *Bengal Celebrities*.

Calcutta, Aug. 3.

\*. Baboo Jogesh Chunder Dutt, of the Wellington Square Family, became bail for Baboo Surendra Nath Banerjee and his printer.—ED.  
R. & R.

#### HYDERABAD AND THE ELECTION OF MR. DADABHOY NOWROJI, M. P.

[Translation of the opening speech in Urdu, delivered by Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk, Political and Financial Secretary, H. H. the

Nizam's Government, as President of the Public Meeting held at Secunderabad, on the 5th September 1892, to express the gratification of the general community at the election of Mr. Dadabhoj Nowroji as a Member of Parliament.]

#### GENTLEMEN,

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the honour you have done me in selecting me to preside at this meeting. I assure you I cannot find any words that can adequately express my gratefulness to you for this great distinction. It cannot but be a source of pleasure and pride to any person to be chosen as the mouth-piece of a large and representative assemblage like this, consisting of people belonging to different countries, communities, and creeds, and characterized by a great diversity of thoughts and sentiments. I feel this pleasure and pride to a higher degree as I am conscious of being in no way deserving of the favor you have done me in asking me to take the chair this evening. For a Mahomedan to be called upon to preside at a meeting of this kind, with which, as would appear to a casual or superficial observer, the Parsees in the first instance, and after them the Hindoos would be specially concerned, is an eminent proof of the fact that these communities are fully alive to the pernicious and fatal consequences of national differences and religious distinctions, and are not only sincerely prepared to discard them, but to give practical proofs of their willingness to put them entirely away; whilst, on the other hand, for a Mahomedan to consent to take the lead on an occasion like the present clearly indicates that the community, to which I have the honour to belong, is always ready to co-operate and sympathize, without any prejudice, jealousy, or religious intolerance, of which it is generally unfairly accused, with the other communities of India, on every suitable occasion, in every beneficial undertaking, in every deserving cause, and, in fact, in every matter conducive to the welfare of the country at large, and not calculated to injuriously affect the condition or interest of any particular class or section.

Gentlemen, as you are well aware, we are assembled here to-day to express the sense of honour we feel in consequence of the election of one of our honoured and esteemed countrymen as a member of the Imperial Parliament, and, in so doing, to practically demonstrate the increasing interest and delight we take in all that concerns our rights, aspirations, and objects, to declare our sincere gratitude to the electors of Central Finsbury for the independence and freedom from prejudice they have shown in electing as their representative a man alien to them in race and religion, and, above all, to manifest the deep loyalty and devotion which bind us indissolubly to the throne of Her Majesty the Queen Empress. All these are objects on which the meeting may be rightly congratulated, and on which many hope-inspiring prophecies for the future may be founded, especially when one takes note of the fact that people differing so widely from one another in respect of race, religion, nationality, profession, and opinion are here collected together in harmonious concord, displaying a wonderful unanimity of purpose and identity of views. It is indeed a pleasant and edifying sight to behold Hindoos and Mahomedans, Parsees and Bengalees, Madrasces and Deccanees, Sikhs and Brahmans, the rich and the poor, all sitting shoulder to shoulder, inspired by one thought and actuated by one motive. Would to God that this union were real and lasting, and, that in spite of all differences of faith, creed, or custom, there may be a perfect agreement of thought and feeling on all subjects connected with the well-being and progress of the country. Let the Brahmin paint his forehead with his peculiar mark of distinction and sing his hymns in his temple, let the Lingayet hang round his neck the holy Ling and offer his prayers to Mahadeo, let the Parsee, with his sacred thread round his waist, believe that fire is the emblem of God, let the Sikh heartily blow his conch shell and shout huzzas to his Gooroo or spiritual guide, let the Mahomedan from his mosque proclaim with gusto the summons to prayers and cry out Allah-o-Akbar or God is great, but may they never be at variance on any point that affects the welfare, honour, and advancement of their country; may they never, by their thought or action, offer the least impediment to any laudable undertaking that has for its object the good of the land they live in; and may they always join, as they have done today, with one heart and one voice, in all works likely to prove advantageous to the community at large. When such an union has been effected amongst the different communities of India, we may consider that God has at last grown merciful towards the country, and wishes to shower His blessings on that considerable class of his creatures who greatly outnumber the inhabitants of some of the largest and most flourishing states of Europe. But until this union is consummated, it is futile to expect any real and abiding progress, and national honour must always remain an idle dream.

Gentlemen, I have used the expression national honour, but what meaning does that phrase convey? People ordinarily think that high lineage and descent, wealth and grandeur, power and influence, estates and emoluments, medals and titles, are marks of honour. But no mistake can be greater. Is a man necessarily honourable because he has been born in a noble family, because he has unlimited resources at his command, because he exercises sway

over a number of men, because he lives in a splendid palace with all the pomp and circumstance of a prince, because he is a Knight, a Baronet or a Doctor of Laws, because he enjoys a Jagir or Mansab, or because he is dubbed a Jung or a Dowla? No, none of these accidents is a real claim to honour, which truly springs from a well-ordered mind, a spotless heart, singleness of purpose, steadfastness of will, resignation, fortitude, patriotism and sympathy with humanity at large. May a man be a Syed or a weaver, a Brahman or a Sudra, a peer or a pauper, a prince or a peasant, may he dwell in a castle or a cottage, may he ride on stately elephants and fleet horses or bestride a humble donkey, if he is endowed with the qualifications above mentioned, he is a man to be rightly honoured, and some of this honour is reflected on the family to which he belongs. Similarly that community, which boasts of having several men of this stamp, gains honour to itself, and the country, whose different communities and classes can each produce such men in any appreciable number, must be considered as upholding its national honour. Although India at one time could truly lay claim to such national honour, when she could point to hundreds and thousands of her sons endowed with those qualifications which bring honour in their train, yet even in these degenerate days, she is not wanting in men who are the pride and ornament of the community and country to which they belong. And among these is our worthy friend Mr. Dadabhoy Nowroji who has achieved the honour he so well deserves, and to congratulate whom on that honour we are met here today. He is not a nobleman or millionaire by birth, but belongs to a humble yet respectable family. He only received the ordinary education imparted in our schools and colleges, but from his early boyhood displayed considerable quickness of intelligence and great aptitude for learning and improvement. As he advanced in years, he gained a name for himself by the active and enlightened interest he took in all movements of reform, and the unflagging zeal and sympathy he evidenced in whatever was calculated to promote the welfare of India. Indeed the material and moral amelioration of the country of his birth has always been his watchword and motto, and with that goal steadily in view he has boldly grappled with all difficulties in his way, and has not seldom succeeded in overcoming them by the force of his talents and ability. Although at one time he reached the highest stage of worldly honour to which a native of India could ever aspire, that is to say, attained to the dignity of the Prime Minister of an important Native State in India, yet, as he had never set his heart upon that as the object of his life, he did not regard it as the final fulfilment of all his wishes, or the crowning achievement of his lifelong exertions. India's welfare continued as much his absorbing passion as it ever was before, and the fire of sympathy for the Indian people burned in his breast with the same ardour that it had hitherto displayed. Gentlemen, I will not detain you with a long history of the life and doings of this remarkable man, as most of you are probably well acquainted with it, but I hope you will permit me to describe the rather singular way in which I first came to know him some 25 years ago. You will perhaps be surprised to learn that my acquaintance with him dates so far back. You will wonder how we managed to come into contact with each other at a time, when, as you know, I had not set foot in the Deccan, and when he had not yet had an opportunity of paying a visit to the N.-W. P., where I had till then remained. Gentlemen, it was altogether a one-sided acquaintance. It made me fully acquainted with Mr. Dadabhoy, whilst he was entirely ignorant of who I was. This happened in 1867 in the following manner. In that year, a few enterprising and sympathetic men in England and India had established a society, under the name of the East Indian Association, for the discussion of Indian matters, and for the suggestion of means and measures for the improvement of the condition of this country. If my memory does not fail me Mr. Dadabhoy was the Secretary of this Association, and he read before that body an excellent paper, well-reasoned, and impressive. A translation of it was published by our venerable and esteemed Sir Syed Ahmed Khan in his paper, the Aligarh Institute Gazette, and I read it with great attention and interest. That was when education and enlightened ideas were just beginning to cast their morning rays in that part of India where I come from, and people had just commenced to hear of civilization, patriotism, and things of that kind. I cannot describe to you, gentlemen, the effect produced on my mind by the perusal of that able and instructive paper. Since then I have seen many more of Mr. Dadabhoy's literary productions, and kept myself in touch with all that he has done or attempted in the course of his useful public career, but I had no opportunity of forming a personal acquaintance with him till 1888, when, fortunately, I was deputed to England on a special mission by His Highness the Nizam's Government. As a result of my actual intercourse with him, I found that his ability and worth were still greater than what they appeared to be merely from the accounts one heard of him, and that the qualities both of his head and heart exceeded even the high estimate I had previously formed of them.

Gentlemen, Mr. Dadabhoy's election as a member of the Imperial Parliament is one of those many astonishing events, which

have been witnessed in the present century. As you are all aware, we have, during the course of the last hundred years, actually seen accomplished many things which no one previously dreamt of, and which were, indeed, considered absolutely impossible. If there were any persons, who believed in their feasibility, or endeavoured to bring them about, they were set down as maniacs and lunatics. It is in this century that the steam engine was invented, steam ships launched, railways constructed, distant countries united by submarine telegraph, the Suez Canal built, and the phonograph devised. Among wonders such as these must be included the fact that a black man has found admission into the ranks of the white, and, cutting his way to a seat in Parliament, has placed himself on an equal footing with Englishmen. Mr. Dadabhoy has shown that all difficulties disappear before firmness and perseverance, and that nothing is impossible for courage and exertion to achieve. Would you not have thought the man a fit inmate for Bedlam, who had told you, some 35 years ago, that a black man could enter Parliament? Would you not have laughed at the very idea? But today we see that very idea realized. It has become an accomplished fact, an astonishing fact, indeed, like many others, but, all the same, a fact worthy to be recorded in history.

Gentlemen, it is not so very long ago that Englishmen and Natives of India were considered altogether such distinct species, that it was thought there could be no relationship between the two, and that if any could exist, it must be of the same kind as that existing between a man and brute. So deeply was this notion implanted in the minds of men, that it was even supposed that white men were the creation of the Almighty and that black men were manufactured by the Prince of darkness. But it is now gradually being demonstrated that both are the subjects of the same sovereign, both possess equal rights, and to both is open the path to progress. There is only one difference, and that is that Englishmen have attained to maturity, whilst the natives of India are still in their boyhood; the former have, by their civilization and enlightenment, by their courage and perseverance, already overcome many of the obstacles that block the way of a nation's advancement, whilst we have but just learned to walk, and manage to keep ourselves on our legs. Still, however, we have amongst us a few that can run and keep company with Englishmen, and among these is Mr. Dadabhoy, whose success at the hustings shows that he can hold his own against any Englishman. But, gentlemen, giving every credit to Mr. Dadabhoy for obtaining this success, I cannot but say that I doubt whether the credit is entirely his. I believe that the electors of Central Finsbury have a claim to a large portion of the honour, which this success reflects, because it is due to their independence of thought and freedom from prejudice that Mr. Dadabhoy now enjoys the privilege of being a member of the highest governing body in the realm. If we go further and look at the matter more deeply, we must confess that it is to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress and the British Government that we are indebted, in no small measure, for the result over which we are rejoicing. It is only under the peaceful, just, and sympathetic rule of a sovereign like our beloved Empress and under a free and high-principled Government like that of Great Britain, that such an event is possible. It is that enlightened Government, which has burst the strong and cruel shackles of national and religious distinctions, and has opened the doors of Parliament to all subjects of Her Majesty, of whatever caste, colour, or creed. Had it not been for these fortunate circumstances, Mr. Dadabhoy's sterling merits would have been of no avail, nor would the electors of Central Finsbury have been in a position to show their spirit of independence.

Gentlemen, I am not going to take up your valuable time by saying anything further regarding Mr. Dadabhoy, the electors of Central Finsbury, or the British Government, or by singing the praises of the one or showering panegyrics on the others. Even if I were a poet, which I am not, and could manufacture encomiastic verses by the yard with the ease of a Khakani or an Urfi, I should be at a loss to find original material wherewith to build up my eulogistic ode, for those, who have already preceded me in this line, have taken all the wind out of my sail. There is not a single important town from London to Bombay, or from Madras to Calcutta, where the people have not already completely thrashed out the subject. Under these circumstances, if I venture to harp on the same theme, perhaps you will all fall off to sleep, or, a worse catastrophe still, some one amongst you will probably be inclined to greet me in the same way as a newly arrived Civilian at Delhi did a learned sonneteer. This erudite bard had composed an idyl in honour of the worthy official, and one verse stated that "Heaven was his (i. e. the Civilian's) threshold, and angels were his guard." The Civilian returned the compliment by a vigorous application of his whip on the back of the poor whining author, and when the latter asked the reason of this strange proceeding, the Civilian complacently replied "If you have a tape-line with you, go and actually measure the height of the plinth of my bungalow. It is exactly 2 feet 3 inches. If you had described it as 4 feet 6 inches high, or double of what it is, I could have forgiven you, knowing that you, Orientals, are great liars. But a lie like yours I had

never heard before. Why, you place my threshold so high, that if we were to fire a gun, the ball would not reach there even at the end of 1,573 years." With the fate of that unfortunate versifier before my eyes, I shall give a wide berth to all poetical fancies and confine myself to some practical observations, that are suggested by the election of the Rt. Hon'ble Mr. Dadabhoy Nowroji.

This remarkable and gratifying event will be viewed in different lights by different classes of people, according to their respective bent of mind, but we must take care that its novelty or excitement does not carry us away so far as to lead us to form any exaggerated hopes, or to draw any unwarranted conclusions. There is one class of people, including highly educated and able men of this country, who think that the present system of administration in India is far from being satisfactory, and who wish that a radical change may be effected therein. Those amongst them, who, on account of the greater eagerness and activity of their disposition, have not the leisure to look calmly aside, must have probably commenced to hope that their desires will now be fulfilled, that the evils they complain of will be removed, that representative Government will be established in India, that the Legislative Councils will be constituted on the elective principle, that the restrictive rule which compels the natives of India to go to England in order to compete at the Civil Service Examination will be abolished, and that the Arms Act will be repealed. Such sanguine people must, however, carefully bear in mind the constitution of Parliament and the powers and procedure of the Executive Government with which, I dare say, they are better acquainted than myself. If they did this, they would at once see that the objects, on which they had set their hearts, could not be realized by the admission of a single Indian gentleman into Parliament. They would not be achieved, indeed, unless they had in the House of Commons at least 350 Indian gentlemen, or a similar number of other members, who entirely sympathized with, and supported, the objects in question. What could one vote do in a body composed of some six or seven hundred members? A single voice in such a large assembly is like the chirruping of a sparrow in the midst of a brass band. It can have no effect on the policy of the Government. Look at the case of Ireland. In spite of the great ability, power, and influence of Mr. Gladstone, he could not carry out his Irish policy simply because he had not a majority at his back. It is a great mistake to expect anything from Parliament unless a majority can be secured therein.

There is another large class of people, who know nothing about the principles of the British Government or the nature and constitution of Parliament, who are, in fact, utterly ignorant and unthinking, but who follow blindly in the wake of the class first described. Mr. Dadabhoy's election will perhaps inspire these men with the most exaggerated hopes. No wonder if they begin to think that no measure can be now carried out in direct opposition to their wishes, and that no Civil Servant, nay, not even the Government of India can dare do a high-handed thing. They have probably commenced to imagine that if an English official commits any rash or imprudent act, his head will be at the mercy of Mr. Dadabhoy's eloquence, or if the Government passes any measure of which they do not approve, it will have to stand the fatal fire of Mr. Dadabhoy's denunciations. These men are excessively exultant over Mr. Dadabhoy's victory, and are never tired of ringing constant changes on his name. It is an extremely difficult task to enlighten them as to the true state of affairs, and to extricate them from the error and illusion under which they labour. In spite of their absolute ignorance of even the fundamental rules of Parliamentary procedure and of the relation between the legislature and the executive, they go on shouting "Parliament, Parliament" and "Dadabhoy, Dadabhoy." Their re-iterated vociferations remind one forcibly of the story of the man who used to cry out "Persian Pomegranates, Persian Pomegranates." This honest individual used to extol this luscious fruit wherever he went, and the words above quoted constantly escaped from his lips. A sepoy happening to hear this high tribute of praise, asked him to give him a few of the delicious seeds, so that he might taste them and see what they were like. The man replied "Where am I to give them to you from? Bless me if I have ever seen the pomegranate myself! It was my great-grand-mother's youngest uncle's brother-in-law that had seen a Persian pomegranate on the table of Nawab Dowla of Lucknow, and the Nawab had told him that it had a most delightful taste." You may well imagine the sepoy's feelings when he received this consoling answer, and a veil may be drawn on the still livelier feelings that must have been excited in the poor eulogist of "Persian Pomegranates" when he received a good dressing at the hands of the enraged soldier. Gentlemen, it is a grievous mistake for those, who have no idea of what is beneficial or prejudicial to themselves in the circumstances in which they are placed, and who have not the least notion of Parliamentary Government, to build any lofty castles in the air, on the strength of this solitary election.

Lastly, there are those, who consider Government as the sheet-anchor of their hope and their ultimate harbour of refuge, and who dread the very name of Parliament as a child dreads that of a hobgoblin. They are apprehensive that if the doors of Parliament

are freely thrown open, and if that assembly readily lends its ear to the party, which wants everything to be done and regulated by election, their interests will be seriously affected, as they are far backward in education. As it is to their advantage that the powers and prerogatives of the executive should remain unimpaired, in order that they may gain by its favor what they cannot claim on the strength of their merits, they fear anything that may tend to curtail those powers, lest they should be deprived of all chance of attaining to positions of honour and emolument in the State. People of this class, and those, who do not look upon natives of India with an eye of respect, who consider them utterly unfit for any post of honour, and who erroneously believe that their advancement is detrimental to their own interests, must be feeling very anxious at Mr. Dadabhoy's election, and must be conjuring up doleful visions of Madrasces, Deccancees, Malabarees and specially of dread Bengalees, all donning the stove-pipe hat of the full-blown M. P. They must, however, discard these unpleasant nightmares, remembering that though the Hall of Parliament is a spacious and lofty chamber, its entrance is exceedingly narrow, and especially difficult for natives of India. Because a single fortunate gentleman has, by the dint of thirty years' incessant and arduous toil, succeeded in making his way through those strictly guarded portals, is it to be inferred that a broad and beaten path has been paved for all that may choose to follow in his footsteps? Those that think so commit the same ludicrous mistake that the Bania in the anecdote did, who was startled out of his sleep by a rat running over his fat paunch. I ask your leave to relate this little story, which I hope will not be out of place here. A sleek and well-fed Bania was laying flat on his back on the floor of his house in deep slumber. A rat in one of its ravaging expeditions happened to cross over his protuberant abdomen, and this made him start up with a frightened cry. He began to weep and give vent to loud lamentations, which drew all the neighbours to his side. They inquired of him what the matter was, and he told him what had happened. "What," asked they, "have you been bitten so severely that you bellow like that?" "No," said he, "nothing of that sort, but I bewail my unfortunate lot as my belly has been made a public thoroughfare; this time it is only a rat, but next time it may be an ox, or a horse, or even an elephant. For God's sake, devise some means to protect me from being trampled to death." On hearing these sad accents, those who were of the same mental calibre as he was, began to sympathize with him and offer him every consolation in their power. But one of the fellows, who had a little more common-sense than the rest, exclaimed "Well, my good friend, don't be at all uneasy on that account. The door of your house is so small that none of these large animals can come in." This re-assured the Bania, who expressed the highest admiration for the cleverness of his ancestors who had taken such wise precautions against a contingency so disquieting to his nerves.

I need not tell you, gentlemen, that the different views above indicated either fall short of or exceed the golden mean, exaggerating the real state of things on the one hand, or under-estimating it on the other. We must however, steer a middle course, and form a calm and sober judgment, uninfluenced by vague desires or unfounded fears. Looking at the matter from a practical and common-sense point of view, it must truly be a source of pleasure to all classes in India to see Mr. Dadabhoy take his seat in Parliament, and they cannot but regard his election as a great honour to their country. They should make his life a model for themselves to imitate, and try to acquire those mental qualifications and force of character, which have raised him to his present position. And they should, further, look upon him as an able and straightforward champion of their cause, who will perform his duties with the greatest skill, prudence, and circumspection. I congratulate him cordially on his having attained to this dignified position,--a position which confers upon him greater honour than what he would have been entitled to if he had been made a Knight or a Baronet; for in the latter case, he would have ranked after several members of his own community, who had already obtained the honour before and the distinction, bestowed as it would be, as a favour by the Government would not have been so valuable as the spontaneous mark of approbation he has received from a free and independent country. He stands at present without a rival or competitor, and even if, by the grace of God, other natives of India, in course of time, meet with the same success that he has achieved, his name will still continue at the head of the list. I earnestly wish that he may be long spared to enjoy this high honour, and to give the benefit of his valuable services to this country.

Gentlemen, I beg your forgiveness for having taken up so much of your precious time, and for having put you to the trouble of listening patiently to my discursive remarks. I thank you once again for the honour you have done me in selecting me as your chairman. Before sitting down, however, I will ask you to join me heart and soul, in expressing our loyal gratitude and devotion to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress, under whose benign and equitable rule we enjoy such undisturbed peace, and such equal laws as render an event, like the one we are celebrating today, possible.

FROM E.  
ASSESSOR'S DEPARTMENT.  
NOTICE UNDER SECTION 132 OF ACT II (B. C.)  
OF 1888.

NOTICE is hereby given that the valuation of the portion of Calcutta, noted in the margin, has been completed, and that the books containing the said valuation can be inspected on any day (Sundays and holidays excepted) at the Office of the Commissioners, No. 4, Municipal Office-street, between the hours of 11 A. M. and 4 P. M.

Any person, desiring to object to the said valuations, must within fifteen days from this date deliver at the Office of the Commissioners a notice in writing, stating the grounds of his objection.

The Chairman or Vice-Chairman will proceed to hear the objections under Clause (a) of Section 136.

JOHN COWIE,  
Secy. to the Corporation.  
Municipal Office,  
16th September 1892.

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## SPEECHES

### ON THE AGE OF CONSENT BILL delivered by

Sir A. Scoble, introducing the Bill in Council,  
H. E. the Viceroy, on the same day,  
Sir A. Scoble, on the passing of the Bill on 19th March,  
The Raja of Bhinga,  
The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur Krishnaji Lakshman Nulkar, C.I.E.,  
The Hon'ble P. P. Hutchins,  
His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal  
H. E. the Viceroy,

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may be consulted by letter or personally daily at his residence, 23, Mitzapur Lane, (near Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar's house) Sankaritolah, (adjoining Creek Row) Calcutta.

### THE AGE OF CONSENT BILL.

THE following publications by the Calcutta Committee in support of the Age of Consent Bill may be had from the Secretaries of the Committee at their office, No. 12, Wellington Square, at No. 1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane, and at 12, Lal Bazar Street.

1. On the Legislation of the Rishis and the Age of Consent Bill. One anna.

2. The Memorial to the Viceroy. Half anna.

3. The Bengali translation of the Memorial. Half anna.

4. The Oordoo translation of the Memorial. Half anna.

5. The *Garbhadhan Vyavasta* by Pandit Ramnath Tarkaratna (of Santipore), author of *Vasudeb Bijya* (a Sanskrit epic) and Pandit attached to the Asiatic Society, Bengal. One anna.

6. Abstract of the *Vyavasta* in English with notes by Nyalankar Nilmani Mookerjee, M.A., B.L., Professor of Sanskrit, Presidency College, and a preface by the President of the Committee. Half anna.

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1892.

No. 545

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### A 'POOR' RICH MAN.

ON a summer morn—long faded  
Into distance of the Past—  
In a chamber warm and shaded,  
By an awful gloom pervaded,  
A 'poor' rich man breathed his last.

'Mid the outside beauty lying  
Round his fair and stately home,  
Sad and lonely he lay dying—  
Only summer winds were sighing,  
Only raindrops broke the gloom.

All around was wealth and splendour;  
Yet no weeper came to shed  
Tears of sorrow, true and tender—  
Such as only love can render—  
By his solitary bed!

Hirelings, set to watch, had slumbered  
As his dying breath he drew,  
For they knew his hours were numbered,  
And they cared not, nor were cumbered  
With Love's servings, kind and true.

(Love had stood, perchance, and waited  
To receive the dying breath,  
Till the agony abated,  
Till the spirit worn, belated,  
Fled into the arms of Death!)

With observance high and stately,  
He was borne unto his tomb;  
And hired mourners, all sedately—  
Who had laughed aloud so lately—  
Wore long faces full of gloom!

While the muffled bells tolled slowly  
From the belfry overhead,  
And the 'De Profundis' holy,  
Sung by voices melancholy,  
Sounded, for the silent dead!

Only when his head was covered  
With the earth all brown and cold,  
Pitying eyes at last discovered  
One poor woman's form, which hovered  
O'er the silent, voiceless mould.

Only one he had forsaken  
And betrayed in her lost youth,  
Came to mourn—as if o'ertaken  
By her grief—as if to wake  
Him to honour, love, and truth.

Yea, she wept as if despairing,  
With a heart by anguish torn,  
While the idle crowd, uncaring,  
Some with bitter jests unsparing,  
Mocked her! pallid and forlorn!

### THE IDEAL WIFE.

SOMEWHERE in the world must be  
She that I have prayed to see,  
She that Love assigns to me.

Somewhere Love, her lord and king  
Over her is scattering  
Fragrance from his purple wing.

By the brink of summer streams  
I have dreamed delicious dreams;  
What I will, my sweet one seems.

In the sheen of autumn skies  
I have pictured sunny eyes,  
Till the thought too quickly dies.

When the winter fire burns low,  
Lovely faces come and go  
As the dying ashes glow.

'Tis her voice I hear so oft  
In the music low and soft  
That the western breezes waft.

Tell her, Love, that years fly fast,  
Bid her come to me at last,  
Ere her golden days are past.

Shall we ever, ever meet?  
Shall I find in thee, my sweet,  
Visions true and life complete?

Whisper low to Love apart,  
Whisper, darling, where thou art,  
Perfect wife and noble heart.

J. WILLIAMS.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

## WEEKLYANA.

TWO great poets have passed away—one American and the other English—Whittier and Tennyson. Lord Tennyson was buried in Westminster Abbey. The procession to the grave included the leading political, literary, artistic, and dramatic celebrities, besides representatives of the Queen and the Royal family. Her Majesty sent a wreath, a yard in diameter, inscribed, as a mark of her sincere regard and admiration.

LOSS upon loss! The Poet Laureate has been followed to the grave by his imaginative friend—a poet in a different material—Thomas Woolner, the sculptor. Across the Channel, France has lost her great prose writer Renan, a scholar, inquirer, and thinker of world-wide reputation.

ON the morning of the 13th, heavy rain fell in Madras flooding the Black Town. A week after, on the 19th, a cyclone passed over Cocanada, causing immense damage to the crops, breaching the canal and flooding the country.

THE Viceroy leaves Simla on Thursday, the 27th October 1892, on tour, accompanied by the Marchioness of Lansdowne, the Foreign Secretary, the Deputy Foreign Secretary, the Private Secretary, the Military Secretary, the Surgeon to the Viceroy, three Aides-de-Camp, namely, Captain the Hon'ble C. Harbord, Lieutenant H. A. Pakenham and Lieutenant S. H. Pollen, and Mr. F. W. Latimer.

The Viceregal tour takes in Hyderabad, Mysore, Bangalore, and Madras.

Arriving at Hyderabad on Thursday the 3rd November, the Viceroy will hold a Levée of all Civil and Military officers at Chadarghat Residency, the same evening at 9-30 P.M. "His Excellency," so runs the notification, "will also be glad to receive other gentlemen, European and Native, who should submit their names previously to the Resident."

There will also be a Viceregal Levée at Government House, Madras, on Saturday, the 26th November, at 9-30 P.M., of all Civil and Military Officers and the Native Officers of the Native Regiments in Madras and of "other Gentlemen, who should submit their names previously to the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Madras, who will issue cards of admission, which should be shewn to the Aide-de-Camp in waiting before the Levée, if required."

Here is a departure from the usual practice followed in these receptions. We suppose this is an attempt to purge the Levée of unwelcome intruders. Such a measure had long been called for. The privilege of approaching the Representative of Majesty has been simply abused by a set of worthless aspirants after social notoriety, native and European. A drastic treatment ought to be applied to the Government House Lists, followed by a sumptuary regulation. This is specially required for the natives.

FROM Madras, Lord Lansdowne sails by the *R. I. M. S. Citie*. He reaches Calcutta on Friday, the 2nd December, at about 2 P.M. and disembarks at Prinsep's Ghat at 5 P.M. in the *R. I. M. S. Launch Maud*. The official programme of reception is as follows:—

"His Excellency will be received at Prinsep's Ghat by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Members of His Excellency's Council, the principal Civil and Military Officers, and other Gentlemen who are desirous of attending.

Guards of Honour of British Infantry and of the Administrative Battalion, Presidency Volunteers, with Band, will be drawn up at Prinsep's Ghat.

His Excellency the Viceroy's Body-Guard and the Calcutta Mounted Volunteer Corps will form the escort.

The route taken will be by the Strand Road and Esplanade Row into Government House by the North-West Entrance.

A Guard of Honour of Native Infantry, with Band and Colour, will be drawn up in front of the Grand Staircase of Government House.

A Viceregal salute will be fired from the ramparts of Fort William as His Excellency lands.

Full Dress will be worn by Officers entitled to wear uniform. Gentlemen not entitled to wear uniform will appear in Morning Dress."

THE Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal leaves Darjeeling on the 26th October and arrives at Calcutta the next day, reaching Sealdah by rail at 12-20. It will be a private entry. After a stay of five days at Belvedere, Sir Charles Elliott will start on his autumn tour on the 1st

November from Howrah at 20-57. This departure as the one at Darjeeling will be private. He will be accompanied in his tour by only the Private Secretary, the Chief Secretary bearing him company only to Ranchi. The places to be visited and inspected are Giridih, Parasnath, Bagodar, Hazaribagh, Ramghur, Ranchi, Kuru, Chandwa, Lathar, Murka, Khandi, Daltonganj, Gurhwa, Mahomedganj, Bodha, Rhotasgurb, Dehri, Arrah, Muzaffarpur. The gubernatorial party of two will return to Calcutta on December 1, the arrival at Howrah, at 5-45, being private.

SURGEON-COLONEL A. H. Hilson takes three months' privilege leave from the 1st November next. In accordance with the modern principle of economy in the Government, Dr. Birch, of the Calcutta Medical College, will continue to be Principal of that institution and be in addition the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Bengal.

IT has been suggested that Government suffers in the revenue from the practice of using instruments purporting to be powers-of-attorney in transactions which are virtually mortgages.

THE Vice-Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation has obtained leave on medical certificate. The Chairman considers that the papers sent in disclose a state of health in which it would be humane to pension off Baboo Gopal Lal Mitter before time.

THE Eurasians of this city have decided upon a Club of their own. The site selected is the Opera House. The old structure will be pulled down and a new substantial building raised in its stead.

MR. DIGBY writing to the *Hindu* on the British Committee of the Congress says:—

"The constitution of the British Committee of the Congress is of so much interest to your readers that I make no apology for writing somewhat fully upon it. In the London correspondence of the *Manchester Guardian* of Tuesday last the following paragraph appeared: 'Mr. W. S. Caine, M. P., has retired from the London Committee of the Indian National Congress. The Committee are also losing the services of their Secretary, Mr. William Digby, C. I. E., who has resigned his appointment from the 1st proximo. In accepting his resignation, the Committee have recorded their great regret at the severance of their long connection with Mr. Digby and their cordial appreciation of his valuable services to the cause of India and his devotion to the interests of the Congress movement in this country. Mr. Digby leaves for India on the 14th October, and will be absent from England about six months. He expects to take part in the Congress to be held in December.' It will be remembered that the Congress work in England for about two years was done by the Indian Political Agency, an organization which was established by, and was under the control of Mr. Digby. Mr. Hume strongly urged the appointment of a Committee. A number of pro-Indian friends in England were consulted. From nearly every one came the same statement, viz., that it would be a mistake to constitute such a Committee. Lord Hobhouse, Lord Ripon, Sir W. Markby, Sir W. W. Hunter, Mr. Bradlaugh, and others, all said the same thing. So far as the last mentioned gentleman was concerned, he specially advised that no change in the existing arrangements should be made, and he distinctly stated that under no circumstances, would he join a Committee. A small Committee was eventually formed; it never contained more than seven Englishmen. Mr. Digby, who had had control of the work previously, was asked to become Secretary of the Committee, and he did so. To the ordinary propaganda the 'running' of a journal was subsequently added. Mr. Digby, when he became a candidate for Parliament, stated that if he were elected, he should at once resign his paid Secretaryship, as he did not consider holding it would be consistent with what he wanted to do in the House of Commons for India. Some members of the Committee remonstrated with him, arguing that there was no necessity for his doing what he proposed; but he maintained his position, adding that, in any case it was his intention to retire from the paid Secretaryship at the end of this year, when he hoped to retain his connection with the work as Honorary Secretary. On this understanding Mr. Digby recently asked for two and-a-half months' leave to the end of the year, resigning his paid Secretaryship on December 31, as he was proceeding to India, but after some conversation, it was thought better that the official duties should end on October 1,—duties and pay terminating on that day. A seat on the Committee was offered to Mr. Digby, who, however, declined it, stating that he purposed renewing the active operations of the Political Agency, which has fallen somewhat into abeyance during the past year or two. Thus the matter stands. As regards what is to be done in the future I will tell you more when I know more. Meanwhile, since the meeting of the Committee, Mr. Caine, as announced above, has retired from the Committee. In his letter of resignation he urges Mr. Bradlaugh's plea as to the objection which exists to a member of Parliament remaining Member of a body whose decisions may hamper his action in the House of Commons. At the same time Mr. Caine makes no secret of the fact that had Mr. Digby continued in association with the Committee, he would not have retired. It is believed that Mr. Schwann and Mr. McLaren will follow, Mr. Caine's example. The Committee, which

will then consist of Sir William Wedderburn, Mr. Hume (who purposes leaving for India in January), and Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, M.P., will probably be added to by the inclusion of other friends of India. The task of reconstitution will not be easy, the objections to serving on an Indian Committee in England by the right class of men being exceedingly difficult. The upshot, however, will probably be that not less but much more attention will be directed to Indian affairs than has been the case during the recent year or so as the result of what has happened."

Mr. Digby is expected in India next week. He will remain in this country for about six months.

ON Thursday last Miss Abbott, daughter of Mr. H. E. Abbot, of the *Indian Planter's Gazette*, was married in St. Paul's Cathedral, to Mr. A. S. Barrow. There were a large number of friends to witness the interesting ceremony. The presents too were large and valuable, including several cheques to the aggregate value of about Rs. 2,500—one of 1,000, one of 500 and others of 100 and 50 each. Not the least noteworthy or least welcome was the gift of a considerate friend who, eschewing the degraded currency of India, sent a note of £5.

THE *Hindoo Patriot*, of Oct. 21, reproduces in their entirety the notifications about the Viceroy's tour dated Simla, the 8th, the 11th and 14th October 1892 and the Programme of the Viceroy's arrival in Calcutta issued by the Military Secretary to the Viceroy, with the following addition:—

"The following order, issued by the Government of India in the Legislative Department, is republished for general information.

H. J. S. COTTON,  
Chief Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal."

Here the reprint closes. Our contemporary evidently takes the notifications from the *Calcutta Gazette*. That *Gazette* is more to blame than the Bengal Government gazette in the native press (as distinguished from the *Bengali Government Gazette*.) As a blind follower, the *Patriot* does not try to stop where the *Calcutta Gazette* draws no line. The Reprints from the *Gazette of India* in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 19th October, are a continuous series without break of any kind, and our contemporary merely follows the same course. He sins in high company and adds his own blindness.

## NOTES & LEADERETTES

with

### OUR OWN NEWS.

THE trial of Major Ram Chunder and five others for murder of Kunj Behari Lal, of the Ulwar Council, has concluded, but judgment has been deferred. The defence not only pleaded not guilty but justification. The Major's plea was that whereas he belonged to a country without definite laws the court was trying the case under British law. The Maharaja ordered Kunj Behari Lal's death, therefore the accused was guilty of no offence. Another accused Budda's statement was: "I am guiltless. Whatever happened was done by order of the Raj." Two letters purporting to be the order of the late Maharaja were produced and proved to bear his initials. Rebutting evidence was allowed to shew that the initials were not the Maharaja's. Mr. Colvin, counsel for the defence, in opening his case, said that if the court were satisfied that the letters were genuine, then their bearing on the case would have to be considered. How would Ram Chunder's guilt stand if he had merely obeyed the orders of his King? If the court held that this circumstance was no justification in law, then he would urge that it had a most material bearing on the question of punishment. Three Members of Council were examined as to the powers of the Maharaja. They all said that in all cases final orders rested with the Maharaja, who administered punishments and delivered decisions according to custom, precedents, and justice. His word was final and he could do as he liked. One member went so far as to say that he would consider himself bound to obey an order to wage war against another State and that the Maharaja had the power to hang any subject without any inquiry or trial. The punishment in the State for murder ordinarily was death, or life imprisonment.

GOVERNMENT have at last resiled from the attitude of "masterly inactivity" on the Currency Difficulty. They have decided to take action in the matter. The Indian Currency Association, headed by Mr.

Mackay, have accomplished a feat in almost no time. Their representations, backed by the growing agitation in this country, have shaken the power that be in England out of their pleasant stupor and their dependence on the fetish of *laissez venir*. Already, a Committee have been appointed, with the Lord Chancellor of England as President, to consider the expediency of modifying the Indian Currency Act. They have invited President Mackay to come in person before them to explain his views and answer their enquiries. As for authority to alter the currency by legislation, it exists in the Government in this country. The Secretary of State for India, Lord Kimberley, is of opinion that there is no need for Parliamentary sanction and that it is open to the Government of India, with the consent of Her Majesty's Government, to repeal or modify the Indian Act XXIII of 1870 which regulates the Currency system of India.

We publish elsewhere the official correspondence on the subject.

Mr. Mackay leaves India today to give evidence before Lord Herschell's Committee. He will remain in England for four days and be back to India early in December.

During Mr. Mackay's absence, his able lieutenant, Mr. J. A. Anderson, has been appointed Vice-President of the Association and Chairman of the Central Committee with powers of the President.

THE Local Government have circulated the Preliminary Report of the Select Committee on the Draft Bill to amend the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884, for the opinion of Municipalities and Associations. The principal points of reference are the group system of water-supply and drainage recommended by the Belvedere Conference of the 18th July, the provision for the training and employment of medical practitioners not accepted by the Select Committee, the abolition of the tax upon persons according to their circumstances and property suggested by the Select Committee, the attempt to simplify and cheapen the existing system of collecting taxes, the extension of the Calcutta Survey Act, the proposed building regulations, exemption of Jails, Hospitals, Mills, Railways, from water rate and obligation on the part of Municipalities to maintain common free privies.

The Bill is an attempt to introduce the comforts of civilization into all Bengal Municipalities, and as such it is all welcome. But the question is, Will the localities dignified with the name of Municipal towns be able to bear the reforms. Can they afford to pay for the new luxuries? If the existing law could be worked out properly and thoroughly, there would hardly arise the present necessity of its amendment. The great reforms proposed would not be wanted so badly and they could come in time without any external pressure, if the Municipal Commissioners understood their duties.

THE measure which is immediate and is likely to be felt, is the wholesale introduction of the rate on the annual value of holdings. Government do not seem disposed to agree with the Select Committee who would leave to the Municipalities to pronounce in its favor or not. Each Municipality is called upon to report fully on the matter. If the rate is made wholesale, the Municipalities and not Government must bear the odium of the innovation.

TOWARDS the end of September last, we had to record a terrible accident on board the river steamer *Trout*—full of passengers coming for the great national Festival of the Doorga Pooja—of the India General Steam Navigation Company in mid Padma at night. Complaints now reach us of the inconvenience felt and danger undergone by passengers on the Cachar Line steamers of another Company—for want of ordinary landing and shipping conveniences. Not only are there no wharfs: A narrow open plank connecting the bank and the steamer is often all the accommodation provided for embarking and debarking. The trouble and anxieties of that Procrustean path to boat or bank or—a watery grave, may be easily conceived. It is a mockery to call it a path. It can be such only to a Blondin. But by this ridiculous apology for a bridge, all ages and conditions of men including poor Bengali women burdened with children are virtually forced to get into or get down from the steamer. No wonder that, about two years ago, a coolie woman with her child fell into the river—the child was saved but the mother was drowned. We wish she had been a bishop. For, notwithstanding the casualty the worshipful company did not care to change their—path. The scandal continues.

## OUR HYDERABAD COLUMN.

Hyderabad, Deccan, October 15.

NAWAB VICAR-UL-MULK, better known as Moulvi Mushtak Hossein, Revenue Secretary to the Nizam's Government, has applied for pension with a view to retire from service. This circumstance, however it may be regarded by the outside public, is an event of the greatest importance to the people and the Government of Hyderabad. Though nominally holding subordinate charge of a single department, Nawab Mushtak Hossein has been practically exercising supreme control and power over every department of the administration since Sir Asman Jah became the Prime Minister. Sir Asman Jah is said to be so completely in the hands of Nawab Mushtak Hossein that the latter is acknowledged on all hands to be the *de facto* Prime Minister, and it is to him that all the wrongs, blunders and oppressions which are committed by the present Government are mainly ascribed. Sir Asman Jah's greatest mistake as well as misfortune has been that he has allowed himself to be guided solely by the counsels of Nawab Mushtak Hossein—to the utter disregard of the wiser counsels of his brother Nobles and other high officials, among whom there are many who are of far higher calibre and sounder judgment than his favorite henchman. When the Revenue Secretary found that the Prime Minister was disposed to rely upon him entirely for the work of administration, he naturally formed in his mind ambitious schemes for self-aggrandisement, and it is not difficult to trace how, step by step, he has augmented and consolidated his power till he has virtually become the Dictator of Hyderabad. His first care on assuming office as Revenue Secretary, it is said, was to cripple the powers of his rival Nawab Mahdi Ali, the Political and Financial Secretary—who was also his greatest friend and benefactor. Nawab Mahdi Ali, however, had the support of the Resident Mr. Howell, and so long as that officer remained in Hyderabad, Nawab Mushtak could not carry out his scheme with regard to his rival, but as soon as Mr. Howell left and was succeeded by Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mahdi Ali found himself reduced to a nonentity. Nawab Mahdi Ali still bears the designation of Political and Financial Secretary and draws his full salary, but the real functions of that important office are exercised by the Revenue Secretary in the name of the Minister. Nawab Mushtak further strengthened his hands by smuggling Nawab Mehdi Hassan into the office of Home Secretary by removing Mr. Syed Ali Bilgrami, who had been occupying that office since the dismissal of Sirdar Abdul Huq. (It will be remembered, Mr. Howell had been strenuously opposed to the appointment of Mehdi Hassan as Home Secretary). With Nawab Mehdi Hassan as Home Secretary and Mahdi Ali crippled, Mushtak felt his position secure. About this time Maharaja Peshkar Narender Pershad Bahadur died. Raja Kishen Pershad, the grandson of the late Peshkar, should have succeeded his grand-father in the office of Peshkar in the ordinary course of things. But Kishen Pershad was known to be a favorite with His Highness, and Mushtak, as if for that very reason, set his face against his appointment, and to this day Raja Kishen Pershad has been sedulously kept out of his legitimate and hereditary office. The treatment of Kishen Pershad gave umbrage to the Hindu community and Mushtak's conduct was harshly criticised in the press. This harsh but just criticism had the effect of exasperating him against the Hindus. Naturally a bigot, his bigotry increased a hundred-fold, and he was heard to say openly and with seeming pride, that he was resolved to follow the policy of Aurungzebe with regard to the Hindus. The Raja of Anagundi, a descendant of the Rajas of Vijayanagar, was the first Hindu Chief who fell a victim to Nawab Mushtak's bigotry. The cases of the Rajah of Godhawal and other Hindu Princes and Chiefs have been already alluded to in a previous issue of *Reis & Rayyet*. Suffice it to say that by his unjust treatment of the Hindu Chiefs, Mushtak rendered himself thoroughly obnoxious to the Hindu subjects of the Nizam. Nor did he stop here. He gave equal cause of dissatisfaction to the Mahomedan aristocracy of Hyderabad. It would make a long list to give the names of the Mahomedan *jagirdars* who have suffered in some shape or other at the hands of Nawab Mushtak Hossein. Having tasted the sweets of power, he hungered for more and more. If at this stage Sir Asman Jah had the good sense to check him, it would have been better for both of them, but instead of doing that, His Excellency supported him in every step, and ultimately he virtually delegated his entire authority—almost unlimited authority—to him. This injudicious delegation of authority by Sir Asman Jah to Nawab Mushtak in has proved extremely baneful to the subjects of His

Highness. Mushtak's high-handedness is now severely felt by all classes of the people—Hindus and Mahomedans alike. But while the mild Hindu is content with invoking in silence the aid of his gods and goddesses for the redress of his grievances, the bold Mahomedan perforce must seek other means. A large number of the Mahomedans have recently formed themselves into an association and have resolved to take active measures. A few days ago they submitted a representation to the Minister praying His Excellency to relieve them from the tyranny of Nawab Mushtak Hossein. They also took care to inform Sir Asman Jah that in case they failed to obtain redress from him they would appeal to His Highness, and in the event of their meeting with disappointment in that quarter, they would carry their appeal to the Government of India—and to St. Stephen's, if need were. Their earnestness elicited from Sir Asman Jah a promise of an early enquiry into their grievances, and with this promise they were pacified for the time being. How far, and in what manner His Excellency's promise will be carried out, it is yet to be seen. This is a mere outline of the state of affairs in Hyderabad. But, as Nawab Mushtak Hossein has at last been obliged by force of circumstances to tender his resignation, people are beginning to hope that a better day is about to dawn upon them. So deep-seated and so wide-spread is Mushtak's unpopularity that the news of his proposed retirement has been hailed with genuine and universal joy throughout the Nizam's Dominions, and, it is said, when the proposed retirement becomes an accomplished fact, the public will express their mutual congratulations by distributing sweets among friends and neighbours and celebrate the occasion by giving alms to the poor, as they did on a previous occasion, when the Mining Bubble burst and Sirdar Aboul Huk was disgraced.

THE Viceroy will arrive at Hyderabad on the 3rd November and leave on the 8th. On his way to Hyderabad, Lord Lansdowne will visit the far-famed caves of Ellora. Grand preparations are making at Hyderabad and at Arungabad. Dr. Lawder, Private Secretary to Nawab Vicar-ul-Omra, has been deputed to Arungabad, to make the necessary arrangements for reception of the Viceregal party.

The approaching advent of the Viceroy has been the signal for the cleansing of the Hyderabad Augean stable. The Nizam has taken up the Herculean task upon himself.

Early on Tuesday morning, we recieved the following telegram from Hyderabad:—

"Mushtak Hossein's resignation accepted. He had been forced by circumstances to tender resignation once before two years ago, but through the Minister's intercession it was not accepted. People were beginning to fear same would be the case this time, but the Nizam, rising above adverse influences and exercising his own judgment, has accepted the resignation. Mehdi Hassan suspended. Both news received with joy. The Viceroy expected 3rd November. Reception preparations progressing."

This was followed up by another:—

"Oct. 21.—Mushtak left last night, Nizam's order about his leaving Hyderabad was peremptory. People expressing joy in various ways. Nobles and jagirdars with followers on elephants and horseback went in procession to Afzal-ul-Dowlah's tomb, offered thanks to God that the country at last is free from Mushtak's hands, prayed for His Highness' long life and prosperity. Mushtak Hossein and Mehdi Hassan's successors not appointed yet. Rumours premature. Salutory changes expected."

Yet another telegram followed:—

"Oct. 22.—Government *Farida* publishes order about Mehdi Hassan's suspension. His future will be decided after the conclusion of the Pamphlet case. Nawab Imad Jung, Chief Justice, appointed to officiate for Mehdi Hassan. Nawab Mahdi Ali officiates as Revenue Secretary in addition to his own duties.

Ekbal Ali, Assistant Revenue Secretary, suspended. He is called upon to explain his conduct with regard to a young European lady to whom he is alleged to have made certain offensive proposals."

Moulvi Mushtak Hossein quietly left Hyderabad on the night of the 20th amid pelting rain.

We heartily congratulate His Highness on the prompt manner in which he has rid his State of the vampire which had been eating the vitals of his sovereignty. We sincerely trust that His Highness will now take an active part in ruling his valuable patrimony, and not allow hungry adventurers to have everything in their own way, in consequence of the incompetence of a nominal Prime Minister.

The *coup d'état* with which the Nizam has surprised the whole world, and which has left His Highness's hands free to make the best arrangements for the administration of his State, may be taken as a convincing proof of what stuff he is made, and a promise of what he is capable of doing in the future.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, October 22, 1892.

### HYDERABAD.

For sometime past, Hyderabad has been too much with us. Just now, it is the *focus* of interest. The Viceroy will shortly be there. He will have difficult work before him in that hotbed of intrigue where all His Excellency's powers will be taxed to the utmost to discern who's who and what's what. Perhaps it may be useful to his Lordship to attempt a *resume* of the previous history and the present situation.

In January 1869 the last hereditary Ruler of the Deccan, Nawab Afzal-ud-Daula, died. He left an infant son. Accordingly, the country came under the Regency of a couple of Joint Administrators, Nawab Vicar-ool-Omra Bahadoor and Nawab Sir Salar Jung. Latterly, on the death of the former, in 1877, the latter alone remained at the helm. Salar Jung was a capable man, thoroughly conversant with Hyderabad matters, who made some improvements in a rotten administration and laid the foundation of progress in the State, by strengthening the Service by infusing into it fresh blood from British India—Hindustan chiefly. He was not above the last infirmity of noble mind, however, and lavished the resources of the State and his own in making interest with British officials and with Europeans in general. In 1883, he died, leaving two minor sons. The administration devolved upon the old Peshkar Maharaja Narain Pershad. Meanwhile, the Minority was drawing to a close, and, as a natural consequence, the country was more than ever torn by rival factions contending for mastery. At length, upwards of a year after the death of the great Sir Salar Jung, Nawab Meer Mahboob Ali Khan Bahadur Asaf Jah completed the 18th year of his age, and was installed on the Gaddi of his forefathers by the Marquis of Ripon. This was a matter of course. Unfortunately, the Viceroy, in a weak moment, yielded to the numerous strong friends of Salar Jung, European and native, in Hyderabad and out of it, to appoint as Prime Minister Meer Laik Ali, the eldest son of the deceased statesman. The way this arrangement was effected exemplifies the tortuous methods of Indian diplomacy, native and British. The realization of a foregone conclusion was given the appearance of a concession to the native sovereign. Young Mahboob was put up to ask for the premiership for his youthful "chum," and the British Providence of South Asia lent an indulgent ear and was pleased to grant the wish. But even on this footing the business scarcely disguises its true character. For, it comes to this, that the Viceroy in the same breath installed an Oriental Prince of eighteen, brought up in the zenana, at the head of a great kingdom and gave him to help him in governing it an Oriental noble scarcely his senior in years and without any exceptional advantage in experience. We protested against the jobbery and even gave some offence by frequent railing against the fatuity of inaugurating the new *régime* of a Boy Sultan and a Boy Vizier. But there were many to write up the folly as if it

were the perfection of policy. And British officialdom was content that the maintenance of the family of the late Salar Jung meant the continuance of British preponderance at Hyderabad. It was an enormous blunder that was committed by the Government of India, and no extraordinary sagacity was required to predict the end of it. Such a cast—whatever the theatre, or wherever—could perform but one species of drama—the ludicrous. Such an administration must make confusion worse confounded in the unhappy State. Not the least objection to the arrangement was that it led the ever-suspicious native mind, not only in the Deccan but in other native States likewise, to believe that it was made on purpose to deprave the administration to find an excuse for further encroachment on the native sovereignty.

The two stars soon played out their parts in their risible game. Luckily, it was a single-act farce. Soon enough, as anticipated, the boy King and the boy Minister fell out. This result too was hastened by British measures. Everything was done to corrupt the latter. If it is ever necessary to trust such an inexperienced lad with administration, it is indispensable to keep the strictest watch over him. So far from making any efforts to keep him straight, however, he was virtually encouraged to go to the bad. To justify his appointment, he was cheered for incompetence, praised for neglect, glorified for administrative vigour when he was notoriously lazy. Every incentive to exertion was cut off from him. He gave himself up to hard drinking, and in the society of courtiers like Mahdi Hassan quite forgot himself, gave himself the most presumptuous airs, entirely ignoring his master, and behaved as if he was the sovereign and not the servant. No matter: he got kudos all the same. The newspapers, here, there, everywhere, sang his greatness. Many Europeans remembered his father's goodness and others had experienced the son's. As for the British officials, they were irrevocably committed to bolster up their boy. They went on from the first creating a reputation for him. Honours were heaped upon him—to make him the vainer and more impracticable. Of course, the Nizam was mightily annoyed at such conduct, and tried his best to bring the man to his senses. But the latter paid no heed to his master's remonstrances, secure in the patronage of the British Government. At length His Highness resolved to turn the minister out, but here the Viceroy intervened.

In the ordinary course of things, His Excellency would have been averse from anything like a reversal of the policy of his predecessor. Lord Ripon had got Laik Ali (Salar Jung II.) in; it was his pet arrangement; he had taken more than a mere official interest in the fortunes of the family; and it was expected that his successor would, in decency and mutual kindness, evince some particular zeal in maintaining the *protégé* of the last preceding Viceroy. Lord Dufferin chivalrously fulfilled that expectation, but not at one iota of sacrifice of his duty as ruler of India. He knew what was due to the Nizam, and he gave it in full. He did not abuse his position—he attempted no bullying. He employed persuasion only. He essayed to save the minister by reasoning with the master and by, above all, appealing to his better feelings. He referred to the great services of the family of the Minister to the kingdom of Deccan, specially the services of the late Salar Jung I. in the troublous times of 1857 and next throughout till his lamented death. It was that consideration which had led the Government of India to consent to the

elevation of his eldest son—a mere stripling—to the difficult and responsible post of Minister. The British Government did not wish to see the family of the deceased statesman sink into utter insignificance. Doubtless, the same consideration coupled with youthful companionship had actuated His Highness. As for capacity, it was hoped that the chip of the old block might prove worthy of the stem and trunk. If that hope had not so far been realized, that was due more to neglect and vice than to any inherent deficiency. For all accounts allow the young man fine parts. Let His Highness give his Minister another chance and he may perhaps turn a new leaf. To turn him out would not only extinguish the hopes of the whole family but compromise the dignity of both His Highness and the Government of India who had appointed him. This frank statement had the desired effect on the open and generous soul of the Nizam. Lord Dufferin found the young Padishah of the Deccan, of whom much nonsense had been told, a most excellent man to deal with, and of course a thorough gentleman. His Highness was open to any reasonable suggestion. Even in matters touching his honour he had force of character enough to exhibit moderation. In deference to the fatherly counsel of the Viceroy he was prepared to subdue his rage against the insolence of office of the young and little man dressed in brief authority. To Laik Ali (Salar Jung II.) the Governor-General spoke in other terms and in a different tone. All of a sudden the poor fellow discovered that he was nobody and that the Nizam was all in all whose servant only he was, and whom it was his duty to please. Thus sternly rebuked and reduced to seek mercy, he was taken in favour again and continued in office. The *entente cordiale* procured by the kind offices of the head of the Indian Government was, however, of a short duration. The Nizam performed his part honourably; the failure was on the other side. And it was a greivous failure. Neither the entreaty of his native friends nor the remonstrances of the Residency succeeded. He not only neglected the administration but he failed in the etiquette of private life. This sprig of Moslem nobility had lost the very instincts of a gentleman. Meanwhile, the wrongs of the Nizam accumulated, until there was every reason to apprehend some scandalous explosion. Still there was so much disinclination in influential circles, not only in India but also in England, to throw the son of the great Salar Jung overboard, that the wise men of the East hit upon a curious device. A European military officer, Colonel Marshall, was appointed with the designation Private Secretary to the Nizam to keep the Minister in check. He was not much of a success. His temper was not suited to so delicate a position. He embroiled himself needlessly in personal encounters. His connection with the Deccan Mining Company is wellknown. During his brief tenure he managed to earn immortality as the instrument of God and the Government of India for starting the Native Aid in the Military Defence of the Indian Empire. Young Salar Jung pursued the even tenour of his evil way. Indeed, unamenable to counsel, undeterred by omens, indifferent to consequences, he went from bad to worse, until he was—*non est*. The close of his extraordinary career was dramatic. One week in 1887 we had to announce the Hedjirah of the Hyderabad Premier. Salar Jung II. had quitted office without delivering the seals or giving any sort of charge. He had taken French leave of office.

It is impossible to do good to a man against his will. The laws against suicide are futile. A determined self-murderer will have his way. Notwithstanding the persistent determination of so many good men and true on all sides to keep the House of Salar Jung in power, the Government of India were at length compelled to allow the formation of a new ministry. So Nawab Asman Jah, since knighted, a scion of the great Shums-ool-Omrah family, was entrusted with the charge. Herein too the discerning might detect a trace of the same partiality.

How the choice fell upon Sir Asman Jah we confess we do not know, but we have a shrewd suspicion that it was because he was known to be a partisan of the great Salar Jung, in his disputes with the Premier nobleman of the State, the Amir-i-Kabir Sir Khurshed Jah,—a service which Sir Salar Jung fully repaid by siding with Asman Jah in his family dispute for inheritance with the Amir-i-Kabir and his brother, the present Vicar-ool-Omrah. It was expected that as Minister Sir Asman Jah would continue the policy of Salar Jung. It was thus that, although he was not in the country, Sir Aman Jah was sent for from Europe to fill the office which was left open for him. Now Asman Jah had a man formerly holding a small post in his employ, named Mushtak Hossein, in whom he had great confidence. He not only brought him forward, making him Revenue Secretary, but gradually let him the upper hand in the entire administration. Instead of continuing the policy of Sir Salar Jung I., Sir Asman Jah's right-hand man deprived all the high officials of Salar Jung's time of the power which they exercised and made the same over to his own creatures, relatives and countrymen of Rohilkhund. The only man of the *régime* of the younger Salar Jung who was allowed to have some power, was Mahdi Hassan, the Home Secretary, because he gladly stooped to play second fiddle to Mushtak Hossein—a rôle from which others with more self respect instinctively shrank.

Such are the little, very little men dressed in brief authority who have been permitted these few years to play pranks before high Heaven in the State of Hyderabad, to the utter disgust and degradation of the nobility and gentry, and the injury of the population. Sir Asman Jah has proved himself incompetent for the duties of his high office. He is merely a fool in the hands of his subordinates and courtiers, chief of whom is Mushtak Hossein. So entirely dependent upon the latter is the Minister that, when, a couple of years ago, the Nizam got impatient of Mushtak Hossein and wanted to dispense with his services, Sir Asman Jah represented to His Highness that he would not be able to carry on the Government without its soul. To such a pass, alas! is Hyderabad fallen. The Nizam not being prepared for an arduous and protracted struggle, as he knew that Asman Jah was a favorite of the Resident, was compelled to give in and to allow Mushtak Hossein to continue. The maladministration of the State has, however, now reached its lowest depth, and His Highness has become so profoundly annoyed with the Mushtak Hossein *régime*, that the latter has been convinced that his days are numbered. With a view to escape an ignominious dismissal, he has finally come to the conclusion that the wisest thing for him is to retire with a handsome pension, and so he has submitted his papers to the Prime Minister, and the latter has placed the same before His Highness. The rumour of Sir Asman Jah's approaching retirement owes its origin evidently to the general belief that he would not be

able to carry on the administration for one day without the help of Mushtak Hossein.

It is well known that a large portion of the income of the unfortunate State is spent in influencing the public Press, both in India and England, to laud up to the skies the eminence of Sir Asman Jah's administration of the Deccan, and in entertaining, in a right royal style, not only European officials of all classes in India who happen to visit Hyderabad, but also all English and Foreign visitors to India. Globe-trotters never experience such lavish hospitality in any other part of the world. The result is that the whole civilized world sings in chorus the praises of Sir Asman Jah and his excellent administration. All this is done in the name of the Nizam, and at the expense of his Treasury, but we do not think that His Highness has more than a nominal hand in the matter. He certainly gains nothing by the outlay, except perhaps a coarse satire on Oriental Princes, maybe even a delicate sneer at his own moping retirement out of the way of these enlightened sight-seers. The gratitude is reserved for the astute servant who squanders his master's resources to strengthen himself against his master.

There is no pretence to delicacy in the work of the regular staff of *claqueurs*. In their letters and leaders and pamphlets and books the Hyderabad Prime Minister is the greatest of statesmen and the noblest of gentlemen; while his master the Nizam is always an imbecile, unwilling to work, incapable of administering his State, inaccessible to the general public, quite unmindful of the happiness or prosperity of his numerous subjects, indifferent to public opinion, given up to pleasures, and dividing his time between the Zenana and Shikar. Such is the unenviable portrait of the Nizam as painted by the parasites of his Premier in the Press and by others who are under deep obligations to His Excellency. The latter well knows the injustice of the portraiture—no one better—and doubtless in his better moments he is ashamed of his hand in the business. But he can not help; he himself is controlled by his own nearer parasites, who prop him up in power and, of course, claim the right to dictate his policy. Indeed, it is all policy. The policy is to keep the real Ruler of the State in the background—by proclaiming to the world that he is perfectly incompetent—and to perpetuate the reign of anarchy and oppression, in the hands of a number of harpies more intent upon self-aggrandisement than mindful of the welfare of the subjects or of the reputation of the chief.

From what we have heard, from various sources, of the character of the Nizam, we are tolerably confident that His Highness is a young Prince of remarkable intelligence, possessing great dignity of demeanour, and evenness of temper, good-natured, most courteous, large-hearted, generous and charitable, averse from depriving any one of his bread, manly in his habits, fond of riding and shooting, thoroughly loyal to Her Imperial Majesty the Queen-Empress, and always ready to act according to the advice of the Government of India and the Resident. In fact, he is a perfect gentleman in every sense of the word and a good Native Prince of our day. Unfortunately, he has no chance of showing his metal—scarcely an opportunity for the humblest part. He is suppressed. Under the system prevailing in Hyderabad, with the sanction of the Government of India, he is no body. The Prime Minister is all in all. Nay, the reality is something worse. For, after all, it is not the Prime Minister but his

*factotum* who is the Ruler *de facto* of the Deccan. The latter directs the entire administration without even always consulting his principal. As for taking the orders of His Highness the Nizam, that is a duty more honoured in the breach than the observance. It is only on international questions in which British interests are involved, that the Minister consults the Resident, and in certain other matters wherein the sanction of the Nizam is absolutely necessary, he obtains His Highness's sanction as a mere matter of form. That is all.

The Nizam is heart-broken. Remembering his humiliation and heart-burning, when the younger Salar Jung was guilty of repeated acts of disloyalty and insubordination, and when the Government of India for two or three long years virtually refused to sanction his dismissal although most earnestly urged by His Highness, he has in a manner resigned himself to his fate. Fearing that his representations against his present Minister, with whose administration he is by no means satisfied, may again be disregarded by the Government of India, and he may again be made the laughing-stock of India, he evidently prefers to keep quiet to save his feelings, thus allowing affairs to drift.

Such, we take it, is the state of mind of the Ruler of the Deccan, and no one who has charity as well as self-respect will, we trust, feel disposed to blame the Prince for shunning society, shutting himself up in the zenana, or absenting himself from the capital for weeks and even months, on hunting excursions, or even occupying his time in the purchase of jewellery and other articles of interest. The poor man finds that he is not allowed to exercise the power which he has inherited from an illustrious line of ancestors, and that he is perfectly powerless to prevent the injustice, oppression and anarchy which prevail in his territories, under an administration which is carried on in his name, but in which he has not the slightest power to interfere.

His Highness is no longer a boy King, having completed his 26th year. As long as he was a hobbled-hoy, there was substantial ground for entrusting the actual administration of his State to some one of maturer years. But now that he has arrived at the prime of life, and is presumably competent to rule over his subjects, unfettered by ministerial interference, we do not quite understand why the Government of India do not give him full permission to administer the affairs of his State in the best way he can, and see how he discharges his duty to his subjects as well as to the paramount Power. Ministerial responsibility we understand, but what good in an *imperium in imperio* of Chiefs and ministers and Residents? With respect to the Little Mogul of the Deccan, it is plainly unjust at least not to give him a trial for a couple of years or so. When other native Chiefs of his age are exercising full powers within their respective territorial jurisdictions, why should not the Nizam be allowed a similar freedom of action? A high and experienced British Official is at his elbow in the shape of the Resident, who can always give him salutary advice, whenever he goes astray, or can suppress him *instantly* if there be need.

It is evident that His Highness is not satisfied with the conduct of Sir Asman Jah. Assuredly, he has not sufficient confidence in him, such as a ruler ought to have in his chief Steward. This fact came out unmistakably in the great Diamond case. Certainly in negotiating for the purchase of the diamond the Nizam

did not take his Minister into his confidence. Had there been a feeling of cordiality between the master and the servant, the former would never have thought of transacting a business involving half a million sterling without consulting the latter.

But the end has come. Sir Asman Jah had never been ambitious himself, and in accepting office he lent himself to the views of others, as indeed in office he carried out or allowed to be carried out the policy of others. His resignation follows in natural sequence the retirement of the prop of his ministry, Mushtak Hossein. The pedestal crumbled away, how can the Pillar of the State stand? If a sudden clinging to power or submission to some fresh intrigue should arrest the natural course, it might be necessary for the Residency to confirm him in his normal resolution. The moment he realises that the Government of India will not support him against the Nizam to be permanent fixture of offence to his master, he will cease to be an incubus on the State.

The coast thus cleared, the administration of Hyderabad would be free to turn a new leaf, and we would strongly and earnestly advise the Viceroy to avail himself of this splendid conjuncture for doing justice to a most loyal but ill used Prince, and giving the long suffering rayyets of the largest native State a chance of escape from the chronic *zulum* to which they have been subjected. We make no extravagant demand. The millions of Hyderabad have a natural claim to be governed by their own sovereign if he is fairly competent for the charge. And surely the Prince himself is entitled to an opportunity of redeeming his character—so far as it has been compromised under a conspiracy of misrepresentation—of shewing his capacity for ruling his State, of giving up any idle habits that he may have contracted from a long want of healthy and useful occupation, in fact of commencing a new career.

Nothing would be easier or more natural for the Viceroy than personally to assure the Nizam, during the private interview which he is sure to have at Hyderabad, that he would gladly allow His Highness perfect freedom of action in the choice of the Prime Minister and other high officials, if His Highness would care to take the administration of the State into his own hands. This would be an act not merely of justice but also of grace, from the hands of the Representative of Imperial Majesty.

#### NAWAB MUSHTAK HOSSEIN—A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

MOULVI Mushtak Hossein is a native of Amroha in the district of Moradabad, N.-W. P. Amroha is famous for its pottery and its simple Syeds, but Mushtak is no Syed, being but a Kamboh—whereby hangs a tale. Nothing is known of Mushtak's early life until he made the acquaintance of the well known Moulvi Sami-ullah Khan, C. M. G. (who went to Egypt with Sir Evelyn Baring as an assistant). He lived with Moulvi Sami-ullah Khan for a long time in the hope of improving his circumstances, but not meeting with much success in that quarter, he sought the help of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan whose religious views he shares and who got him employed in the British service as Tehsildar and Serishtadar alternately. While thus employed, ambition lured him to Hyderabad, where his friend Moulvi Mahdi Ali (now Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk) had preceded him and was already enjoying a fat salary. He looked up to Mahdi Ali for help, and that help was readily accorded to him. Moulvi Mahdi Ali used his influence with Sir Salar Jung I. and got his friend appointed as Secretary to Nawab Bushir-ud-Dowlah (now Sir Asman Jah) who then held the office of Judicial Minister. Mushtak soon managed to ingratiate himself into the good graces of Nawab

Bushir-ud-Dowlah and gained his confidence. When Nawab Bushir-ud-Dowlah was in open enmity with his uncle, the late Nawab Vicar-ul-Omra, (father of Sir Khurshed Jah,) who afterwards became the Amir-i-Kabir and co-Regent with Salar Jung I., Mushtak went to Gwalior—without the knowledge of Salar Jung—on a secret mission. The object of the mission was to see Major Tweedie,—who had been formerly the First Assistant to Resident at Hyderabad and was at that time Resident at Gwalior—regarding something unfavorable to Nawab Vicar-ul-Omra Bahadur. The result of the mission proved far otherwise than what Mushtak had wished or expected. Major Tweedie reported the purport of Mushtak's mission to Sir Richard Meade, the then Resident at Hyderabad, and that officer in his turn reported the matter to Sir Salar Jung, who at once telegraphed to Mushtak to the effect that he need not take the trouble of returning to Hyderabad as his services had been dispensed with. Crest-fallen, Mushtak wended his way back to his former patron Syed Ahmed Khan, who again took him up by the hand and employed him as Manager of the Boarding House in connection with the Aligarh Institute. Here he remained for more than two years. The humble pittance—Rupees 40 or so—which he used to get from the Aligarh Institute, was hardly sufficient for his support, but during the whole of this period Moulvi Mahdi Ali supplied him with ample funds from Hyderabad regularly, every month. Shortly before the death of Sir Salar Jung I., Moulvi Mahdi Ali prevailed upon His Excellency to condone Mushtak's offence and reinstate him. After the death of Sir Salar Jung I., the Peshkar Maharaja Narain Pershad Bahadur was appointed Senior Administrator and Salar Jung II. Junior Administrator. Mushtak induced the simple-hearted Maharaja to grant him the arrears of his pay for the whole period of his banishment, amounting to Rs. 19,000 (nineteen thousand), but the Resident, Mr. Cordery, coming to know of it, protested against the measure, and so Mushtak had to disgorge the money. Subsequently, the Maharaja Peshkar got so much annoyed with him that he was on the point of dismissing him from the Nizam's service once again, when Moulvi Mahdi Ali came to his friend's help and saved him. During Colonel Marshall's time, Mushtak had once the misfortune of being ordered out of the presence of that officer. The circumstance which made Colonel Marshall lose his patience with Mushtak was in connection with the condition of a prisoner in Mushtak's jurisdiction, who was brought to the point of death by cruel treatment. Mushtak was at this time Subadar of Warrangal and bearing the title of Nawab Intessar Jung. As soon as Sir Asman Jah became the Prime Minister, he appointed his former favourite as the Revenue Secretary. Not content with that, he shortly after perpetrated the crowning outrage. As if to expose his own bar sinister, he degraded the highest nobility in the kingdom to spite his kinsmen. He actually procured for Sir Syad Ahmed's quondam clerk the proud titles of "Vicar-ud-Dowlah," "Vicar-ul-Mulk." Titles had already been depreciated enough, but the bestowal of these upon Mushtak humbled in the dust the ancient nobility of the Mogul Empire. The titles of "Vicar Jung," "Vicar-ud-Dowlah," "Vicar-ul-Mulk" and "Vicar-ul-Omra" rightfully belong to the family of Shums-ul-Omra. A nephew of Sir Khurshed Jah Shums-ul-Omra Amir-i-Kabir Bahadur at present bears the title of "Vicar Jung," and the younger brother of Sir Khurshed Jah bears the title of "Vicar-ul-Omra" which he has inherited from his father. Nawab Vicar Jung's next lift in the line of title, according to the usual custom of the country, would be "Vicar-ul-Dowlah," and then "Vicar-ul-Mulk." But unfortunately for that nobleman, Moulvi Mushtak Hossein has filched from him that which was his by right of birth, wealth and prestige. Would any other titles than those of "Vicar-ud-Dowlah" and "Vicar-ul-Mulk" satisfy Mushtak? People say that, as it was at the instance of the late Nawab Vicar-ul-Omra that Mushtak was disgraced—dismissed and banished—so to revenge upon the memory of that nobleman, he prevailed upon Sir Asman Jah to obtain for him the title of "Vicar-ud-Dowlah" and "Vicar-ul-Mulk," if he can not have that of "Vicar-ul-Omra" so long as the present bearer of that title happens to enjoy it. And thus we find Moulvi Mushtak Hossein the Kamboh of Amroha rejoicing in the high sounding and most honorable title of "Vicar-ud-Dowlah—Vicar-ul-Mulk."

Sometime before the Diamond case cropped up, Mushtak succeeded in inducing Sir Asman Jah to grant him the arrears of his pay for the period of his banishment and non-service, the very amount which he had to disgorge under pressure from Mr. Cordery. While the Diamond case was going on, he managed to get from His Highness a palatial building as a present or reward for his services in connection with that case—the building being worth about fifty thousand Rupees. (The value of his services—the Manifesto item included—is known to the public.) After obtaining the house he also got the wherewithal to furnish it—the moderate sum of twenty thousand Rupees. (According to another version, he obtained twice twenty thousand). The house was obtained in the name of his son Mr. Mahomed Ahmed, Barrister-at-Law, who has married an English wife.

### THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

#### GOVERNMENT AND THE TEA PLANTERS.

From—J. F. Finlay, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India.  
To—R. J. Harrison, Esq., Hony. Secretary, Darjiling Planters' Association.

Simla, the 12th October, 1892.

SIR,—I am directed by the Governor-General in Council to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 279, dated 24th September, 1892, forwarding a memorial to His Excellency the Viceroy in Council, from the Darjiling Planters' Association, on the subject of the Indian currency question.

The Government of India understand that the memorialists object, in the interests of the Indian tea industry, to any change in the Indian standard of value whereby the rupee would be given a fixed value in relation to gold, while at the same time the silver standard of China might continue to depreciate relatively to gold and to the Indian rupee under the new condition of things.

1. The prosperity of the tea industry of India is necessarily a matter of concern to the Government of India, and the arguments contained in the memorial have been carefully considered. The Governor-General in Council will not offer any opinion at the present time on the expediency of attempting to introduce a gold standard into India; the question has often been discussed and the arguments *pro* and *con* are doubtless familiar to the memorialists. There is one matter contained in the memorial, however, which appears to the Government of India to require careful examination.

The memorialists apprehend that if the value of the rupee were fixed with reference to gold, while the gold value of the Chinese *tael* continued to fall, China would obtain such an advantage over India in the production of tea that she would regain the ascendancy which she has lost, and that the tea industry of India might be entirely and irretrievably injured. In other words, the memorialists contend that if two countries compete in the production of the same article, the country of which the standard of value is depreciating relatively to the standard of the other country must prove successful in the competition.

It is this proposition which in the opinion of the Government of India requires examination.

2. It is unnecessary to remind the memorialists that international trade is regulated by, and dependent upon, the comparative cost of production of commodities. India, for example, grows tea and exports it to England in exchange for (say) cotton goods, because it is found that by devoting a certain amount of labour and capital to the production of tea and exchanging that tea for cotton goods, a larger quantity of cotton goods is obtained than could be secured by devoting the same amount of labour and capital to the direct production of cotton goods in India.

It is obvious that the real cost, or amount of labour and capital, required to produce tea, piece-goods, and all other commodities must remain precisely the same whatever the standard of value may be, and a change of standard cannot possibly, therefore, have any effect on the fundamental condition which regulate international trade. Accordingly, if a change in the value of the monetary standard injuriously, or beneficially, affects the production of any commodity, it must do so by impeding, or facilitating, (as the case may be) the operations of production and trade, rather than by modifying the essential conditions on which production and trade depend. Is it then the case that the depreciation of the standard of value necessarily stimulates the production of articles of export; if so, is such stimulus permanent, and is it attended with any drawback?

3. A mere alteration in the relative value of gold and silver, leading to an alteration in the exchange between two countries confers no advantage on the one country over the other, in so far as regards the exchange of commodities for commodities. For example, if a certain number of pounds of tea sell for Rs. 100, and a certain number of yards of calico sell for £10, and if Rs. 100 are worth £10, India will receive Rs. 100 for her tea and pay £10, or Rs. 100 for her piece-goods. Assuming that the relative value

of gold and silver alters, so that it takes Rs. 1,200 to equal £10 in value, India will, other conditions remaining the same, receive Rs. 200 more for her tea than she did before, but she will have to pay Rs. 200 more for her piece-goods, and consequently the country, *as a whole*, in that exchange of commodities for commodities which constitutes international trade, neither gains nor loses by a fall in the gold value of silver.

Since the country, *as a whole*, neither gains nor loses in the international trade by the fall in the value of silver, it follows that, if the tea industry gains by the fall, such gain must be made at the expense of other members of the community. In other words, for every additional rupee which the producer of tea receives, owing to the fall in exchange on account of tea exported, some other person in India has to pay a rupee more as the price of articles imported.

4. It may now be considered what is the nature of the gain made, at the expense of other members of the community, by the producer of goods for export when silver falls relatively to gold, whether this gain is permanent or not, and whether it is attended with corresponding drawbacks. The gain (if any) made by the producers of tea when silver falls relatively to gold arises solely from the fact that the alteration in the value of silver affects the exchange with England and the wholesale price of tea before it acts on other prices and on wages. If all the expenses of the tea producer rose simultaneously with, and to the same extent as, the rise in the wholesale price of his tea, due to a depreciation of the standard, he could derive no benefit from depreciation. It is the fact that all prices and wages do not rise *simultaneously* to the full extent that enables him to make a slight and temporary profit at the expense of the persons whom he employs, and of all other persons to whom he has to make fixed money payments.

This profit is usually only temporary, since with the depreciation of the standard all wages and prices tend to rise, and when the rise is completed the profit disappears. If the profit should happen to be considerable, and should last for some time, it supplies an unnatural and temporary stimulus to the trade, which leads to over-production and consequent reaction.

Moreover, large and sudden falls in the value of the standard necessarily imply the possibility of large and sudden rises, and fluctuations in the price of a commodity due to alterations in the value of the standard cannot fail to have an injurious effect on the trade as a whole.

5. The Government of India feel sure that the memorialists will admit that international trade must be considered as a whole, that trade and production are extended and improved by everything that adds to the welfare of the country at large, and that illegitimate and temporary gain made by one section of the community at the expense of another can only prove injurious in the long run.

In this view of the case it cannot be doubted that the possession of the same standard of value by two countries must, other things being equal, increase not only the total trade between the two countries, but the trade in each particular article, while the existence of two standards fluctuating in relative value constitutes a grave impediment to business, and not only reduces the aggregate of business, but injuriously affects every industry which contributes to make up that aggregate. It appears, therefore, to the Government of India that if India possessed the same standard of value as England, always assuming that that standard of value was in itself a good one, trade between the two countries would be stimulated instead of checked, and every industry in both countries contributing to that trade would be benefited instead of injured.

6. To sum up, the Government of India are of opinion—

(1) That a country, as a whole, makes no gain in its international trade by a depreciation of its standard, since the extra price received for its exports is balanced by the extra price paid for its imports.

(2) That the producer of an article of export may make a temporary and unfair gain from depreciation of the standard at the expense of his employes and of other persons to whom he makes fixed payments.

(3) But that this gain, while not permanent, is counterbalanced by a tendency to over-production and consequent reaction and depression, by a liability to sudden falls in price as well as to rises, and by the check to the general increase of international trade which necessarily results from the want of a common standard of value between countries which have intimate commercial and financial relations.

If the Government of India are right in the views they have just expressed, and they entertain no doubt as to their correctness, it will follow that the adoption of the same standard of value by England and India, always assuming that standard to be in itself a good standard, would facilitate international trade, stimulate production in both countries, and place China at a disadvantage as compared with India in the production of tea, as well as of all other commodities, for sale in the English market.

7. In conclusion, I am to say that a copy of the memorial will be forwarded for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

## INDIAN CURRENCY ASSOCIATION

6TH OCTOBER, 1892.

The Members, Indian Currency Association.

DEAR SIRS,

You are aware that a copy of our petition was sent to the Government of India in June last, with a request that it might be forwarded to the Secretary of State in the hope that it would receive the support of His Lordship. A few days ago we learned by the public telegrams that the Secretary of State had sent a despatch to the Government of India on the subject of our petition, and on my applying for a copy of that despatch I was furnished with same on 29th ultimo. For the information of the members I publish below a copy of the despatch together with copy of my letter of 1st instant to the Government of India in which I acknowledge its receipt. A copy of the letter I have been told will be sent to the Secretary of State.

I have further to inform you that I received on 1st instant a communication from H. E. The Viceroy stating that he had received a telegraphic despatch from the Secretary of State in reply to a telegram from the Government of India on the Currency Question. The despatch stated that a committee of which Lord Herschell will be President is to be appointed to consider the expediency of modifying the Indian Currency Act. This means, I believe, in other words, that Her Majesty's Government are to ask a Committee, of which the Lord Chancellor of England will be President, to advise them as to the expediency of establishing a gold standard in India.

I adopt this method of giving the members of the Currency Association authentic information as to the progress and result of our movement, in preference to sending round circulars, as the latter course would involve considerable delay. I will be much obliged if those members who observe this notice will bring it to the attention of others.

Yours obedient servant,

JAS. L. MACKAY,

President.

INDIA OFFICE.

London, 25th August, 1892.

Financial No. 159.

To His Excellency the Most Honorable the Governor-General of India in Council.

MY LORD MARQUIS.

I have considered in Council your Excellency's Letter, dated the 12th of July, No 183, forwarding a copy of a letter from the President of the Indian Currency Association with a memorial which that body proposes to present to the House of Commons, praying that, in the event of the forthcoming International Conference failing to arrive at a satisfactory solution of the questions to be submitted to it regarding the more extended use of silver as currency, the Government of India may be empowered to take such measures as it may see fit for the adoption of a gold standard. The memorial further begs that, in view of the probable failure of the Conference to arrive at my practical issue, such power may be now given to your Government as will admit of its exercise without delay after the termination of Conference.

2. The currency system of India is regulated by Act XXIII. of 1870, and it is open to your Excellency's Council when assembled for the purpose of making laws and regulations to repeal or modify this Act, provided that the previous consent of Her Majesty's Government shall have been given to the proposed measure: so that there is no necessity for an application to Parliament on the subject.

3. It would have been interesting to me if the Indian Currency Association had expressed its views more fully on the probable results of the measure which they advocate, and more particularly as to its effect on trade and prices in India.

I have &amp;c.,

(Sd.) KIMBERLEY.

INDIAN CURRENCY ASSOCIATION,

Simla, 1st October, 1892.

To the Secretary to the Government of India, Finance Department.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 3998A. of 29th ultimo enclosing a despatch from the Secretary of State replying to my letter which accompanied copy of the petition of this Association addressed to the House of Commons, which you were good enough to transmit to the Secretary of State for his information.

2. In the 3rd para. of his Lordship's despatch a regret is expressed that the Currency Association did not state its views generally on the possible effects on trade and prices of "the measure it proposes."

3. I would respectfully point out that the petition suggests two alternative courses, either bimetallism or a gold standard for India.

4. Bimetallism has already been so amply discussed in all its bearings, that it was considered unnecessary to repeat the statements of fact and theory connected therewith, as they must be familiar to His Lordship and his advisers.

5. As to the possible effect on trade and prices which would follow the introduction of a gold standard, I would venture to suggest that if His Lordship desires to secure further expert opinion on the subject, the same may be readily obtained at home, and I would add that the various questions involved have already been largely discussed in the report of the Royal Commission of 1886. A section of that Commission expressed the opinion that the fall in prices in England was "mainly due to circumstances independent of changes in the production of or demand for the precious metals or the altered relation of silver to gold," and as Her Majesty's Government have taken no steps to introduce bimetallism it may be concluded that they adopted this view. They can have no reason, therefore, to fear that the introduction of a gold standard into India will injuriously affect prices, as the change from silver to gold could be made at approximately the market rate of the day, and the additional demand for gold would be much less than the additional demand caused by the measures for the demonetization of silver which began in 1873.

6. I would add that those who favor a gold standard hold that to retain as a standard of value a metal which in its relation to gold is constantly fluctuating and persistently depreciating is opposed to the principles on which the theory and practice of currency are based. Even if most of our commercial relations and all our financial obligations were not with England, which has a gold standard, no good arguments can be found for the retention of the silver standard unless it can be restored to the stable position which it formerly occupied. The retention of the silver standard in India under existing circumstances, is politically inexpedient and unjustifiable. There is no reason to believe that the change in the standard of value from silver to gold will injuriously affect trade or prices in India any more than the change injuriously affected trade and prices in the countries of the Latin Union, in Germany and in Java. On the contrary, if the ordinary course of prices has not been violently interfered with in those countries, where the silver coinage is retained at a ratio to gold considerably higher than that proposed for India, it seems clear that there is greater reason for holding that Indian prices will not be affected. In India rupees will remain rupees, and the producer and consumer will regulate the prices asked and paid, as hitherto, by supply and demand.

7. In a previous letter I had the honor to inform you that the petition of this Association had received 5,000 signatures, and I have to state that it has now received 16,868, more than half being those of educated natives. I take this opportunity to send you, for the information of Government and the Secretary of State, thirty copies of the Proceedings of a General Meeting of the Association held at Calcutta, on 25th August last, at which the following resolution was unanimously carried:—

"That this meeting views with alarm the condition into which the currency of this country is drifting in relation to gold, and the crisis which appears to be approaching, and it desires to place on record its opinion that the Government of India should take such steps as they may think expedient, in the general interests of the country, to arrest further depreciation pending the result of the deliberations of the Conference about to sit in Europe."

In view of the statement made by the Secretary of State, that it is open to the Government of India to repeal or modify the currency system of this country without Parliamentary sanction, provided the previous sanction of Her Majesty's Government shall have been given to the proposed measure, I venture to hope that His Excellency the Viceroy in Council may, without delay, apply for the permission of Her Majesty's Government to introduce a measure which will have the effect of arresting further depreciation in the gold value of the Currency of India pending the result of the deliberations of the Conference about to sit in Europe.

8. Since writing the foregoing paragraphs I have been informed that a committee will be appointed in London to consider the expediency of modifying the Indian Currency Act. I trust this means that the proposal for introducing a gold standard into India will now receive a thorough examination. If so, the announcement will be received with satisfaction throughout the country, and it will tend to allay the feeling of despair which was taking possession of all classes in regard to the currency prospects of India.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

JAS. L. MACKAY,

President.

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# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1892.

No. 546

## ALFRED TENNYSON.

"LORD Tennyson passed away quite peacefully at 1-30 A.M." on the 6th October 1892, at his summer residence, Aldworth, Halsemere. Such is the report of the attending physicians Sir Andrew Clark and Dr. George H. R. Dabbs. Those who witnessed the death describe it as a most peaceful and almost imperceptible transition from life to death. The doctors attribute the death partly to suppressed gout and partly to an attack of influenza, but principally to natural decay. It was besides a picturesque passing away. One account says:—"There was a certain grandeur about the closing scene which will fix itself in the memory of those who were sadly fortunate enough to witness it. The full moon streamed through the oriel widow and shed a soft light upon the recumbent figure of the dying poet. The only illumination was that supplied by nature. The face of the dying man wore an absolutely painless and peaceful expression. On rare occasions there was abundant evidence that the powers of his mind remained almost unimpaired." According to Sir Andrew Clark, the death of Lord Tennyson was the most glorious he had ever seen. "The room was almost in darkness, and the poet lay in the moon light, with a Rembrandt-like background."

### THE PASSING OF MERLIN.

"I am Merlin,  
"And I am dying,  
"I am Merlin,  
"Who follow the Gleam."

—Tennyson's *Merlin and the Gleam*.

#### I.

Merlin has gone—has gone!—and through the land  
The melancholy message wings its way;  
To careless-ordered garden by the bay,  
Back o'er the narrow strait to island strand,  
Where Camelot looks down on wild Broceliand.

#### II.

Merlin has gone, Merlin the Wizard who found  
In the Past's glimmering tide, and hailed him King  
Arthur, great Uther's son, and so did sing  
The mystic glories of the Table Round,  
That ever its name will live so long as Song shall sound.

#### III.

Merlin has gone, Merlin who followed the Gleam,  
And made us follow it; the flying tale  
Of the Last Tournament, the Holy Grail,  
And Arthur's Passing; till the Enchanter's dream  
Dwells with us still awake, no visionary theme.

#### IV.

To-day is dole in Astolat, and dole  
In Celidon the forest,—dole and tears.  
In Joyous Gard blackhooded lean the spears:  
The nuns of Almesbury sound a mournful toll,  
And Guinevere kneeling weeps, and prays for Merlin's soul.

#### V.

A wailing cometh from the shores that veil  
Avilion's island valley; on the mere,  
Looms through the mist and wet winds weeping blear  
A dusky barge, which, without oar or sail,  
Fades to the far-off fields where falls nor snow nor hail.

#### VI.

Of all his wounds He will be healed now,  
Wounds of harsh time and vulnerable life,  
Fatigue of rest and weariness of strife,  
Doubt and the long deep questionings that plough  
The forehead of age but bring no harvest to the brow.

#### VII.

And there He will be comforted; but we  
Must watch, like Percival, the dwindling light  
That slowly shrouds him darkling from our sight.  
From the great deep to the great deep hath he  
Passed, and, if now he knows, is mute eternally.

#### VIII.

From Somersby's ivied tower there sinks and swells  
A low slow peal, that mournfully is rolled  
Over the long gray fields and glimmering wold.  
To where, 'twixt sandy tracts and moorland fells,  
Remembers Locksley Hall his musical farewells.

#### IX.

And many a sinewy youth on Cam to-day  
Suspends the dripping oar and lets his boat  
Like dreaming water-lily drift and float,  
While murmuring to himself the undying lay  
That haunts the babbling Wye and Severn's dirgeful bay.

#### X.

The bole of the broad oak whose knotted knees  
Lie hidden in the fern of Cumnor Chase,  
Feels stirred afresh, as when Olivia's face  
Lay warm against its rind, though now it sees  
Not Love but Death approach, and shivers in the breeze.

#### XI.

In many a Vicarage garden, dense with age,  
The haunt of pairing throstles, many a grange  
Moated against the assault and siege of change,  
Fair eyes consult anew the cherished Sage,  
And now and then a tear falls blistering the page.

#### XII.

April will blossom again, again will ring  
With cuckoo's call and yaffel's flying scream,  
And in veiled sleep the nightingale will dream,  
Warbling as if awake. But what will bring  
His sweet note back?—mute, it scarcely will be Spring.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

## XIII.

The Seasons sorrow for Him and the Hours  
Droop, like to bees belated in the rain.  
The unmoving shadow of a pensive pain  
Lies on the lawn and lingers on the flowers,  
And sweet and sad seem one in woodbine-woven bowers.

## XIV.

In English gardens fringed with English foam,  
Or girt with English woods, he loved to dwell,  
Singing of English lives in thorp or dell,  
Orchard or croft; so that when now we roam  
Through them, and find Him not, it scarcely feels like home.

## XV.

And England's glories stirred Him as the swell  
Of bluff winds blowing from Atlantic brine  
Stirs mightier music in the murmuring pine.  
Then sweet notes waxed to strong within his shell,  
And bristling rose the lines, and billowy rose and fell.

## XVI.

So England mourns for Merlin, though its tears  
Flow not from bitter source that wells in vain,  
But kindred rather to the rippling rain  
That brings the daffodil sheaths and jonquil spears,  
When Winter weeps away and April reappears.

## XVII.

For never hath England lacked a voice to sing  
Her fairness and her fame, nor will she now.  
Silence awhile may brood upon the bough,  
But shortly once again the Isle will ring  
With wakening winds of March and rhapsodies of Spring.

## XVIII.

From Arthur unto Alfred, Alfred crowned  
Monarch and Minstrel both, to Edward's day,  
From Edward to Elizabeth, the lay  
Of valour and love hath never ceased to sound,  
But Song and Sword are twin, indissolubly bound.

## XIX.

Nor shall in Britain Taliessin tire  
Transmitting through his stock the sacred strain.  
When fresh renown prolongs Victoria's Reign,  
Some patriot hand will sweep the living lyre,  
And prove with native notes, that Merlin was his sire.

ALFRED AUSTIN.

—The Times.

OCTOBER 6, 1892.

Dear Friend and honoured Master, art thou dead?  
And shall I see no more thy reverend face  
Recall our older England's manlier grace,  
Nor any more admire that noble head,  
That brow as board as Shakespeare's, that grave eye,  
Now soft with mirth, now fired with fantasy,  
Nor bear again thy rugged kindly speech  
Lighten the darkling ways of thought, and teach  
The Right thou lov'dst, nor breathe the eager air  
Of thy lone eyrie with thee, nor behold  
Thy bent, cloaked figure, dark against the gold  
And purple of thy dear secluded hill,  
Pace with uncertain footsteps day by day  
The much-loved round, nor in the failing light  
Upon thy smooth lawns watch the summer night  
Steal o'er the ghostly plains, nor mark the strain  
Of thy blithe thrushes with thee, nor again

The enamoured lonely nightingale complain?

Thy years were come to harvest; home-spent years  
Of reverence from without, of love within.

A perfect life, health, riches, honours, fame,

All these were thine, no prize was left to win;

Scant sorrow, save that fine despondency  
Which fans the smouldering genius into flame;

Only two brief experiences of tears,

The dear friend lost in youth, the son in age;

Bracing thy soul to bear whatever should be.

Such lives Fate grants not often, nor for long,

And rarest to the suffering ranks of song.

Why should we mourn, save for our private pain

And friendship which shall never come again?

Our race can never lose thee, whose fair page,

Rich with the harvest of a soul inspired,

So many a weakling life and heart has fired;

Thou art not wholly gone, but livest yet

Till all our England's sons their tongue forget.

Thy place is with the Immortals. Who shall gauge

Thy rank among thy peers of world-wide song?

Others, it may be, touched a note more strong,

Scaled loftier heights, or glowed with fiercer rage;

But who like thee could slay our modern Doubt?

Or soothe the sufferers with a tenderer heart?

Or dress gray legends with such perfect grace?

Or nerve life's world-worn pilgrims for their part?

Who, since our English tongue first grew, has stirred

More souls to noble effort by his word?

More reverent who of Man, of God, of Truth?

More piteous of the sore-tried strength of Youth?

Thy chaste, white Muse, loathing the Pagan rout,

Would drive with stripes the goatish Satyr out.

Thy love of Righteousness preserved thee pure,

Thy lucid genius scorned to lurk obscure,

And all thy jewelled Art and native Grace

Were consecrate to God and to the Race.

This day extinguishes a Star as bright

As shone upon our dying Century.

Here, as in that great England over sea,

"Light after Light goes out," yet 'tis not night.

The peaceful moonbeams kissed him as he lay

At midnight, dying in the arms of Love;

Thou couldst not wait the dawn of earthly Day.

Farewell, best soul, Farewell. And if, indeed,

Some care for things of earth may mount above,

As is our hope, enfranchised spirit, plead

For this our England which thou lov'dst so long

And crown'dst with thy diadem of Song.

LEWIS MORRIS.

—The Times.

LORD TENNYSON.

No "moaning of the bar!" Sail forth, strong ship!

Into that gloom which has God's face for far light;

Not dirge, but proud farewell, from each fond lip,

And praise—abounding praise; and fame's faint star-light

Lamping thy tuneful soul to that large noon

Where thou shalt quire with angles. Words of ~~we~~

Are for the unfulfilled—not thee, whose moon

Of genius sinks full-orbed, glorious, a-glow.

No "moaning of the bar!" Musical drifting

Of Time's waves, turning to the Eternal Sea;

Death's soft wind all thy gallant canvas lifting.

And Christ thy pilot to the Peace to be.

EDWIN ARNOLD.

Oct. 6, 1892.

—The Daily Telegraph.

## WEEKLYANA.

THE date of the Viceroy's Levée at Madras has been changed from Saturday, the 26th November, to the previous Friday, the 25th November. That shews disturbance in the earlier programme of tour. On account of the death from cholera of two European ladies at Rosa, Lord Lansdowne does not go to Arungabad.

THE Viceroy will hold a Levée of all Civil and Military Officers and the Native Officers of the Native Regiments of the Garrison, at Government House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 8th December 1892, at 9-30 P.M. Gentlemen purposing to attend the Levée must send their cards to the Aide-de-Camp in waiting not later than Saturday, the 26th November 1892. Gentlemen who have not already been presented at the Court of St. James or at Government House are required to add the names of Gentlemen who will present them. The presenting Gentlemen must themselves attend the Levée.

What is the definition of a Gentleman?

The Drawing Room has been fixed for Wednesday, the 14th December at 9-30 P.M. Cards will be received by the Aide-de-Camp in Waiting up to Thursday, the 8th December. Ladies are expected to appear in Full Dress, but without trains.

"There is a rumour to the effect that copies of the Amir's proclamation against the Shias have found their way to Persia and into the hands of the Shah. As the latter is a Shia, and the Amir's proclamation incites all true believers to kill the Shias and make their women and children slaves, relations between Persia and Afghanistan are not likely to be improved thereby."

The above appeared in the *Indian Daily News* of the 30th ultimo. We are sorry to find that the bitterness of feeling between the two sects has been on the increase rather than the contrary.

THE forthcoming World's Fair of Chicago is, of course, expected to be go-ahead. Its very amusements will be formidable. The denizens of our effete Hemisphere who may wish to attend, specially those of weak nerves, had better prepare themselves for the sights and sounds and shocks in store for them by at least a course of attendance at sensational plays and exhibitions, besides the reading of frightful accidents by flood or field. For us of the Old World, the showman entering the lion's cage and petting the king of the forest as if he were a cat or a spaniel, and even introducing his arm into His Majesty's terrible buccal cavity, or Blondin walking on the rope from bank to bank of a river and cooking high in the air, reaches the extreme limits of endurance. Chicago will offer something beyond these wellknown efforts. Everything in America is on a large scale, and the sensations supplied will be as ample as the most diseased craving could desire. At any rate, an American projector proposes to the Executive Committee of the Fair

"to lease a piece of land near the show ground upon which he intends to build a railway a mile in circumference with another line inside the main tract, the two being connected by a switch. On one side the projector would erect a grand stand capable of accommodating 30,000 people. The lines would be placed in such a position that two engines with carriages going in opposite directions would collide. Thus he would produce a real railway disaster, which he contends would prove an attractive spectacle. He proposes for the purposes of his display to buy abandoned engines from different railways, which can be procured cheaply. He says he can provide performances twice a week at a cost of £500 each."

Artificial thunder and lightning on the stage is familiar to play-goers. But artificial railway collisions of the genuine kind for pastime will be decidedly new. How far they will be pleasant we need not discuss. Nor need our nice caterers stop here. We expect to hear some enterprising soul setting up a neat little, but sufficiently powerful, *Ætna* or *Vesuvius* and providing for the fun of the visitors volcanic eruptions. Collisions are common enough on certain lines, and after the first few performances the made railway collisions at the Fair will be too commonplace to draw. Then will be the season for liquid fire and distilled damnation and the rest of it. Then volleys and showers of brimstone and fire will be a relief to the jaded imagination. Nothing short of earthquakes for the Fun of the Future! Nor need there be any particular anxiety on that score. There are quacks enough ready to advertise Pills and Mixtures for the Earthquake as there are vaunted nostrums already for the gout.

SIR Charles Elliott will have Mr. H. Luttman-Johnson. The services

of the Judge and Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts have been transferred to Bengal. He replaces Mr. J. C. Veasy, retired from the service, and takes charge, on the 1st November, from Mr. H. G. Cooke, the officiating incumbent, as Commissioner of the Dacca Division. Mr. Cooke will officiate as Commissioner of the Orissa Division and Superintendent of the Tributary Mahals during the absence, on furlough, of Mr. Toynbee.

THE German Emperor is said to have celebrated the birth of his daughter by pardon to all female prisoners now undergoing sentence for their first crimes committed through distress or anger.

It appears from the Hoogly correspondent in the *Indian Daily News*, that the District Magistrate Mr. Duke paid all the *shrad* expenses on the death of the father of one of his clerks and was himself "present on the occasion to see that everything was well done." We hope the Church will not issue its anathema against Mr. Duke. Anyhow, God will bless the sympathetic Englishman.

A DARING fraud and forgery is being investigated at the Serampore Magistracy in the Hooghly District. On the day the offices closed for the Dussehra vacation, a deed of mortgage was registered at the office of the Sub-Registrar of Serampore. The document purported to have been executed by Protap Chunder Bose, a son of the deceased Tarini Churn Bose of this city, in favour of one Nanda Lal Roy. The consideration was Rs. 35,000, the securities being chiefly Calcutta properties valued at 3 lacs and a garden at Rishra near Serampore. The deed was prepared at the office of Baboo Ashutosh Dhur, attorney, High Court, Calcutta. The executant was identified by Peary Lal Halder, an articulated clerk to the said attorney. Protap Chunder who had been absent from town when the deed was executed, being informed of it by another attorney of the High Court, expressed total ignorance of the transaction, came down to Calcutta and started the enquiry. Warrants were issued against the mortgagee and his identifier and summonses against the attorney and an attesting witness to the deed, Gobind Chunder Dey. The attorney stated in court that to the best of his belief the complainant whom he saw in court was not the person who had executed the deed. His clerk Peary Lal too made the same statement, and added that the complainant was not the person whom he had identified. The complainant claimed to be known to the attorney, on which Babu Ashutosh said that he might have seen the complainant before but he did not know him by name nor knew his father's name. From a statement of the attorney's it appears that one Benodi Lal Roy, brother of the mortgagee, was the person who had taken a leading part in the transaction and had introduced the executant to him, and that one Bani Madhub Shaw acted as broker in the transaction. Processes have also been ordered against these two persons. The personator keeps himself away.

It is also suspected that two or three questionable transactions were passed in the Calcutta Registration office about the same time.

A YOUNG dealer in second-hand books in London sold to a private English collector a small uncut volume on the Early English Settlements in North America for 75s. for which he had just paid 5s. While he was felicitating himself on the enormous profit he had made on a single transaction—indeed a single volume, he was surprised with an offer of 500s. for the same volume or another copy. It is said that there are Americans in the market who are ready to pay down 1000s. or more for the same book. It is a pity the London papers do not give the name and date of the book. There are so many on the same subject.

THE famous Tretyakov Gallery of pictures by Russian artists, including a specially fine collection of Vereschagina, has been bequeathed by the late owner to the city of Moscow, together with funds for the maintenance and extension of the gallery.

FATHER Marcellino of Civezzano, South Tyrol, has come upon a document from which it appears that a Franciscan friar of Jodi had accompanied Columbus on his voyage of discovery of America.

## NOTES &amp; LEADERETTES

with

## OUR OWN NEWS.

IN view of possible military eventualities threatening on the frontier, Lord Lansdowne is understood to be most anxious to avoid a change in the *personnel* of the chief command in India. We believe the Viceroy has prevailed upon Lord Roberts to stay if the interest of the State should be thought to require it. Considering that the Commander-in-Chief's medical advisers press him to have done with the East and run to Europe *instantly*, his Excellency's submission to the call of the Chief of the State involves no ordinary sacrifice. It may cost his valuable life itself. Such loyalty is worthy of the Hero.

It is said that the Viceroy in Council has sent a despatch to the Secretary of State for India strongly recommending that the term of Lord Robert's office may be extended and he be requested to remain in India another year, till November 1893. It is understood that the Governor-General has further made a personal request in his behalf. It is Lord Lansdowne's earnest wish that so long as he remains at the head of the Government of India, his administration may not be weakened, as it must be, by the appointment of a new general officer, however able and distinguished, at the head of the Army. Lord Roberts is awaiting the decision of the Home Government. For our part, we cannot conceive that decision to be contrary to the recommendation of the Government on the spot here, which has charge of the peace and protection of the Empire. Such a decision, we are afraid, will not commend itself to all. The service boasts many heroes more or less genuine and they will be apt to see in an extension to Lord Roberts only a block to promotion. But these selfish grumbings cannot be listened to when the efficiency of the State machinery is concerned, specially when the honour and safety of the Empire might be at stake. The Viceroy's anxiety for the *salus populi* is worthy of Lord Lansdowne. Having, from the outset of his administration, worked in harmony with Lord Roberts, and having shaped his military policy and taken his military measures not only under his Lordship's advice but also in reliance upon his professional experience and, above all, his Lordship's military genius, it is quite natural that he should feel uncomfortable at being left in the lurch as it were, with the prospect of pursuing that policy and following up those measures with inferior help.

A MORE loyal representative of Commerce and Manufactures does not exist than Mr. S. E. J. Clarke, and his various capacities of Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Secretary to the Indian Jute Manufacturers' Association, Secretary to the Calcutta Hydraulic Press Association, and Secretary to the Calcutta Import Trade Association, give him a clear advantage in ventilating mercantile grievances with speed and effect. He has now drawn up a powerful protest against the principle of taxation in the Jute Warehouse and Fire Brigade Act. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce through him contends that "the only fair way of dealing with the question of the support of the Fire Brigade is to make it a purely Municipal duty." The Chamber may well resent the payment of Rs. 60,000 from the surplus of the Jute and Fire Brigade fund to the Municipality instead of its application towards temporary reduction of the license fee on Jute warehouses. The proposition of the Chamber is thus laid down:

"It is manifestly unjust that the cost of the Fire Brigade should fall on any one class of property, such as the Jute Screw Houses, when other or more dangerous Trades entirely escape."

"As probably some modification of the Act may be contemplated, the Committee would venture to point out that not only is the principle of making one class of Trade pay for the expenses of the Fire Brigade unjust, but likewise that those who insure should be taxed for the benefit of those who do not. The cost of the Fire Brigade is fairly contributable to by all the inhabitants, and would, with more propriety, be borne by General Funds."

Whatever the cogency of the propositions, the policy was different when the Jute warehouses were brought under special taxation and legislation. If the warehouses are now different and there have not been the constant fires therein which the law was made to prevent, that *ipso facto* does not prove that the necessity of the law has determined. It is a proper question, however, whether the special taxation should not now be extended to other dangerous and inflammable materials to the relief of the jute industry. The Gov-

ernment admits the situation, for we find that "the Lieutenant-Governor agrees with the Committee of the Chamber in the opinion that it is unreasonable to make Jute and Cotton Warehouses pay—and more than pay—for the Fire Brigade required for Calcutta and the Suburbs, and the obvious remedy for the present state of things would be to increase the area of taxation and to levy fees on all warehouses, buildings, or places used for storing any dangerously inflammable materials." Mr. Clarke justly complains:

"This was in 1878, yet it cannot be said that the Act of 1884 which is now to be repealed was in any sense a concession to the principle for which the Chamber was contending, or a relief to the Jute Trade."

The Municipal Commissioners are naturally averse from abandoning a source of income which has been in existence for so many years. In the present state of affairs, we may expect a compromise or a lightening of the burden on Jute and Cotton Warehouses. Mr. Clarke is, however, bound to succeed. He who could abolish a national holiday by his persistent efforts, may well claim the repeal of the jute tax in this city.

THE Egyptian exile Araby the Unblest has addressed the following letter to the *Times* :—

"Sir.—My attention having from time to time been called to various remarks in your newspaper as to the state of my health, I would beg a small space in the same powerful journal to state what is really the case, as there are still many good English friends who take some interest in my position. I have never been, nor can I ever be, well in the hot, moist climate of Colombo, so totally different is it from the dry atmosphere of my native country. Of recent years this influence has taken much more effect, and not only have my eyes suffered to a painful extent, but my general health has become exceedingly feeble. But for the periodical visits which I make to Mr. —'s beautifully-situated tea and coffee estates in the high districts of this island, where bungalows, servants, and every possible comfort are most generously placed at my disposal by my host, I am afraid that the climate of Colombo would long ere this have finished its work so far as I am concerned.—I am, sir, yours sincerely,

A. ARABI, THE EGYPTIAN.

Elsternwick, Kollupitiya, Colombo, Sep. 10."

So, Araby the Egyptian is Araby the doomed! The victim of a mischance, he is being slowly but surely ground down to death under a sort of solitary confinement by the effectual forces of adverse climate. And wherefore? He has been punished enough already for his indiscretion or his crime, if you will. It is a pity that such brilliant ability should lie fallow. A grave responsibility rests on those who consign it to inaction. But it is vain to lament the past. Age and disuse have done their work and that ability is now only a tradition. The Egyptian does not seek or intend to work. He has lost both the capacity and the inclination for it. He wants to live in health and comfort if possible, if not to die in peace among his friends at home. What prevents England from granting his prayer? The reasons against his going to Egypt no longer exist. If he may still be formidable in the valley of the Nile, he may be sent to that of the Euphrates or that of the Jordan, or to the Hedjas or Nejd, or any Soonnee Mahomedan country with a tolerably salubrious climate—anywhere out of the Black Hole of Ceylon. There cannot be the slightest danger in sending the brave man to any place on the globe on his word of honour. Another African—a greater hero by far—has proved what a Mussulman's truth is. Shall England be behind France in generous trustfulness?

A REMARKABLE American named Alexander Russell Webb was lately in Calcutta as a visitor. He had formerly been a journalist in the United States, but about 5 years ago he took service under the American Government as Consul in the Philippine Islands and had ever since been living at Manila. For a number of years he has been studying the various religious systems in the world as far as he could do so with the help of English books, and ultimately finding the Mahomedan religion as the best has embraced Islam. He is of opinion that as there is virtually no real religious belief amongst the majority of his countrymen of the Union, if the principles of Islam were clearly placed before them, they would gladly follow his example. In this view he has resigned his Consular appointment and is now on his way back to America. Having visited Singapore and Rangoon on his way, he came to Calcutta, and is now in Bombay. He will probably visit Europe and England before returning home. His idea is to issue a first class English journal in which he will place before his readers articles explaining the religion of Mahomed, and answering the attacks made upon it by the learned of other Faiths. He believes that he will, in this way, be able to create

a taste among his countrymen for the study of Mahomedanism, as he means to print and distribute thousands of copies of his paper.

He was received in Calcutta by a large number of Mahomedans of the mercantile community, and was their guest in a house in Amratollah Street.

Those who met him are unanimous in giving a good report. He impressed his visitors as an educated, enlightened and courteous gentleman, of strong health and will, full of energy and vivacity—just the man to do and get on.

A MAN of 75 and a woman of 69 have been married in New Zealand after an engagement of fifty years.

Punch's advice to those who are about to marry has become classical and proverbial. The old sage of Fleet Street said—*Don't*. It is not always safe advice—either to the giver or the receiver. Our discreeter Oriental message is—*Wait*.

What a waiting game was matrimony for that reverend couple! They must be lineal descendants of Fabius himself.

THE Viceroy is on tour. Leaving Simla on the morning of the 27th, the Viceregal party arrived at Umballa by special train from Kalka at 8-30 and was received on the platform by Mr. C. E. Gladstone, the Deputy Commissioner, the Maharaja of Patiala, Capt. Maxwell, R. A., and others. After dinner in the train, Lord Lansdowne left *en route* for Poona at 9-30. The train was due at Bhopal at 8-30 in the evening of the 28th. The Begum was herself present to receive the Viceroy, and entertained His Excellency at a dinner in a shamiana adjoining the station. Dinner over, the Begum made her appearance. She proposed in Urdu successively the healths of the Queen-Empress, and of the Viceroy and the Marchioness of Lansdowne, which were suitably though briefly acknowledged by Lord Lansdowne, Captain Meade, the Political Agent, throughout acting as interpreter. The stay was short and the special train left for Poona shortly after 10 o'clock.

SIR Charles Elliott arrived at Calcutta on Thursday. He leaves again on Tuesday next for the autumn tour.

THE Secretary of State having sanctioned a sixth Judge for the Allahabad High Court, Mr. Judicial Commissioner W. R. Burdett has been appointed to the new judgeship. Mr. M. S. Howell, Additional Judicial Commissioner in Oudh, succeeds him. Mr. Howell, in his turn, is replaced as Additional Judicial Commissioner by the Hon'ble George T. Spankie, Barrister-at-law.

Mr. Burdett is an M. A. of Trinity College, Dublin, and a Barrister-at-law, who has been over thirty years in the Civil Service of the Upper Provinces, the last five of which he has held with credit judicial appointments, whereof the last was the high office of Judicial Commissioner in Oudh.

Mr. Howell is an Oxonian, of Corpus Christi, a Fellow of the Calcutta University, a scholar and Orientalist and member of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. He has published a valuable high class Arabic grammar of the classical language of the Koran. He is junior to Mr. Burdett in standing but by only a year or so, being thirty years in the service. He has served in different lines, executive, educational, and judicial. For the last twelve years, he has devoted himself exclusively to judicature, both criminal and civil.

Mr. Spankie is still a comparatively young man, being only 44 years of age, but he is a lawyer by profession and an exceptionally clever man. Called to the bar in 1871, he accepted office in the Allahabad High Court as Official Reporter to the Court in April 1873 and officiated as Registrar at the end of the year and again in 1877. Reporter he was more than once. He also did a good deal of independent practice with great credit to himself and his. For he comes of a legal family. Like the Stranges and the Nortons in Madras, and the Pearsons in Bengal, the Spankies have distinguished themselves in these Provinces as Judges and Advocates. Mr. Spankie's father was the Advocate-General of the old Supreme Court in Fort William and his uncle Robert was long an honoured Judge of the High Court, N. W. Provinces. The Calcutta Advocate General had more than an Indian reputation. He was a rather famous man in his day at

home, not only at the bar but also in the press, in Parliament, and in society. Mr. Spankie, therefore, has need to be at once good and clever, if only to retain self-respect. Luckily for him, he is both in a large measure. The opinion in the Upper Provinces is that he will be a distinct acquisition to the judiciary but a loss to the bar.

As regards the qualifications of the favoured individuals, no fault can be found with the appointments. We can only regret that the opportunity has not been taken to introduce a native gentleman to the higher judiciary.

MR. Justice Mahmood, of the Allahabad High Court, having obtained a year's furlough, Mr. R. S. Aikman, Judge of Farukhabad, has been selected to officiate for him. This is a retrograde movement. It is not to be excused on the plea that it is but a temporary arrangement. If there is any better ground for making it, the Government should lose no time to make it public. Meanwhile, the arrangement has a sinister appearance. The appointment of Mr. Aikman to act for a whole year for Mr. Mahmood, will deprive the natives of the only High Court judgeship reserved to them. It will be felt by our countrymen throughout the Empire as a blow to their legitimate aspirations. In Upper India, it has already been the subject of public meetings at Benares and other places. The last demonstration was held at Allahabad, in the grounds of the Kayastha Pathshala, under the presidency of Raja Rampal Sing, of Kalakankur. On the proposition of Pundit Latchmi Narain Veyas, seconded by Mr. Simeon and supported by Mr. J. E. Howard and Mr. Madan Mohan Malaviya, they recorded the following resolution:—

"That this meeting desires to give public expression to the deep disappointment and regret which have been caused throughout the Province by the announcement that it has been settled that the vacancy occasioned in the N. W. P. High Court by Mr. Justice Mahmood's furlough is to be filled up by a European and not an Indian Judge; and that having regard to the fact that the marked ability with which natives of India have filled the highest judicial offices in this country, has been testified to by the most competent authorities and to the recommendations of the Public Service Commission for an increased employment of the natives of India as High Court Judges, this meeting expresses the earnest hope that the announcement referred to above is premature and unauthoritative, and that the Government will not ignore the claims of Indians to the highest appointment open to them in the Judicial Service of the Province and do justice to them."

It is a pity the promoters of the meeting found no one to lick that Resolution into better shape and language. But the very awkwardness of its form and expression proves the purely indigenous character of the demonstration. The Resolution is a genuine outcome of native feeling and represents a substantial grievance. Having watched Sir Auckland Colvin from the time he was Financial Member of the Government of India, we have always found him generous to native claims, though without maudlin effusiveness. Unless there be any peculiar justification for it we wot not, we confess that, in the absence of specific information, we are in no haste to take him for the true author of the arrangement. But the mist ought to be cleared up. Will our contemporary of the *Pioneer* or the *Morning Post* do the needful?

WE have had submitted to us a collection of prints from the workshop of Mr. Heberlet supplied to different customers, mostly as illustrations to periodicals and books. We can unhesitatingly pronounce upon their excellence. They look like the best drawings on stone but are in reality printed from photographs—printed by the calotype process. They of course recall the noble illustrations by that process which now lend an artistic interest to the annual Administration Reports of the Surveyor-General. Formerly these Reports used to be illustrated by the finest photographs of mountain scenery, of sun and cloud, snow and mist effects, but since the introduction of the calotype, those photographs have been thrown into the shade. The Surveyor-General's office is the only place in India where this process is understood and worked. Mr. Heberlet is the only man who, having with much intelligence and at no small labor and sacrifice, mastered the trick, has made a business of it. He has, we understand, given up his connection with the press, to devote himself entirely to it. We hope a family man like him will not have to rue his ambition and enterprise. By the excellence of his work, he deserves success. By the moderate rates at

which he turns out his work, he ought to command it. This, therefore, is the first genuine opportunity for illustrated literature and journalism. Already, the *Englishman* office has utilised Mr. Heberlet's skill by enriching the *Englishman's Saturday Evening Journal* with his photo-etchings. Some of the illustrations were simply charming. Who that has once seen will forget the picture of the noble avenue of palms in the Botanical Gardens?

THE *Bengalee* has an obituary notice of the late Poet Laureate which invites remark. The article, which is simply and familiarly headed "Tennyson," is replete with fresh biographical information, original criticism, and even new readings, such as we shall look for in vain in any of the numerous writings on the subject with which we shall soon be flooded from Europe. We are told the deceased was a supremely lucky man.

"His was not a chequered career. It was not his lot to work amidst disappointments, and troubles, and to struggle against adverse fate."

The truth is that Lord Tennyson was almost snuffed out for nearly ten years by a great bereavement. But the writer does not remember that the Poet was the author of *In Memoriam*. That trifling production is not once mentioned in the whole course of the article. The writer might have at least remembered the luckless visit of the poet's accomplished son, Lionel Tennyson, a few years ago, to India and the deadly malaria which he caught staying in the neighbourhood of the home of the editor of the *Bengalee*, at Government House at Barrackpore, and from the effects of which he expired at sea on the homeward voyage. Like many other Indian journalists, the *Bengalee* quotes without rhyme or reason Tennyson's fine compliment to his predecessor in the Laureateship, in his dedication to the Queen. But he improves upon them all in his reading. He writes:—

"In 1850, he received the laurel—

Green from the brows,

Of him who uttered nothing base."

The distribution of feet to the lines is original, the punctuation original. It is a mercy of Providence to the lamented deceased that the lines scan, somehow, otherwise it were mangling upon murder of the poor Poet. We say Providence, because clearly we do not owe it to the kindness of the critic. The appropriate quotation on the laurel—"green from the brows,"—is followed by a pithy characterization and description, to wit—

"He was a wise and a happy man, a thinker and a dreamer, who read and walked."

The truth of that sentence will be conceded at once. We certainly are not prepared to deny that the deceased, great poet as he was and noble lord as he became, read and walked. We may add to our contemporary's information some perfectly authentic information, namely, that Lord Tennyson ate and drank and talked. If he read and walked more than he ate and drank and talked, he probably smoked more than anything he did.

Yet, there are gleams of comprehension and insight in the notice, and the concluding paragraph is good. The whole seems to be a patch-work of the labours of different hands artificially combined by one who could not say "boh" to a goose.

WHILE this writer is not aware of *In Memoriam*, another neighbouring contemporary, who by the bye has written the best thing in the Indian press on the late Poet, insists upon that as the Poet's greatest work. That is the partiality of the psychologist—not the appreciation of true criticism. As well might you place Lucretius above Virgil and Homer!

WE read in an English paper:—

"Mr. Andrew Carnegie, who gave a sum of 10,000*l.* to build a library at Ayr, and Mrs. Carnegie were the guests of the burgh on Oct. 5, in connection with the laying of the memorial stone of the new building. The town was decorated, and a half holiday was generally observed. A procession was formed from the municipal buildings to the library, where the guests met with a very hearty reception. Mrs. Carnegie laid the stone, and her husband was afterwards presented with the freedom of the royal burgh of Ayr. In acknowledging the honour Mr. Carnegie

said he felt more strongly bound than ever to devote the remaining years of his life less and less to aims which ended in self, more and more to the service of others, by using his surplus wealth and spare time in the manner which seemed most likely to produce the greatest good to the masses of the people from whom the surplus wealth came to its possessors, only as a trust to be passed through their hands as administrators. Mrs. Carnegie was presented by the library committee in Burns's cottage with an album containing photographic views of the land of Burns."

How few are the men blessed with wealth who breathe such noble sentiments! But Mr. Carnegie—over and above the foundation he has laid for another world—has been nobly recompensed. Ayr is something much more and infinitely higher than a royal burgh. It is the land of Poesy. One of its humblest sons has made it famous through all time. For, the home of the inspired ploughman can never be forgotten. Every hill and dale—all the nooks and corners—of that obscure locality in Scotland, have been consecrated by the genius of song. And it is the distinction of the Carnegies to be the benefactor of Ayr—to comfort, to heal, and to adorn. It is no small privilege that is theirs, to link their names with the Vale of the Muses and the scenes of the life of Scotia's chief singer and the true People's Poet. Few very wealthy men have the heart to give away, and still fewer givers are so lucky as to be blessed with such a windfall of immortality in the normal exercise of their charitable propensities, as Mr. Carnegie and his worthy consort.

THE *Indian Daily News*, as the only paper in Lower Bengal which has a regular correspondent at Hyderabad and other sources besides of information respecting Deccan affairs, naturally appreciates our efforts to place the public in possession of all facts necessary for a correct comprehension of the politics of that Court. That journal concludes its opening leader of Tuesday last thus:—

"In the last number of *Reis and Rayyet* there is a very full and fair account of the state of affairs in Hyderabad and what has led to it. We perceive that the views of our contemporary are much in accordance with our own, and the indication of a new minister much in the same direction."

In the same issue, the *Indian Daily News* has also the following editorial note:—

"*Reis and Rayyet* in its issue of Saturday last throws a good deal of light on the affairs of Hyderabad, and gives copious notes of some of the chief intriguers there. The record is interesting; and if it should meet the eye of His Excellency the Viceroy, the account would well answer for what the Americans would call an 'eye-opener.' It is only that we have ourselves had so much on the subject that we do not reproduce the interesting and instructive account."

IN our last issue we stated, on the strength of telegrams received from Hyderabad, that the Nizam had not only accepted Mushtak Hosain's resignation, but issued peremptory orders for his leaving His Highness's territories. We also announced the suspension of the Hyderabad Home Secretary, Mehdi Hassan, as well as that of his bosom friend or creature and Mushtak's chief lieutenant, Ikbāl Ali, for making an immoral proposal to a young European lady. Those items of news have been fully confirmed. We now find that the *Deccan Budget* is quite disconsolate at his patron's disgrace and unable to understand why he has been suddenly dismissed and deported, and why has Mehdi Hassan too been suspended on such an apparently insufficient ground. Knowing well that his friend had taken advantage of the incompetence of the Prime Minister over whom he had acquired undue influence, not only to usurp all the functions of Government but also virtually to suppress the hereditary Ruler, this journalist is unable to believe the Nizam capable of performing such extraordinary feats, and in his despair jumps to the conclusion that the order was issued on the day following the Resident's unusually long interview with His Highness.

The Nizam's intelligence and ability have never been seriously questioned. Accordingly, we have no difficulty in believing that the first step to clear the Augean stable was his own and of no one's instigation. Once his forbearance was exhausted, the rest was comparatively easy. Even if the Resident, in his interview, had advised these

measures, that public officer deserves only praise. Notwithstanding that the *Deccan Budget*, reserves its praises for Mushtak Hosain, saying that his services to the Hyderabad State have been "on the whole honest, faithful and zealous," and "deserve exceptionally generous treatment at the hands of His Highness," it is compelled to admit that he has not been quite successful in his last high and responsible position, and that "it was Mushtak Hosain's misfortune that he was constitutionally and by training unfitted, and when once the lust of power, almost unbridled power, entered his soul, he found the temptation to misuse it at times, more than he could withstand." Mushtak's friend gives him another parting kick in the following sentence. "The excessive unpopularity of Mushtak Hosain and the great discontent which was everywhere felt was fast bringing the whole administration into disrepute."

From further information that we have received from the capital of the Nizam, we learn that His Highness had given strict orders on the day that he accepted Mushtak Hosain's resignation, that he must quit Hyderabad in four days. Sir Asman Jah tried his best to persuade His Highness not to enforce this last order, but the Nizam was firm and resolute. The result was that the little-Great-man had to run away on the 4th night, to the disconsolation of his chief and his numerous friends, relatives and creatures. As for Mehdi Hassan, it was not only his disobedience of the orders of His Highness in delaying to submit an explanation in the Pamphlet Scandal case, but also his contumacy in not clearing his conduct in the bribery case in connection with the estate of the Salar Jung family that moved the Nizam to suspend him.

THERE is jubilation in the Nizam's dominion over the fall of Hosain and Hassan—we mean Mushtak and Mehdi. We have received the following telegram from Hyderabad :—

"Public joy at Mushtak Hosain's departure. Mehdi Hassan's suspension continues unabated. Sweets distributed and prayers offered. His Highness is taking greatest interest in State affairs, doing everything himself. For this people are extremely pleased. Their gratitude knows no bounds. It is proposed to present an address to His Highness expressing joy and gratitude for his present attitude regarding State affairs. A deputation composed of leading citizens and representative men will wait with an address. His Highness has consented to receive the deputation on Monday."

THE Municipal Commissioners met on Thursday and dispersed sanctioning only the first item of business. It was a melancholy adjournment. One of their prominent members had died that morning. Mr. Lee in opening the meeting thus bore his testimony to the worth of the departed colleague :—

"It is with profound sorrow that I have to announce to you what I am informed has been based on authentic information. A telegram has been received announcing the death of one of our foremost and ablest Commissioners, one who was distinguished alike for his zeal and for his intelligence—Babu Prannath Pandit. I think we ought to adjourn this meeting till next Thursday. It is because he over-worked himself that he was unable to make a stand against the fever, and fell an easy victim. We cannot afford to lose another valuable life from the same cause, and I therefore ask you to sanction our Vice-Chairman's application for leave for two months and eighteen days."

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, October 29, 1892.

### A TRUE PATRIOT THE LESS!

AN accomplished literary man and a true patriot has passed away. We have been shocked by the sudden news of Baboo Pran Nath Pandit's death. He has gone without notice from the scene of his useful career, with the fairest prospect before him of extended usefulness, in the prime of life, without enjoying its prizes. Not yet forty, he has simply killed himself. He had been habituated to excessive mental toil without any exercise. If from time to time he had the opportunity for a change to the

Upper Provinces or other parts of India, he never ceased to work even there. Not remunerative work but the work of charity or patriotism or love of letters. People have no idea—his best friends scarcely suspect—of the amount of literary work he went through for his country, for his friends and relations, for strangers. We all in this country who know the trick, have to give that work, but Pran Nath Pandit's facile pen turned out a larger amount than most. Besides, he was an ardent politician and would give up everything for his interest in the subject of the hour. He was not fussy and shrank from vulgar competition with the demagogues. He was ready to labour for the cause however, and he did yeoman's service. He was not a pleasing speaker, having no voice and a bad elocution, and he was deficient in verbal memory, yet he had all a true politician's passion for oratory. Wherever he went he got up meetings and gave lectures and addresses, besides doing literary work for every body. He was a most active and useful member of the Suburban and town Corporations, without forcing himself forward. The assistance of a lawyer and a ready literary man and a keen politician, was invaluable to these bodies. But for the variety of his tastes, besides that he was for a long time locked up in a single protracted litigation in Purulia, he would have been a great vakil of the High Court, with the prospect of translation to the bench to which his lamented father Shumbhoo Nath Pandit was the first Indian to be raised. He might have been made a member of the Bengal Council, but he was too shy to approach the great, and his public labours, solid and valuable as they were, were performed in a respectable delicate way so as to escape the notice of the powers that make. In consequence of the proud isolation in which the Europeans keep themselves, they do not know the real forces at work in native society or the obscure men, prouder than themselves, who form opinion or start questions or ply grievances. There is scarcely an Englishman among the numerous members of the Civil and Military services who ever heard of the late Pran Nath Pandit. Excepting Mr. Stevens who accidentally made his acquaintance at a quiet country town, we doubt if there is one in authority who will be disposed to believe that this Pran Nath Pandit was not only one of the ablest natives but really one of the ablest men in the country. Yet so he was, beyond question. The fact is that the official classes do not come across the best men among the people. The better types maintain their selfrespect by keeping themselves aloof from the haughty conqueror. They often thus wrong the Englishman as well as do harm to their countrymen by not letting the governing foreigner have the help of their information and counsel. Many Englishmen are polite and anxious to learn and do good, but, thrown into the company of inferior natives who make up for their worthlessness by brag which imposes on the stranger, they receive misinformation and misdirection. Not the least injury that these men, the salt of the native community, do by their indifference to cultivate Europeans, is that they permit a bad estimate to be formed of native character. If Sir Lepel Griffin had known Pran Nath Pandit, for instance, he would not have lapsed into his raving about the Baboos. An able man himself he would have respected ability in another. And no man of any judgment could fail to perceive the worth of so good, so amiable, so respectful, so modest a

character as Pandit's. His ability was great. The range of his intellectual sympathy was extensive. He did not confine himself to law or even law and politics. *Belles Lettres*, History, Oriental literature, antiquities, Ethnology, nothing came amiss to him. It is a pity he did not concentrate his powers on a single work. He wrote many booklets and pamphlets. While he was still at College he published an edition of the Sanskrit Megh Duta—the celebrated "Cloud Messenger" of Kalidasa—with a metrical translation in Bengali showing great promise. He had scarcely passed his law examination and taken his degree of B. L. before he launched a learned tract on the Unchastity Case as it was called—the case of the Assamese Kolitanees which was then exercising Hindu society. He took a great interest in the case and agitated it in the public interest. Unknown to his family, the youngster, still in his teens, without independent means of his own, apart from the patrimony he shared with his minor younger brother, actually borrowed money to procure an appeal in the case. Such enthusiasm for the public good is as rare as it is noble. He early joined the Asiatic Society and was no inactive member. He read a paper on the Morals of Kalidasa, his favorite poet, which was listened to with interest by his grave and reverend seniors and was inserted in their journal. In studying the antiquities of the country, he did not rely upon the current or accepted deciphering and interpretation of ancient mural tablets, but brought his Sanskrit and his acute understanding to bear upon their signs. And no doubt he had the advantage over many eminent European archæologists and even natives like Dr. Rajendralala Mitra in that he possessed a first hand competent knowledge of Sanskrit, whereas they for the most part relied upon the guidance of their Pandits and Sastris. Pran Nath Pandit presented to the Society a fresh reading of a mutilated copper plate inscription which is one of the few authentic foundations for the history of Bengal in the Hindu period. The wise men of the classic Hall in Park Street must have been struck at the phenomenon of their meek juvenile colleague with leaden eyes that seem to fear to meet the gaze of his seniors, boldly challenging the reading of the great Colebrook and the mighty Mitra. It is noteworthy that the irascible and pugnacious Rajendralala Mitra took the young knight's vicious thrust quietly. At the bar he had no opportunity; what he was capable of was shown in the far off Kol country. Leading the forlorn hope in behalf of one of the local Rajas—the Zemindar of Pandra on the banks of the Barakar, opposite to the Pachete Raj—he floored his father's friend and colleague at the old Sudder bar, the veteran Baboo Ashutosh Dhur, who pleaded his own cause. With his historic, ethnological, and anthropological love and his knowledge of comparative jurisprudence, Pandit started a perfectly original contention, out of the range of the ordinary lawyer, or any mere lawyer. Luckily he had a Sub-Judge—the lamented Ganganand Mookerjee—who was brave enough not to be scared away by the novelty of the argument of the brilliant young pleader and quite competent to grasp it. Of course he took time, but at last he accepted Pandit's view, which was subsequently upheld by the High Court. It would be too long to tell the story of Pandit's political activity—the many meetings he organized or helped in organising, the many speeches he made, the numerous

petitions he drew up or sent—while keeping himself in the background, from the days of the memorable if short-lived Indian League down to the Consent Bill agitation. It must be confessed that he too lost his head over the last business. He was the intellectual soul of the agitation—the chief draughtsman of the movement. The graduates' elaborate Protest was his composition, and he wrote many other arguments for the rotten cause. It was a prostitution of ability, but the ability was unquestionable.

In private life, he was good all round, in every relation, whether as son, as husband, as brother, as father, as master, as neighbour, or as friend.

#### ENGLISH MOSLEM INTELLIGENCE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Liverpool, 6th October, 1892.

The Oriental Congress at London brought many visitors to England from the East, and several of these have found their way to Liverpool. Amongst those who made a pilgrimage to the Northern seaport was the Honourable Ahmed Weke, chief of the Bureau of the Council of Ministers at Cairo, Egypt. He arrived in Liverpool on the 27th of September and stayed several days, visiting in that period the overhead railway, the Mersey tunnel, the art gallery, museum, Law Courts and other public buildings. On Tuesday evening he dined with Mr. Quilliam at his residence Fern Bank, Fairfield, and subsequently drove to the mosque where he took part in the Isha Nimaz, the Imaum on that occasion being Bro. L. Emin Nabakoff. On Wednesday he inspected the Moslem College, and was introduced to Professor Falkner, the Headmaster, and Mr. Hedley Haschim Wilde, the Vice-Principal, and to some of the elder pupils. The visitor expressed himself as highly pleased at the intelligent replies given by the scholars to his questions, and as to the mode in which the school was conducted. On Friday evening the Jumma services were conducted by Hadji Elasbi Gussus, formerly of Fez in the kingdom of Morocco but now residing in Liverpool.

On Sunday morning a public lecture was given by Bro. Hassan Rudford who took for his subject "My experiences when a Christian compared with those as a Moslem." The chair was taken by Bro. T. Omar Byrne (Hon. Secretary).

On Sunday evening a large audience assembled in the lecture hall to hear a lecture by Bro. Quilliam, the subject being "Islamic Proverbs." The lecture lasted over an hour, and was enlivened by many anecdotes illustrating how certain proverbs had their origin. The lecture concluded with a vivid description of the Caliph Omar's direction to his lieutenant to burn down a palace which one of his captains had erected as being an abuse of power, and his memorable saying "Purchase the next world with this so that thou shalt gain both," advice which the lecturer said could be as well followed now, as when it was given nearly thirteen centuries ago. The chair was occupied by Bro. H. H. Cotes, who sails this week for the West coast of Morocco.

On Monday the 3rd October, there sailed from Southampton for New York, His Excellency Ismail Hakki Bey, the Imperial Commissioner from the Porte to the Chicago Exhibition. His Excellency had intended to travel with his Secretary Fahri Bey to the United States via Liverpool, but not being able to obtain berths in the Liverpool liners, he was obliged to proceed by a steamer sailing from Southampton. His Excellency has proceeded to Chicago to assist in the preliminary ceremonies in connection with the Exhibition. He will return to Turkey via Liverpool, the first week in November. Fahri Bey, as second Commissioner, will remain in Chicago to superintend the arrival of the exhibits there.

ADAM IBN ADAM.

## SIR AUCKLAND COLVIN IN AND ON RAMPUR.

SIR Auckland Colvin had been to Rampur. Leaving Katgodam by special train he arrived at Bareilly in the afternoon of the 20th October. The same night the Lieutenant-Governor started for Moradabad en route for Rampur. Arriving there on the 21st, he was received by Major Vincent and the members of the Regency Council at the Kosi Bridge, the boundary of Rampur territory. In the afternoon, His Honor visited the new library where he was presented with addresses in Urdu, Persian and Sanskrit. After examining the more valuable Persian books, the whole party proceeded through the city, out to the cavalry lines, and there witnessed tent-pegging and several feats of horsemanship by the Rampur Cavalry. An official dinner, at which the members of Council and all the visitors were present, and fire works concluded the programme of the day. Next morning, on the 22nd, at 7, the Lieutenant-Governor took the round of the city, visiting the College, the High Schools, the new law courts, the hospital and the jail. A full durbar was held at eleven in the durbar hall in the Kurshed Munzil, where the trials for the murder of General Azim-ud-din took place. Sir Auckland Colvin made a long speech in Urdu of which the following is a translation :—

*Raies of Rampur*.—It was proper that before laying down the administration of these Provinces I should revisit Rampur, where I have not been for more than four years, in order that I might personally take leave of the family of the Nawab, of the *Raies* and officials of Rampur and of the Rampur people, with all of whom, since my accession to office, I have been so intimately concerned. During the four and a half years which have elapsed since I was here last events important to you have occurred and considerable changes have taken place. Of these changes, some have been permanent in their character, some are only temporary. I will speak first of the former.

The object of my former visit to Rampur was, you will remember, to place the late Nawab Mushtaq Ali Khan on the throne. Scarcely had he occupied it for a year when he was removed by the hand of Providence, leaving behind him two minor sons of whom I will say more presently. That was the first important event which occurred after my visit. The second incident was, as you know, the murder of the late Vice-President of the Council, General Azim-ud-din Khan Bahadur. This last event has led to grave results, and has for the space of more than a year caused disorder and confusion in the affairs of Rampur. In any circumstances, and had the late General been an officer appointed by the Rampur State, his murder must have led to vigorous inquiry, and to the punishment of those concerned. But it was the British Government which nominated General Azim-ud-din Khan to be Vice-President of the Council of Regency which was appointed to administer the affairs of Rampur at the late Nawab Mushtaq Ali Khan's death; and at the time of his murder the General was loyally discharging the duties of the office to which he had been thus appointed. The murder of the General was, therefore, a defiance aimed at the British Government which had nominated him; and it became necessary that retribution should be exacted from those who had ventured to assassinate its nominee. How the duty thus imposed on this Government has been discharged you are all aware. The plot which was formed to take away the General's life has been laid bare: some of those who joined in it being proved guilty, after a prolonged and impartial investigation and trial, have been executed; while others who were implicated by the evidence given at that trial have absconded, and may therefore be held to fear to present themselves before the courts, and to accept, if proved guilty, the consequences of their acts. Meanwhile, their property is in the hands of the State, and their situation is one which those among you (if there be any) who may have sympathised with their object or were cognisant of their plans, may now contemplate and consider with advantage. The murder of a high officer appointed by the British Government to a seat in a Council of Regency in a Native State is an outrage which will never be allowed to pass with impunity, no matter what may be the influence of those concerned in it, or the apathy, or timidity of those in whose midst the murder was planned and committed.

These, then, are the two incidents of a permanent kind which have occurred since 1888, viz., the death of the late Nawab Mushtaq Ali Khan, and the murder of the late General Azim-ud-din Khan Bahadur. They have led again to further results, which, however important they may be, are in their nature temporary, and of which I will now speak. The chief result has been the substitution of an English officer as President of the Council in the place of the member of the Rampur family who, up to the time of the murder of the late Vice-President, filled that post. You will remember that on a previous occasion I expressed my wish that Rampur should be governed by men of the same country and the same religion as those of its inhabitants. If that is not wholly now the case, it is not the fault of this Government. When the late Council was dissolved by the murder of its Vice-President, authority in Rampur was paralysed. So apparently successful and so terrible a crime made men doubt the ability of the Administration to reimpose and to maintain the obedience which it is necessary that a Govern-

ment should exact from its subjects. In Rampur it was evident that a suitable head to the Government would not be found; and after most careful enquiries I came most reluctantly to the conclusion that outside Rampur no competent Mussalman candidate offered himself for the difficult task of administering Rampur, to whom I could with confidence entrust it. I therefore selected Major Vincent, who, during his term of office, has completely reimposed the authority which recent events had shaken; has assisted in exposing the plot which led to the murder of the late General; has conciliated those who were the enemies of the State or of the family; and with the help of his colleagues, Ali Hassan, Khan Bahadur, and Nawab Yar Jang, has inspired into all branches of the Administration that vigour and energy which is necessary to good government and to success. It is due to his firmness and to his tact that affairs in Rampur have resumed their ordinary course, and that every man now follows his employment without fear of violence or of oppression. The assistance given to the Council by the officials subordinate to it—by Mr. Wright perhaps more particularly—deserves also my acknowledgments.

A railway is about to be brought to your gates; the telegraph has connected you with the rest of India; your roads, bridges, and your canals have received due attention; your city has been protected from the floods of the Kosi, and its drainage has been greatly improved.

But valuable as have been the labours of Major Vincent and of his colleagues, they have for their aims, as you know, the substitution in due time of the authority of Nawab Hamid Ali Khan, for that of the present Council of Regency. You are aware that the education of the young Nawab, who has now entered on his 18th year, and of his younger brother, Nasir Ali Khan, has been a source of constant care to me and that it has been my object, while imparting to the Nawab a competent knowledge of the English language, and some acquaintance with its literature, to provide for his instruction in the Persian and Arabic languages to the degree which is required by your customs and which is expected by you of your Rulers. It is a source of great pleasure to me to be able to say that Nawab Hamid Ali Khan has fully profited by the opportunities placed within his reach; has proved himself to be possessed of excellent capacity and to be endowed with those qualities of temper, good sense, sagacity, and self-discipline which are essential to successful rule. The Government of India has approved the proposal of this Government that the Nawab should now extend his education by taking a voyage for a few months to other countries; and it has therefore been arranged that in March next he should leave India for eight or nine months, in order to visit China, Japan, America, England, and the principal cities of Europe. He will be accompanied by persons selected from among you whose presence will be a guarantee that the requirements of your customs and of your religion will be complied with; and he will return to India before the close of 1893, a Pathan of Rampur as he will leave it, but with his mind enlarged, his experience greatly increased, and with extensive observation of other countries which will be useful to him in the government of his own State.

I have further been authorized by the Government of India to inform you that if the condition of affairs in Rampur continues to be satisfactory (it is for me to see to that), it is the intention of that Government that the Nawab, shortly after his return from his travels, should be placed on the throne of Rampur with such temporary conditions and restrictions as to the exercise of his authority as are customary in the case of Princes of his age, and are necessary in order to safeguard them in the commencement of their rule from the consequence of their own inexperience or from the evil counsels of designing men. The precise nature of the precautions to be adopted, until the Nawab shall have acquired further experience and attained to a somewhat maturer age, will be for the later consideration of the Government of India. Meanwhile you will be glad to learn that before long has passed you may count on having your Nawab again resident amongst you, and resuming, I hope, in the hearts of his people the place which was so long and so worthily held by his regretted grandfather, the late Nawab Kalb Ali Khan.

Now, *Raies*, I take leave of you. It is a pleasure to me to believe that during my term of office it has been permitted to me to reintroduce stability into Rampur affairs, which, after the death of Nawab Kalb Ali Khan, had fallen into so great confusion; and to re-establish a good understanding which was so sorely needed between the Council of State and the chief members of his family. I have been enabled to bring to justice violent and bloody men, whose deeds as you know, whatever may be said to the contrary by unprincipled or interested advisers, are condemned both by your law and by your religion as they are by our own. I have caused your Nawab to be educated with the most scrupulous and conscientious care, and his brother is being equally carefully educated. Believe me, I have discharged to the best of my abilities the trust imposed by Providence upon me on behalf of the State, the family, and the people. I wish you all farewell, and prosperity to the State of Rampur and to its future ruler,

whose career, in later years, will, I trust, illustrate to you all the advantages which he has derived from the careful education imparted to him, and from the vigilant control exercised over him at the time of life when it was most essential.

### ONE QUEEN, ONE FLAG, ONE COIN.

Recently Dr. John Pollen, of the Bombay Civil Service, approached the Dublin Chamber of Commerce on the subject of the danger to commerce arising from the violent fluctuations in the value of the rupee. He said he drew their attention to the subject in no petty personal spirit. It was true that, in common with other servants of the Crown in India who had families at home, he had a distinct personal grievance, but he never suffered himself to forget that he served, and drew the pay of, the people of India, and that the prosperity of millions of his Indian paymasters was a much more important matter than the prosperity of a mere handful of Indian Civil servants. If the fall in the value of the rupee had proved beneficial to India and the people of India, it would be the duty of the servants of India to hold their peace and let the benefit go on—nay, to actively aid in reducing the value of the rupee down to a penny, or less. But if the present state of things with regard to the rupee had, as even the cautious and far-seeing Bombay Chamber of Commerce admitted, proved disastrous to the development of the resources of India, then it became the bounden duty of every public servant of India to do his best to remedy the mischief. Dr. Pollen then proceeded to point out that the inflow of British capital into India has been seriously checked, and that the construction of railways (notably the one connecting Delhi—the heart of the Empire—with the nearest seaport, Karachi) had been transferred; that the calculations of the most prudent traders had been upset, and that the greatest confusion and uncertainty reigned throughout the commercial centres of the Empire, the currency of India being at the mercy of American Silver Kings, rings, and intriguers. This state of things was discreditable to British Administration, and, in the interest of the Empire at large and of the people of India in particular, a remedy must be found, and found promptly. For his own part he believed in the "One Queen, one flag, and one coin" principle. He was alive to all the difficulties, and, above all, to the enormous expense involved; but the great change had become imperative, and ought to be made. The step was, no doubt, a great one to take; but it would make the British Empire greater, and he trusted that British administration would not fail "through craven fears of being great." A Dalhousie would not have hesitated to make the change, and the British Government would have done well to have listened years ago (when the rupee was worth two shillings) to the advice of Sir Richard Temple, who, acting on the suggestion of a clearheaded Irish financier, urged the introduction of a gold standard into India. Dr. Pollen considered the paucity of Irishmen at the Councils of the Government of India at the present moment was deeply to be regretted, for Irishmen possessed a capacity for dealing with financial questions in an imperial spirit—a capacity denied to the cautious Scotchman or calculating Anglo-Saxon. Dr. Pollen thought that the difficulty and dangers attending the introduction of the gold standard into India had been greatly exaggerated. The country people of France were as much given to hoarding as the rayyets of India; yet the "Napoleon" did not disappear from currency. And there was really no reason why the sovereign, once introduced, should not circulate as freely in India as in other parts of the British Empire. He ridiculed the idea that sufficient gold for currency in India would not be forthcoming. It would not come with a rush, but it would come in a steady, everwidening stream. On the grounds that introduction of the gold standard would benefit "India of the Indians" and the Empire at large, he urged the Dublin Chamber of Commerce to support the principle of "one Queen, one flag, one coin," and to pronounce against all other patchwork remedies.

### MAHOMEDAN PROPAGANDA IN AMERICA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

Sir,—For the last two years I have been in correspondence with Mr. Alexander Webb, the United States Consul at Manilla. Mr. Webb has fully studied the religious systems of the East, and being convinced of the truth of Islam he has embraced this faith. By his last letter and a telegram he informs me that he has resigned the post of Consul General at Manilla, and has started for America, *via* Burma and India, to establish a mission at New York for the propagation of the Islam faith on the American continent.

As the subject has attracted a great deal of attention in this country, I think, Sir, that the scheme of American propaganda, framed by Mr. Webb, as well as his last letter to me, may be fitly placed before the public at this juncture.

More than seven thousand rupees have been already collected at Hyderabad, Deccan, and it is evident that in this epoch-making last decade of the nineteenth century the Islamic world is fully prepared to push its triumphs in the Western world through the refined instruments of persuasion and preaching.

Let it, however, be said to the credit of the English race that without their noble instincts of justice, love of truth, and moral courage, the task of propagating Islam in their enlightened country would be simply hopeless.—Yours &c.,

Bombay, September 12.

BUDRUDIN ABDULLA KUR.

Consulate of the United States of America at Manilla, Philippine Islands, Manilla July 4, 1892.

Budrudin Abdulla Kur, Esq., Bombay.

My dear Brother,—Your letter, dated the 1st ultimo, and enclosing one from our esteemed brother, Abdulla Arab, is at hand. It gives me great pleasure to know that you are taking such an active interest in the proposed American mission, which, I feel assured now, will be a pronounced success. I am fully satisfied that when the Mahomedans of India thoroughly understand the nature of the movement and the character of the field in which it is to be established, together with its possible effects upon the propaganda in Europe, and upon the Moslem organization in the East, they will give it their most earnest and active support. To me, it is in no sense an experiment likely to result in failure, for I know the general tendency of thought in my country and the general characteristics of my countrymen too well to entertain for a moment the idea that anything but success is possible. Besides I have faith in the power and wisdom of Almighty God (Praised be His name for ever), and as Islam is the true religion I feel confident that He will guide, direct and support a movement for its propagation which promised such great results as this. I have for several years been convinced that there were unseen influences at work bringing about a condition of things calculated to overthrow the current erroneous religious systems of the world and establish mankind in the one true system. But what that system was to be was to me uncertain until I arrived at a comprehension of the character and doctrines of Islam. I have had some strange experiences of which I hope to have the privilege of talking with you soon, and which have seemed to me as evidence that God was guiding me for some great and wise purpose, the ultimate object of which was the spiritual benefit of mankind. I do not desire to give you the impression that I believe I have been inspired directly, but circumstances have so shaped themselves in my life that they have drawn me directly toward the movement in which I am about to engage with all the earnestness, vigour, and intellectual ability that God has given me. As I wrote to you more than a year ago it seemed that I was destined to work out quietly, and in my own way the bringing of my countrymen to a knowledge of Islam, and it hardly seemed probable then that any other way was open. But God in his wisdom has opened a broader, surer, and better way generally, and I can see clearly how I am to devote my efforts to bring about more speedily and thoroughly the desired results. I am impatient to meet you and talk freely with you concerning the matter, for I feel sure that you will agree with me not only that the object is of the grandest importance, but that there has been something more than ordinary human agencies at work in bringing the project to its present condition. God is great, and will surely guide His servants in the right way.

I have sent my resignation to my Government, and I am awaiting instructions as to the disposition of the office and effects. If I am obliged to remain here until my successor arrives, I will be unable to leave before about the 1st of October, but if I am authorized to turn the office over to some one here I can leave the latter part of August or early in September. I will then start for Bombay *via* Singapore, Rangoon and Calcutta. My wife and family left for the United States on the 8th of last month, and will go to a fruit ranch about 40 miles from San Francisco, where they will remain until I am fairly settled in New York.

The books you sent me have been a source of the deepest interest to me, and I have learned a great deal that was new to me, concerning the diversity and general direction of Mussulman thought and opinions. I understand that you do not endorse all the views, and the opinions expressed and judging from your marginal notes I am inclined to the belief that you and I will not be very far apart in our views. I have, or think I have, a good conception of the spirit of Mahomed's teachings and the fundamental principles of Islam. Hence I am forced to reject many of the opinions I have encountered. Hughes' Dictionary of Islam abounds with prejudice and error, and there are some suggestions made by Syed Amcer Ali that I can hardly endorse. The critical exposition of the Jihad is a most important and interesting work to me, but it ought to be rewritten and revised, so that its English will be smoother and more concise. But in his treatment of the subject the author has furnished me with matter which will be of inestimable value to me when I begin active work in America. But of these matters I hope, if it is God's pleasure, to talk with you when we meet. God grant that the hearts and minds of our brethren in India may be opened, and that those who are able to do so will give us as much literary help as they can.

Praying that the peace of God and His richest blessings may be with you here and hereafter, I am, your obedient brother,

ALEXANDER RUSSELL WEBB.

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## THE AGE OF CONSENT BILL.

THE following publications by the Calcutta Committee in support of the Age of Consent Bill may be had from the Secretaries of the Committee at their office, No. 12, Wellington Square, at No. 1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane, and at 12, Lal Bazar Street.

1. On the Legislation of the Rishis and the Age of Consent Bill. One anna.
2. The Memorial to the Viceroy. Half anna.
3. The Bengali translation of the Memorial. Half anna.
4. The Oordoo translation of the Memorial. Half anna.
5. The *Garbhadhan Vyavasta* by Pandit Ramnath Tarkaratna (of Santipore), author of *Vasudeb Bijya*. (a Sanskrit epic) and Pandit attached to the Asiatic Society, Bengal. One anna.
6. Abstract of the *Vyavasta* in English with notes by Nyalankar Nilmani Mookerjee, M.A., B.L., Professor of Sanskrit, Presidency College, and a preface by the President of the Committee. Half anna.

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A LECTURE delivered at the Albert Hall on the 4th September last by Babu Debendra Nath Mukherji, and published by Babu Mati Lal Haldar, B. L., Munsiff, Alipore. To be had at No. 2/2 Raja Naba Krishna's Street, Calcutta, on sending three half anna postage stamps to Babu Gopal Chandra Mukherji for price and postage.

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**OBJECTS.**—The main objects of the Company are:—(1) the erection and establishment of a Theatre in the heart of the town, and in the best modern style of comfort, elegance, completeness and finish; (2) the advancement of the Drama, and all the Fine Arts connected with it, and the encouragement of Talent, especially new Talent, by a tasteful and correct presentation of the choicest works of the age or day; (3) the elevation of the Stage into an honourable calling by the elimination from it of all that is low and degraded, or, in any way, objectionable; and (4) the printing, publication and issue of plays, pamphlets, leaflets, journals and magazines, likely to further the interests of the Company in any regard, and, generally, the sale of all books and stationery, &c.

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**BANKERS.**—The New Oriental Bank Corporation, Ltd.

Full details in the Prospectus, which contains letters of sympathy and support from the most eminent personages in the land. The following, among others, are our principal

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Babu Jagannohan Bhattacharyya, Deputy Magistrate, Burdwan,  
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Wanted active and pushing Agents everywhere for the above Company. Cash security required Rs. 250, (each).

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Small, accurate, strong, pretty, keyless, open-faced, nickel silver, short winding, "Undaunted" watch, with hand setting mechanism, secondhand, enamelled bold dial, jewelled, for Rs. 6 V. P. P. with extra glass, spring, box and two years' guarantee. Warranted to stand the roughest use. Have no appearance of cheapness. Easily repairable. Others sell at double our rates. One watch free for 8. Mr. S. Gooniah of District Munsiff's Court from Chicacole says:—"A watchmaker valued it at Rs. 25." Pie D. Asquith of Lanc. Regt. from Sitapur says:—"I sold it for Rs. 10-8-0." Mr. Moungh H. Myah of Marine Workshop from Mandalay says:—"Has never been repaired during the whole period of three and a half years." Beware of worthless imitation. See the word "Undaunted" on the watch. No agents kept. All goods sent only by us from Bombay.

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DROIT ET AVANT.

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

LITERATURE

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1892

No. 547

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### THE SINGER'S PRIZE.

Her face grows lower grimly,  
Her eyes grow darker and rain;  
Her lips grow paler and dimly  
Her hair grows more and more grey.

Her face grows lower and her fingers,  
Her eyes grow darker and the light,  
Her lips grow paler and her fingers,  
Her hair grows more and more grey.

Her bright young face is sunken,  
And fainter gentle breath;  
Her fair young form is shrunken,  
To fit the robes of death.

And I think of the woodland shadows  
That she has never seen;  
Of the wonder of song in the meadows,  
When all the world is green.

But now the close lips quiver,  
The nimble hands are slow,—  
The voice she dreams of ever  
Rings in the room below.

The mad young poet is singing,  
With only a crust to eat;  
But a fountain of light is springing  
Up from the narrow street.

And whether he sings in sorrow,  
Or whether he sings in glee,  
He hopes that the world to-morrow  
Will list to his melody.

And I think though his heart were burning  
With words no man e'er said,  
The world would be turning and turning  
If to-morrow he were dead.

Only, both late and early,  
The girl, as maidens will,  
Dreams when the voice comes clearly  
Up to her window-sill.

A brave face has she found him,  
A manner frank and gay,  
And long ago has crowned him  
With myrtle wreath or bay.

A good sword clanging loudly,  
A plume on waving hair,  
A cloak that drapes him proudly,  
Such as the players wear.

So whether in grief or sadness,  
He sings, he has won the prize,  
When he brings the light of gladness  
To a dying maiden's eyes.

—Blackwood.

J. R. S.

## WEEKLY NEWS.

THE last week of the last month was a dark one in Bengal. It was signalled by the discharge of a bombshell in the street of Calcutta. It was not only sudden, but entirely and absolutely unexpected. Notwithstanding any powers reserved in obscure corners of the statute-book, the country was not prepared to believe that any Government in India under the control of the British Parliament could surprise a British Province of a morning with the withdrawal of British troops and as much prized by Englishmen and despised by our people as the British Empire. It seems yet a dream:—

"The 20th October 1892.—It is hereby notified for general information that, in the exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 269 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to modify the orders contained in the notifications, dated the 7th January, the 27th May, and the 13th October 1862, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 8th January, the 28th May, and the 15th October 1862, respectively, under which offences defined in the following chapters of the Indian Penal Code, viz.—

Chapter VIII (offences against the public tranquility),  
" XI (false evidence and offences against public justice),  
" XVI (offences affecting the human body),  
" XVII (offences against property), and  
" XVIII (offences relating to documents and to trade or property marks), and abetments of, and attempts to commit, such offences, are declared to be triable by jury in any Court of Sessions established in the districts of the 24 Parganas, Hooghly, Burdwan, Murshidabad, Nadia, Patna, and Dacca; and hereby revokes so much of the aforesaid orders as apply to offences defined in the following chapters of the Indian Penal Code, viz.—  
Chapter VIII (offences against the public tranquility),  
" XVI (offences affecting the human body), with the exception of sections 363 to 369 (kidnapping and abduction), 372 (selling a minor for purposes of prostitution, &c.), 373 (buying a minor for purposes of prostitution, &c.), and 376 (rape), and  
" XVIII (offences relating to documents and to trade or property marks).

These orders shall take effect from and after the 1st November 1892.

The Lieutenant-Governor is further pleased, in exercise of the powers conferred on him under section 269 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, to direct that from and after the 1st November 1892 all offences defined in Chapter XX of the Indian Penal Code (offences relating to marriage), and abetments of, and attempts to commit, such offences, shall be triable by jury in any Court of Sessions established in the districts named above.

H. J. S. COTTON,  
Chief Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal."

The order made on the 20th October, and gazetted on the 26th October, has the force of law from the 1st November, before the country is even aware of it. This is revolutionary celerity indeed, not unbecoming the bloodless *coup d'état*.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

LET us understand the situation on which we are thrown, and take account of profit and loss.

The offences declared in 1862 to be triable by jury are 209 in number, namely,

|                                                                                                                          |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Chapter VIII., I. P. C., Sections 143 to 145 and 147 to 160                                                              | 16 |
| Chapter XI. ... 193 to 225, 225A, and 226 to 229                                                                         | 38 |
| Chapter XVI. ... 302 to 304, 304A, 305 to 309, 311 to 318, 323 to 338, 341 to 348 352 to 358, 363 to 374, 376 and 377... | 62 |
| Chapter XVII. ... 379 to 382, 384 to 389, 392 to 404, 406 to 409, 411 to 414, 417 to 424, 426 to 440, 447 to 462         | 70 |
| Chapter XVIII. ... 465 to 469, 471 to 477, 482 to 492                                                                    | 23 |
| Those revoked are 91, namely,                                                                                            |    |
| Chapter VIII. ...                                                                                                        | 16 |
| Chapter XVI. ...                                                                                                         | 52 |
| Chapter XVIII. ...                                                                                                       | 23 |

The concession is for 6.

Sir Charles Elliott gives 6 while he takes away 91. The balance against him therefore is 124. This is sweeping like a new broom, to be sure—with a vengeance! Nay, he is a patent steam broom which sweeps over vast areas with indiscriminate fury. The next step, we believe, will be, if Sir Charles Elliott is allowed to sweep away, to abolish the Courts and try all accused in the Secretariat.

The notification of the 7th January 1862, under orders of the Lieutenant-Governor Sir John P. Grant and the hand of Mr. Secretary E. H. Lushington, declared that the trial of the offences in Chapters 8, 11, 16 and 17 of the Indian Penal Code in any Sessions Court in the districts of the 24-Pergunnahs, Hooghly, Burdwan, Moorshedabad, Nuddea, Patna and Dacca should be by jury.

In the notification of the 27th May, 1862, the privilege of trial by jury was, in continuation of that of the 7th January, enlarged by order of Sir Cecil Beadon, K.C.S.I., in those districts in regard to offences under Chapter XVIII of the Indian Penal Code. By a further order in October following, the jury trial was made applicable to abetments of, and attempts to commit, the said offences in the said districts.

Sir Charles Elliott, through the Hon'ble H. J. S. Cotton, now condemns the previous notifications of Sir John P. Grant and Sir Cecil Beadon as blunders and sets himself to rectify them.

We give below the offences with their punishments which the present Government declares not triable by jury:—

| Section. | Offence.                                                                                                                              | Punishment.                                                                                              |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 143...   | Being member of an unlawful assembly.                                                                                                 | Imprisonment of either description for 6 months, or fine or both.                                        |
| 144...   | Joining an unlawful assembly armed with any deadly weapon.                                                                            | Imprisonment of either description for 2 years, or fine or both.                                         |
| 145...   | Joining or continuing in an unlawful assembly, knowing that it has been commanded to disperse.                                        | Imprisonment of either description for 3 years, or fine or both.                                         |
| 147...   | Rioting.                                                                                                                              | Imprisonment of either description for 3 years, or fine or both.                                         |
| 148...   | Rioting, armed with a deadly weapon.                                                                                                  | Imprisonment of either description for 3 years, or fine or both.                                         |
| 149...   | If an offence be committed by any member of an unlawful assembly, every other member of such assembly shall be guilty of the offence. | The same as for the offence.                                                                             |
| 150...   | Hiring, engaging or employing persons to take part in an unlawful assembly.                                                           | The same as for a member of such assembly, and for any offence committed by any member of such assembly. |
| 151...   | Knowingly joining or continuing in any assembly of five or more persons after it has been commanded to disperse.                      | Imprisonment of either description for 6 months, or fine or both.                                        |
| 152...   | Assaulting or obstructing public servant when suppressing riot, &c.                                                                   | Imprisonment of either description for 3 years, or fine or both.                                         |
| 153...   | Wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot, if rioting be committed.                                                       | Imprisonment of either description for 1 year, or fine or both.                                          |
|          | If not committed                                                                                                                      | Imprisonment of either description for 6 months, or fine, or both.                                       |
| 154...   | Owner or occupier of land not giving information of riot, &c.                                                                         | Fine of 1,000 rupees.                                                                                    |
| 155...   | Person for whose benefit or on whose behalf a riot takes place not using all lawful means to prevent it.                              | Fine.                                                                                                    |
| 156...   | Agent of owner or occupier for whose benefit a riot is committed not using all lawful means to prevent it.                            | Fine.                                                                                                    |
| 157...   | Harbouring persons hired for an unlawful assembly.                                                                                    | Imprisonment of either description for 6 months, or fine, or both.                                       |
| 158...   | Being hired to take part in an unlawful assembly or riot.                                                                             | Imprisonment of either description for 6 months, or fine, or both.                                       |

|         |                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                        |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 158...  | Or to go armed                                                                                                                                                                     | Imprisonment of either description for 2 years, or fine or both.                       |
| 160...  | Committing affray                                                                                                                                                                  | Imprisonment of either description for 1 month, or fine of 100 rupees, or both.        |
| 302...  | Murder                                                                                                                                                                             | Death or transportation for life, and fine.                                            |
| 303...  | Murder by a person under sentence of transportation for life.                                                                                                                      | Death.                                                                                 |
| 304...  | Culpable homicide not amounting to murder, if act by which the death is caused is done with intention of causing death, &c.                                                        | Transportation for life or imprisonment of either description for 10 years, and fine.  |
|         | If act is done with knowledge that it is likely to cause death, but without any intention to cause death, &c.                                                                      | Imprisonment of either description for 10 years, or fine, or both.                     |
| 304A... | Causing death by rash or negligent act.                                                                                                                                            | Imprisonment of either description for two years, or fine or both.                     |
| 305...  | Abetment of suicide committed by a child, or insane or delirious person, or an idiot, or a person intoxicated.                                                                     | Death, or transportation for life, or imprisonment for 10 years, and fine.             |
| 306...  | Abetting the commission of suicide.                                                                                                                                                | Imprisonment of either description for 10 years and fine.                              |
| 307...  | Attempt to murder                                                                                                                                                                  | Transportation for life, or as above.                                                  |
|         | If such act cause hurt to any person.                                                                                                                                              | Death, or as above.                                                                    |
|         | Attempt by life-convict to murder, if hurt is caused.                                                                                                                              | Death, or as above.                                                                    |
| 308...  | Attempt to commit culpable homicide.                                                                                                                                               | Imprisonment of either description for 3 years, or fine or both.                       |
|         | If such act cause hurt to any person.                                                                                                                                              | Imprisonment of either description for 7 years, or fine or both.                       |
| 309...  | Attempt to commit suicide                                                                                                                                                          | Simple imprisonment for one year or fine or both.                                      |
| 311...  | Being a thug                                                                                                                                                                       | Transportation for life and fine.                                                      |
| 312...  | Causing miscarriage                                                                                                                                                                | Imprisonment of either description for 3 years, or fine or both.                       |
|         | If the woman be quick with child                                                                                                                                                   | Imprisonment of either description for 7 years and fine.                               |
| 313...  | Causing miscarriage without woman's consent.                                                                                                                                       | Transportation for life, or imprisonment of either description for 10 years and fine.  |
| 314...  | Death caused by an act done with intent to cause miscarriage.                                                                                                                      | Imprisonment of either description for 10 years and fine.                              |
|         | If act done without woman's consent.                                                                                                                                               | Transportation for life, or as above.                                                  |
| 315...  | Act done with intent to prevent a child being born alive, or to cause it to die after its birth.                                                                                   | Imprisonment of either description for 10 years, or fine or both.                      |
| 316...  | Causing death of a quick unborn child by an act amounting to culpable homicide.                                                                                                    | Imprisonment of either description for 10 years and fine.                              |
| 317...  | Exposure of a child under 12 years of age by parent or person having care of it, with intention of wholly abandoning it.                                                           | Imprisonment of either description for 7 years, or fine or both.                       |
| 318...  | Concealment of birth by secret disposal of dead body.                                                                                                                              | Imprisonment of either description for 2 years, or fine, or both.                      |
| 323...  | Voluntarily causing hurt                                                                                                                                                           | Imprisonment of either description for one year, or fine of 1,000 rupees, or both.     |
| 324...  | Voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means.                                                                                                                            | Imprisonment of either description for 3 years, or fine, or both.                      |
| 325...  | Voluntarily causing grievous hurt                                                                                                                                                  | Imprisonment of either description for 7 years and fine.                               |
| 326...  | Voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means.                                                                                                                   | Transportation for life, or imprisonment of either description for 10 years, and fine. |
| 327...  | Voluntarily causing hurt to extort property or a valuable security, or to constrain to do anything which is illegal or which may facilitate the commission of an offence.          | Imprisonment of either description for 10 years and fine.                              |
| 328...  | Administering stupefying drug with intent to cause hurt, &c.                                                                                                                       | Imprisonment of either description for 10 years and fine.                              |
| 329...  | Voluntarily causing grievous hurt to extort property or a valuable security, or to constrain to do anything which is illegal or which may facilitate the commission of an offence. | Transportation for life, or imprisonment of either description for 10 years, and fine. |
| 330...  | Voluntarily causing hurt to extort confession or information, or to compel restoration of property, &c.                                                                            | Imprisonment of either description for 7 years, and fine.                              |

|                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 331...Voluntarily causing grievous hurt to extort confession or information, or to compel restoration of property, &c.                    | Imprisonment of either description for 10 years, and fine.                                           | 467...Forgery of a valuable security, will or authority to make or transfer any valuable security, or to receive any money, &c.<br>When the valuable security is a promissory note of the Government of India.                                                                                 | Transportation for life, or imprisonment of either description for 10 years, and fine.           |
| 332...Voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from his duty.                                                                     | Imprisonment of either description for 3 years, or fine, or both.                                    | 468...Forgery for the purpose of cheating.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Imprisonment of either description for 7 years and fine.                                         |
| 333...Voluntarily causing grievous hurt to deter public servant from his duty.                                                            | Imprisonment of either description for 10 years and fine.                                            | 469...Forgery for the purpose of harming the reputation of any person, or knowing that it is likely to be used for that purpose.                                                                                                                                                               | Imprisonment of either description for 3 years, and fine.                                        |
| 334...Voluntarily causing hurt on grave and sudden provocation, not intending to hurt any other than the person who gave the provocation. | Imprisonment of either description for 1 month, or fine of 500 rupees, or both.                      | 471...Using as genuine a forged document which is known to be forged.<br>When the forged document is a promissory note of the Government of India.                                                                                                                                             | Punishment for forgery.                                                                          |
| 335...Causing grievous hurt on grave and sudden provocation, not intending to hurt any other than the person who gave the provocation.    | Imprisonment of either description for 4 years, or fine of 2,000 rupees, or both.                    | 472...Making or counterfeiting a seal, plate, &c., with intent to commit a forgery punishable under section 467 of the Indian Penal Code, or possessing with like intent any such seal, plate, &c., knowing the same to be counterfeit.                                                        | Transportation for life, or imprisonment of either description for 7 years and fine.             |
| 336...Doing any act which endangers human life or the personal safety of others.                                                          | Imprisonment of either description for 3 months, or fine of 250 rupees, or both.                     | 473...Making or counterfeiting a seal, plate, &c., with intent to commit a forgery punishable otherwise than under section 467 of the Indian Penal Code, or possessing with like intent any such seal, plate, &c., knowing the same to be counterfeit.                                         | Imprisonment of either description for 7 years and fine.                                         |
| 337...Causing hurt by an act which endangers human life, &c.                                                                              | Imprisonment of either description for 6 months, or fine of 500 rupees, or both.                     | 474...Having possession of a document, knowing it to be forged, with intent to use it as genuine; if the document is one of the description mentioned in section 466 of the Indian Penal Code.<br>If the document is one of the description mentioned in section 467 of the Indian Penal Code. | Transportation for life, or imprisonment of either description for 7 years, and fine.            |
| 338...Causing grievous hurt by an act which endangers human life, &c.                                                                     | Imprisonment of either description for 2 years, or fine of 1,000 rupees, or both.                    | 475...Counterfeiting a device or mark used for authenticating documents described in section 467 of the Indian Penal Code, or possessing counterfeit marked material.                                                                                                                          | Imprisonment of either description for 7 years, and fine.                                        |
| 341...Wrongfully restraining any person.                                                                                                  | Simple imprisonment for 1 month, or fine of 500 rupees, or both.                                     | 476...Counterfeiting a device or mark used for authenticating documents other than those described in section 467 of the Indian Penal Code, or possessing counterfeit marked material.                                                                                                         | Imprisonment of either description for 7 years, and fine.                                        |
| 342...Wrongfully confining any person ...                                                                                                 | Imprisonment of either description for one year, or fine of 1,000 rupees, or both.                   | 477...Fraudulently destroying or defacing, or attempting to destroy or deface, or secreting, a will, &c.                                                                                                                                                                                       | Transportation for life, or imprisonment of either description for 7 years, and fine.            |
| 343...Wrongfully confining for three or more days.                                                                                        | Imprisonment of either description for 2 years and fine.                                             | 482...Using a false trade or property-mark with intent to deceive or injure any person.                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Imprisonment of either description for 1 year or fine, or both.                                  |
| 344...Wrongfully confining for ten or more days.                                                                                          | Imprisonment of either description for 3 years and fine.                                             | 483...Counterfeiting a trade or property-mark used by another, with intent to cause damage or injury.                                                                                                                                                                                          | Imprisonment of either description for 2 years, or fine, or both.                                |
| 345...Keeping any person in wrongful confinement, knowing that a writ has been issued for his liberation.                                 | Imprisonment of either description for 2 years, in addition to imprisonment under any other section. | 484...Counterfeiting a property-mark used by a public servant, or any mark used by him to denote the manufacture, quality, &c., of any property.                                                                                                                                               | Imprisonment of either description for 3 years and fine.                                         |
| 346...Wrongful confinement in secret ...                                                                                                  |                                                                                                      | 485...Fraudulently making or having possession of any die, plate, or other instrument for counterfeiting any public or private property or trade-mark.                                                                                                                                         | Imprisonment of either description for 3 years, or fine, or both.                                |
| 347...Wrongful confinement for the purpose of extorting property, or constraining to do an illegal act, &c.                               | Imprisonment of either description for 3 years and fine.                                             | 486...Knowingly selling goods marked with a counterfeit property or trade-mark.                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Imprisonment of either description for 1 year, or fine, or both.                                 |
| 348...Wrongful confinement for the purpose of extorting confession or information, or of compelling restoration of property, &c.          | Imprisonment of either description for 3 months, or fine of 500 rupees, or both.                     | 487...Fraudulently making a false mark upon any package or receptacle containing goods, with intent to cause it to be believed that it contains goods which it does not contain, &c.                                                                                                           | Imprisonment of either description for 3 years, or fine, or both.                                |
| 352...Assault or use of criminal force otherwise than on grave provocation.                                                               | Imprisonment of either description for 3 months, or fine of 500 rupees, or both.                     | 488...Making use of any such false mark.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Imprisonment of either description for 1 year, or fine, or both.                                 |
| 353...Assault or use of criminal force to deter a public servant from discharge of his duty.                                              |                                                                                                      | 489...Removing, destroying or defacing any property-mark with intent to cause injury.                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Imprisonment of either description for 1 year, or fine, or both.                                 |
| 354...Assault or use of criminal force to a woman with intent to outrage her modesty.                                                     | Imprisonment of either description for 2 years, or fine, or both.                                    | 490...Being bound by contract to render personal service during a voyage or journey, or to convey or guard any property or person, and voluntarily omitting to do so.                                                                                                                          | Imprisonment of either description for 1 month, or fine of 100 rupees, or both.                  |
| 355...Assault or criminal force with intent to dishonour a person, otherwise than on grave and sudden provocation.                        |                                                                                                      | 491...Being bound to attend on or supply the wants of a person who is helpless from youth, unsoundness of mind or disease, and voluntarily omitting to do so.                                                                                                                                  | Imprisonment of either description for 3 months, or fine of 200 rupees, or both.                 |
| 356...Assault or criminal force in attempt to commit theft of property worn or carried by a person.                                       | Imprisonment of either description for 1 year, or fine of 1,000 rupees, or both.                     | 492...Being bound by a contract to render personal service for a certain period at a distant place to which the employé is conveyed at the expense of the employer, and voluntarily deserting the service or refusing to perform the duty.                                                     | Imprisonment of either description for 1 month, or fine of double the expense incurred, or both. |
| 357...Assault or use of criminal force in attempt wrongfully to confine a person.                                                         | Simple imprisonment for 1 month, or fine of 200 rupees, or both.                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                  |
| 358...Assault or use of criminal force on grave and sudden provocation.                                                                   | Imprisonment of either description for 7 years and fine.                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                  |
| 370...Buying or disposing of any person as a slave.                                                                                       | Transportation for life, or imprisonment of either description for 10 years, and fine.               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                  |
| 371...Habitual dealing in slaves ...                                                                                                      | Imprisonment of either description for 1 year, or fine, or both.                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                  |
| 374...Unlawful compulsory labour ...                                                                                                      | Transportation for life, or imprisonment of either description for 10 years, and fine.               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                  |
| 377...Unnatural offences ...                                                                                                              | Imprisonment of either description for 2 years, or fine or both.                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                  |
| 465...Forgery ...                                                                                                                         | Imprisonment of either description for 7 years and fine.                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                  |
| 466...Forgery of a record of a Court of Justice or of a Register of births, &c., kept by a public servant.                                |                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                  |

## NOTES &amp; LEADERETTES

with  
OUR OWN NEWS.

FROM almost the beginning of the month of October, the unsteadiness of the atmospheric pressure was very noticeable. There was a continuous rise and fall of the barometer at almost all the stations bordering the Bay. Before the 15th there was no sign at all of a squally weather except the monsoon waxing somewhat strong and the pouring in of rain at almost all the stations in Bengal. After that date stormy weather began prevailing in the South East of the Bay, attended with strong wind in the Diamond Islands. There was a brisk fall of pressure on the Madras coast on the 16th. The sky was dense with clouds, ushering a heavy downpour, particularly at Vizagapatam, the next day. On the 18th another depression formed near the Andamans and the day after it was moving towards the Ganjam coast. It rained heavily at Mausilipatam on the 20th, the storm having expended most of its energy, though the weather was not quite settled in the Bay showing strong monsoon. Again on the 27th a depression formed in the centre of the Bay with squally weather, and the next day it was advancing towards Nellore. After the 29th, the weather was improving, though there were clouded skies and rains almost all over Bengal and the bordering stations of the Bay. There has been definite clearing from the beginning of November, with occasional showers of rain here and there. Late in the season, however, the strong monsoon winds are still blowing in the Bay.

THE month of October has been unusually disastrous this year. Not the least to India which, between the fury of Nature and the folly of man, has suffered woefully.

HERE is the report of a considerable fatal shipping accident by two of the survivors :-

"The Bokhara left Shanghai on Saturday, the 8th of October, with a moderate north-east breeze and a following sea. On Sunday the wind increased and the barometer fell to 29.88. Captain Sams thought a typhoon was approaching from the southward and he consulted the other officers who concurred in the opinion. Consequently preparations were made and completed by midnight, when everything on board was made as taut and snug as possible.

At four o'clock on Monday morning the barometer sank to 29.15. The wind freshened to a gale accompanied by a thick haze and a tremendous sea. An attempt was made to wear the vessel down the Formosa channel but, although tarpaulins and sails were hoisted, the heavy sea and furious wind rendered all efforts futile.

During the course of the day all the life-boats were either smashed or washed away. Everything moveable on deck was washed overboard. The smoking-room was wrecked, but hardly any water penetrated into the saloons.

The Bokhara, at noon on Monday, was drifting in a south-westerly direction and, whenever practicable, the engines were put 'slow astern.' At this time the officers realized their extreme peril and, though they spoke hopefully to the passengers and encouragingly to the crew, they were aware that the steamer was utterly at the mercy of the elements. At this critical period oil was poured down the latrines and had an excellent effect, so much so that many of the passengers thought the fury of the storm had abated and that the worst had passed.

As hour after hour passed this was found not to be the case as the dangers of the situation only began to be more clearly disclosed and the frightful character of the typhoon was apparent to all. At 9.45 p. m. three large seas swept over the vessel, smashing in the aft-sky-lights and stokehole doors and putting out the fires. It was then recognised that the ship was entirely helpless and unmanageable and that nothing remained but to await the end.

At half-past eleven the third officer called the attention of Captain Sams to a dark outline discernible on the lee-beat and, on the lead being heaved, it was found that there was only a depth of ten fathoms under the steamer's keel.

In semi-darkness, amid showers of blinding spray, over crests of enormous waves, land was indistinctly seen.

The final catastrophe being imminent and death staring the ship's company in the face, Captain Sams, who was navigating the vessel with a courage and skill which no man could have exceeded, bade 'Good-bye' to his officers and went to the companion of the saloon to help the passengers on deck.

As the Bokhara struck the rocks with a terrific crash a great sea swept over the deck and carried overboard Captain Sams who was never seen again.

Within two minutes the Bokhara disappeared beneath the waves and when daylight dawned on Sand Island, one of the Pescadores group, not a vestige of this fine mail boat was to be seen."

The latest report is that 23 souls were saved, seven Europeans and sixteen lascars. As many are supposed to have perished.

A MORE terrible disaster was the loss, on the 27th October, of the Anchor Line steamer Roumania, bound from Liverpool to Bombay, off

Peniche to the north of Lisbon. She is a total wreck. She had 55 passengers and 67 of a crew. In a blinding storm accompanied by fog, the vessel struck some rocks a thousand yards from the shore, and was swept by the tremendous seas. The sole survivors are said to be Captain Hamilton, Lieutenant Rooke and seven lascars.

IN the American continent, on the 28th October, over a square mile of the wholesale business quarter of Milwaukee, the capital of Wisconsin and a great trading and "pork-packing" centre, on the west shore of Lake Michigan, and where 14 railways meet, was destroyed by fire, occasioning an estimated loss of ten million dollars.

IN India, while the people have been crying for food in many parts, floods have breached the Mu Valley and Southern Mahratta railways.

IN our own Province of Bengal, towards the end of the last month, an Elliottic hurricane swept over seven of the districts, uprooting an old institution.

THE Amir is not yet prepared to receive Lord Roberts and his mission, his hands being still full with the Hazara revolt. In the meantime, however, arrangements are making in India and in Afghanistan for the meeting.

THE new departure in Nepal proceeds apace. It has just been ratified and accelerated by an interesting and significant ceremony.

On the 27th October, at Khatmandu, in the Hanuman Dhoka Palace, Maharaja Bir Shumshere, the Prime Minister, was invested with the insignia of Knight Commander of the Star of India, by a Companion of the Order, Colonel Wylie, the Resident. The Companion must have been specially empowered for the ceremony. The occasion was availed of for mutual exchange of friendly protestations. The Resident did not tell the Prime Minister the truth that the decoration was to mark the esteem in which the British Government held the bold cutthroat and the firm grip in which he held Nepal, but offered it as a pledge of firm friendship between the two Governments. The Prime Minister, with equal diplomacy, was profuse in the expression of his good wishes for the British Power and his own constant endeavour to serve that Government to the best of his ability. The puppet of *faintant* Royalty, the youthful Maharaja Dhiraj himself, was impressed for the occasion to add, to the dignity of the ceremony, and in a speech, which was read by the Raj Guru, his Puppetship in high terms recommended his formidable wire puller, the Prime Minister, to the Resident. That part of the farce might well have been avoided. It was a gratuitous affront to Nepal and a shock to the civilized world. The recommendation of the King's speech was unnecessary. Our Government, which had already shown a cynical disregard of past obligations and even pledges to the late Jung Bahadoor, has now been virtually purchased by the weak *régime* now in power in that kingdom. Under the rule of Bir Shumshere, Nepal, for the first time in its history, is accessible to the British. The Commander-in-Chief of India himself has been welcomed and *filled* in places where the British Resident had hitherto been a stranger. Another revolution or two in Khatmandu will fully establish the suzerainty of England in that exclusive mountain region which is the last stronghold of Hindu supremacy and Indian independence.

PRIVATE Allen court-martialed to death for murder of Lieutenant Green, of the Rifle Brigade, was executed at Barielly on Wednesday.

THIS is the last month of Sir Auckland Colvin in India. He has taken leave of Rampur and is now busy in performing the last offices of a British Governor in other portions of his territories.

THE death of the Senior partner in England—Mr. J. Nicolai—has been followed by the insolvency of the old firm of Kelly and Co. of this city.

SIR Charles with Lady Elliott left on his autumn tour on the 1st November. There has been a slight alteration in the programme. His Honor returns to Calcutta on the 30th November to partake of the hospitality of the loyal Scots who assemble that evening to offer oblations of haggis and whiskey to their patron Saint. Captain Currie does not accompany him. The only other companion for the tour is Captain G. C. Lister, A. D. C.

LADY Elliott, it is said, will be going home in spring and will not be in India next season.

THE Hon'ble H. H. Risley has gone on leave of one month and seventeen days, Mr. J. A. Bourdillon acting as Secretary to the Bengal Government, in the Financial and Municipal Departments.

THE Chamber of Commerce has re-elected Mr. R. Steel as a Commissioner of the Port of Calcutta.

NEW rules in supersession of the existing ones to regulate the importation of petroleum by sea into the Lower Provinces in Bengal, are published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 2nd November 1892.

WE learn from Hyderabad that the cause of Mushtak Hosain's leaving in a clandestine manner and in the middle of the night, was the terrible explosion of public feeling against him. It was universal and unprecedented. The joy of the people at the fall of the virtual tyrant of Hyderabad, knew no bounds. Nor was the feeling confined to any particular community or class or creed. His resignation was welcome news, but it was not felt as a relief, from the fear that he might withdraw it, and the Nizam might be importuned by the Minister into allowing Mushtak to stay. No sooner was it announced that His Highness had accepted his resignation than the great city burst out in a shout of satisfaction, and Hindu and Moslem were loud in praise of God, and showered blessings on their Prince as the instrument of the Deity in this great act of deliverance. How could poor Mushtak face a whole people in such a mood? It would have been hazardous for him in the light of day to drive from his residence to the Railway station. The feeling against him is so intense, all over the city, that sweetmeats have been distributed as thanksoffering, from ten thousand houses, 5,000 men assembled at the Mecca Musjid and offered special prayers for their deliverance from Mushtak's yoke; and sweetmeats worth Rs. 500 were distributed among the people assembled. Another way of manifesting their joy has been the composition of hundreds of poems of all descriptions in Persian and Urdu, containing vile abuse and sending them to himself by post, for his perusal, besides being largely read and recited among men of all grades throughout the town. Even people who did not know Mushtak Hosain have been joining the rest in abusing him. This is undoubtedly not a laudable way of treating a high official who has—spontaneously or reluctantly—resigned his post, and whose resignation has been accepted by the chief. But, however ungenerous or indecent such treatment of a fallen man to whom yesterday the proudest were ready to sneak, these demonstrations unmistakeably shew the extent of dissatisfaction which had been caused among the entire population by his unjust proceedings and tyrannical administration.

THE visit to the Ellora Caves having been abandoned on account of cholera at Roza, which he had intended to make his head-quarters from the 29th October to the 2nd November, the Viceroy passed those days with Lord Harris. Leaving Bhopal shortly after 1 A.M. of the 29th October, the Viceregal party reached Poona early on the 30th. At Kirki, the Governor of Bombay, accompanied by Colonel Rhodes, Military Secretary, Mr. Edgerley, Private Secretary, Captains Poore, Cox, and Nuttall, with a small escort of the bodyguard, met the Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne at 8-30 and drove them to Ganeshkhind. It was a private and non-official visit and no public demonstrations were allowed except the presentation of an address from the Poona Municipality. Their Excellencies with Lord Harris went for a water excursion on the river in the afternoon of the 31st. The private entertainments closed with a musical ride of the Governor's bodyguard. The receiving of the municipal address was deferred to the last day—the 2nd November—when the party left for Hyderabad. In his reply, Lord Lansdowne alluded to the new Indian Councils Act in these terms:—

"I notice with special satisfaction your reference to the approaching reconstitution of the Legislative Councils. The importance of this reform forced itself upon me from the time when I commenced my term of office in India, and I have never ceased to press it upon the attention of Her Majesty's Government. Our proposals have received the cordial support of both the great political parties at home, and I rejoice to know that we are now able to predict with something like certainty that the time is near at hand when effect will be given to the Statute passed this summer by the Imperial Parliament. I can assure you that I have spared no efforts, and will spare none, in order to give effect to that important measure in a manner which, to use your own words, will afford a fresh stimulus to the policy of local self-government

initiated by Lord Mayo's administration and developed by his successors.

We are at this moment in correspondence with the Secretary of State as to the rules and regulations to be issued under the new Act, and it would obviously be improper for me to offer you a premature announcement of our intentions, but I may without indiscretion tell you that we are in agreement with you upon one of the most important principles involved, and that we hope to be able, in accordance with your suggestion, to recognise the urban and the rural boards in the several provinces of India as units for the selection of some proportion of the non-official members of the reformed Councils.

Gentlemen, we do not pretend that we are going to introduce into India fully developed representative institutions of the kind which have been gradually and laboriously erected in Western Europe, but the proposed enlargement of the Councils, the addition to them of members who will be, as far as the conditions of this country permit, representatives of the principal classes and interests of India, the concession of the right of interpellation, and the admission of the annual discussion of the Financial Statements of the different Governments, will, I venture to think, give to the deliberations of the Councils, and I am speaking both of the Viceroy's Council and of the local Councils, an importance and a degree of public usefulness to which they have up to the present time not attained."

A grand reception awaited Lord and Lady Lansdowne at Hyderabad. The Prime Minister Sir Asman Jah and other Hyderabad officials with Mr. Irwin, the first Assistant Resident, welcomed the guests on behalf of the Hyderabad State at Lingampalli, where the train halted for a few minutes and Sir Asman Jah was received by his Excellency in his saloon carriage. At the Kuldarga and Wadi stations in Hyderabad territory, the principal district officials of the Hyderabad State were present with guards of honor of the Nizam's reformed troops. The Viceregal party reached Hyderabad on the 3rd November, at 4-30 P.M. The Nizam himself welcomed Lord and Lady Lansdowne to Hyderabad.

A royal salute of 31 guns announced to the general public the arrival of the distinguished guests.

A guard of honour of the Nizam's regular troops was drawn up at the station, which was elaborately decorated, and the approaches to which were thronged with Natives. On their Excellencies alighting from the railway carriage, they were received by the Nizam. After a short conversation, His Highness conducted their Excellencies to the State carriage which was in waiting to convey them to the Chadarghat Residency. The Viceroy with Lady Lansdowne, Mr. Plowden, and an A. D. C. occupied this, the Nizam following in the second carriage. The rest of the party and the Hyderabad officials made up the procession in other carriages. The escort consisted of a troop of the 21st Hussars. The route for about two miles to the Residency was lined by the Nizam's troops and decorated with bunting, while the Residency itself and the approaches to it, as well as the housetops, were densely thronged with spectators. At the Chadarghat Residency a guard of honour of the Suffolk Regiment was drawn up to receive their Excellencies. Here the Nizam remained in conversation for a short time with the Viceroy and then left for his palace in the city.

WE have received the following telegrams from Hyderabad:—

"November 2.—The Viceroy arrives tomorrow afternoon. Grand preparations made. Intriguers busy. They have enlisted the services of an energetic European gentleman. Their chief aim now seems to be to get Mr. Plowden removed, because he has proved too strong for them. It is said they propose representing to the Viceroy that Mr. Plowden has been interfering too much in the internal administration and that whatever changes have taken place recently have been at his instance. But the fact is the Resident had no hand in the recent changes. The Nizam has done everything himself. His Highness is showing marvellous activity, giving little rest to himself, being constantly engaged in State affairs, going minutely through every file and writing orders thereon."

"Nov. 3.—The Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne arrived at 4-30. Their Excellencies were received at the station by the Nizam and the Resident. The scene on the platform was magnificent. All the nobles and high officials dressed in gorgeous costumes were present. The Nizam's body guard, the African cavalry, lined the route to the Residency. Their Excellencies and staff drove to the Residency followed by His Highness and nobles according to rank. After dinner, the Viceroy holds a Levée at the Residency at 9-30."

"Nawab Sarwar Jung Bahadur, formerly tutor to the Nizam, has been appointed Secretary to His Highness. The appointment has given satisfaction to the general public. The selection does credit to His Highness."

"A deputation composed of the leading Jagirdars waited upon His Highness at 7 P.M. yesterday, and presented an address expressing

sing joy and offering thanks for the interest His Highness is taking in State affairs with special reference to recent changes. His Highness made a suitable reply. After presentation of the jagirdars' address, another deputation composed of the leading citizens headed by Moulvi Abdul Guffur, vakil, presented a similar address on behalf of the rayyets and the general public, to which also His Highness replied in suitable terms. His Highness was extremely pleased with both the addresses and His Highness' replies gave immense satisfaction to the members of the deputation."

"November 5.—At nine yesterday morning, a deputation composed of Nawab Vicarul Omra, Nawab Zaffur Jung, Kishen Pershad, Saheb Jung, waited upon the Viceroy to enquire after His Excellency's health on behalf of His Highness. This ceremony is called Mizaj Parsi. At 11 His Highness visited the Viceroy at the Residency. The Nizam's visit was followed by the Minister's who was accompanied by Nawab Vicarul Omra, Zaffur Jung, Kishen Pershad. The Viceroy paid return visit to the Nizam at 3-15. In grand state Nawab Vicarul Oma, Zaffur Jung, Kishen Pershad, Saheb Jung, came to the Residency to escort the Viceroy to the palace. The route from the Residency to the Chowmahalla palace was lined by the Nizam's body guard. The Viceroy's escort was composed of a company of the Hussars and the Resident's bodyguard. At eight, the Viceroy was entertained at dinner at the Chowmahalla palace. The route from the Residency to the palace was beautifully illuminated. More than 200 were present at the dinner, mostly Europeans and select nobles. The Viceroy in his speech expressed joy at the interest His Highness is taking in State affairs. After dinner, fireworks. This morning, review at Secunderabad. At noon His Highness had a private interview with the Viceroy at which important questions were discussed and settled. At two His Excellency lunched with the Minister at Bashir Bagh. His Highness was present. The Viceroy pays a visit to Nawab Khurshed Jah at seven. The Nizam attends the dinner at the Residency, after which there will be an Evening Party.

"The appointment of Sarwar Jung as General Secretary to His Highness has given satisfaction to the public. He is a native of Lucknow and comes of a very respectable family whose numerous acts of loyalty to the British Government in troublous times have been formally and substantially recognized by that Government. He was educated at the Canning College, has thorough command over English, Persian and Arabic, is well read and well informed. For his high character and affable manners he is held in high esteem and equally liked by the nobility and the gentry of Hyderabad."

THE Deputy Magistrate of Madura convicted, under section 283 of the Indian Penal Code, a person for erecting a stone platform in a public roadway and building thereon a pandal. The Sessions Judge of the District being of opinion that no obstruction was caused by such construction to any particular person or persons, referred the matter to the High Court. The Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Parker have ruled that the Sessions Judge was right in holding that the conviction could not be sustained under section 283, but as the accused had encroached on the public way and had reduced the width of the street from 14 to 8 feet, such an act was a public nuisance and was punishable as such.

THE Inspector-General of Registration has warned his Sub-Registrars against the vicious practice of taking leave in anticipation of sanction. Hereafter any one absents himself without previous permission of the District Registrar, will not be allowed to rejoin without the orders of Government. It speaks little for the supervision of the Department with its District Registrars and inspecting staff that such a lax custom should have grown up as the Inspector-General's circular condemns.

IN noticing last week the excellence of the prints from photographs submitted by Mr. Heberlet to our judgment, and welcoming the moderate rates at which he is prepared to supply such work, as offering the first genuine opportunity for illustrated literature and journalism in this country, we forgot to mention that Mr. Heberlet and his brother have started business as the Calcutta Phototype Company, in Dalhousie Square, where they receive orders.

MR. H. Lee, the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, has been appointed a member of the Legislative Council of Bengal, *vice* Sir Henry Harrison deceased.

Sir Charles Elliott is not always happy in the dispensation of patronage, but this appointment is misery itself. We say this out of no ill will, for from the time we heard of him, when he was a junior Civil Servant in charge of the Sub-Division of Baraset, from our lamented friend Brindaban Chunder Chatterjee, long before we saw him, we have always harboured good feelings towards Mr. Lee. Indeed, we write in kindness and sympathy for him as well as in the public interest. He might just as well be invested with the command of an expedition to the frontiers. Indeed, as a powerful valourous man, a first rate athlete, a splendid sportsman, a capital shot, he would not only endure the toils and fatigue of march, but might by his feats astonish the rude military tribes into submission and friendliness. Altogether, he would certainly be more at home in the camp of war than in the debating club of law-makers. We do not understand how such an appointment came to be seriously made and gazetted. It shows the Lieutenant-Governor's complete isolation. Has Sir Charles Elliott no friends? Is he such a bear that his very Secretaries avoid the trial of offering advice without being asked? Surely, the State is not the arena for practical joking.

The truth is Mr. Lee has not what is vulgarly called the "gift of the gab." So much the better for him perhaps. At any rate, so it is. And it is scarcely kind to pile on his devoted head more and more obligations which can only be fairly discharged by the possessor of that gift.

As the Chairman of the Municipality, Mr. Lee is already burdened with too many speaking engagements.

It is no discredit, morally or intellectually, to any man, not to be a public speaker any more than not to be an actor. A fluent tongue is rather a presumption against depth and solidity. The whole business of speechification is a delusion, which will yet be unmasked in the future, with the Elective System and many another superstition of our enlightened times. The device of deriving good laws from the struggle of orators, is for wisdom at par with the plan of discovering the best orators, statesmen and law makers by the choice of the least instructed and least responsible part—the majority—of the population, from among those who, under such circumstances and conditions, care to be candidates. But so long as legislation by public meetings remains the custom or law of the land, men who can talk on their legs must be preferred for the business. It is neither to public good nor private comfort to impress to the service innocent wights, however worthy and capable in other respects, who are not blessed with the knack. Each man to his sphere. Every talent has its function. To put the round man in the square hole, involves a waste of public resources.

HINDUISM is particular about the time and conjuncture of stars for every act. Every step in life is taken in proper season and hour prescribed by the sages. Hence the Hindu's constant study of the Hindu almanac. Even religious observances are not practised at random, but each in its proper season, or else they are worse than useless—positively sinful. Charity only, if anything, is never amiss, but unless the donative offerings are strictly timed, their religious merit or value as passports to Heaven, is a good deal wasted. What wonder then at the chronological punctiliousness of the Hindus? They more than any other race literally believe that there is a time for everything. Eclipses and remarkable conjunctions of the heavenly bodies are the best time for gifts, as well as for a variety of religious exercises, such as offering the cake to the spirits of ancestors. A grand opportunity came to Hindudom in the great Eclipse of last evening. The heavenly event was all the more auspicious on account of occurring in the holy month of Kartik. Thousands of men have gone to Benares and other places to wash their sins and perform good works.

Last night's Eclipse had the advantage of a clear and a cloudless moonlit sky, so that it could be not only patiently observed but also thoroughly enjoyed. The glorious moon of the Indian autumn, so celebrated by our Poets, with its lavish effulgence made a milder day of the night. Observers were ready with their telescopes from a quarter to 8 P.M. The actual contact took place at about 2 minutes past 8. The eclipse was a total one. The *Bishuddha Panjika* puts it almost at the same time. The *Hindu Press Panjika* calculates the time to be 3 minutes after 8. The *Aryya Panjika*, however, goes so far as to make it 8-12. The height of inaccuracy is reached by the *Panjika* published by Raja Peary Mohan Mookerjee's Pandits of Bali which

times it 8-23. Most enterprising of all, though with futile enterprise, the *Gupta Press Panjika* calculates the eclipse according to all three different authorities. Following (1) the *Rāghabānanda* the time is 8-23, (2) the *Vāswatī*, it is 8-13, and (3) the *Manjari*, 8-11. So, after all, the *Bishudha Sidhanta* and the *Hindu Press Panjikas* had calculated as near as possible the correct time.

It is interesting to learn what was the last act of consciousness of the late Poet Laureate. The ruling passion strong in death, in the afternoon before his exit he called for his Shakespeare and himself turned the leaves till he came upon "Cymbeline." To quote the *Pall Mall Gazette*—

"His eyes were fixed on the pages, but whether and how much he read, no one will ever know, for again he lay in dream or slumber, or let his eyes rest on the scenes outside. . . . Then, the stars came out and looked in at the big mullioned window, and those within saw them grow brighter and brighter, till at last a moon, a harvest moon for splendour, though it was an October moon, sailed slowly up, and flooded the room with golden light. The bed on which Lord Tennyson lay, now very near to the gate of death, and with his left hand still resting on his 'Shakespeare,' was in deep darkness, the rest of the room lit up with the glory of the night, which poured in through the uncurtained windows. And thus, without pain, without a struggle, the greatest of England's poets passed away."

Yes, probably the greatest with one exception—that of the Bard on whom he doated till his last breath. The deceased

Rivalled all but Shakespeare's name below.

It is a culpable omission in the reporter not to mention the particular edition last, which was also that habitually, used by the great poet. It was evidently a single-volumed one. Is it illustrated? Is it Cowden Clarke or any other? Involuntarily the heart of every lover of poetry leaps upon those thoughts. The fact will soon be ferretted out, at least in the interest of the publisher. The latter's ware is now invested with a new interest. The particular copy of Shakespeare sanctified by the touch of the vanished hand,

has become something more than historical. It is monumental and sacred—a relic to be preserved for the veneration of posterity to the remotest times. If brought under the hammer just now it will command a fabulous price.

THE following items of Indian intelligence occur in the *Overland Mail* of the 14th October in a prominent part, at page 2, among the editorial "Notes on the Week":—

"His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda and suite arrived in London on Oct. 12 from the Continent, having crossed from Calais to Dover in the steamship *Invicta*."

"The Maharaja of Guzerat, with his family and suite of thirty persons, has arrived in Paris, and is staying at the Grand Hotel."

We have always noticed with pleasure our contemporary correct the frequent blunders of the *Times* and other leading members of the British Press. And now the corrector is in need of correction himself. The physician himself is laid up. The innocence of the *O. M.* establishment is emphasised by the juxtaposition of the two slender paragraphs. The subeditor of the journal has evidently no idea that the two Oriental magnates whose movements he chronicles, are one and the same person.

IN consequence of the attitude of the Bengal Government, we have been hoping that the complaints of distress for food in many quarters were very much exaggerated, if not wholly groundless. But all doubt has now been removed, and we trust the Government will recognize the truth manfully and do their duty with sympathetic promptness and energy. The condition of many villages in the metropolitan districts, especially in the South, is pitiable. The cultivators are simply starving. So in different places Bankura. In Mymensingh, deaths have commenced. Zemindars and other private men are doing their best to help the sufferers, but the proportions of the distress are too great for them to grapple with it. Some of the landlords after doing their best have fled for fear of looting by the starving mob. We entreat Sir Charles Elliott to suspend for the moment political economy and feed the hungry like a Christian governor.

News from Jummoo represents a sad state of public health. Fever reigns in every household. Not a single family in which at least half the members are not laid up.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, November 5, 1892.

### THE POINT OF LAW IN HYDERABAD.

THE Government of Hyderabad, we are informed, is very much exercised over an important legal question, which has arisen in connection with the Pamphlet Defamation case. Mr. Furdunji Jamshedji, Private Secretary to the Minister, declined to answer certain questions put to him by Mr. Eardley Norton, defendant's counsel, in the course of cross-examination, on the ground that the questions had reference to official matters, and that he as an officer of the Nizam's Government, could not reveal such official matters without the permission of the Minister. Mr. Norton said that the sections of the Indian Evidence Act bearing upon privilege applied only to communications made to an officer, and not to communications made by him, and as the questions put to Mr. Furdunji referred to communications which were made by him to the Minister, and not to those which the Minister had made to him, he, Mr. Furdunji, could not claim privilege under those sections. The sections in question are 123 and 124. Section 123 runs thus:—"No one shall be permitted to give any evidence derived from unpublished official records relating to any affairs of State, except with the permission of the officer at the head of the department concerned, who shall give or withhold such permission as he thinks fit." Section 124 says:—"No public officer shall be compelled to disclose communications made to him in official confidence, when he considers that the public interests would suffer by the disclosure." Mr. Bosanquet, the Residency Magistrate, held that these sections applied to British officials only, and that an officer of the Nizam's Government could not claim the privilege arising under these sections. He therefore ruled that Mr. Furdunji should answer all the questions put to him, and he gave him time till the next day to make up his mind on that point. The Magistrate also warned Mr. Furdunji that, whether he obtained the Minister's permission or not, if he should decline to answer the questions the next day he would have to suffer the penalty of the law. The next day Mr. Furdunji did not attend court, but sent in a petition to the Magistrate stating that the Minister wished to consult the Resident on the question of privilege, and praying that his further cross-examination might be postponed till then. Mr. Furdunji's prayer was granted and his cross-examination postponed. We are not aware what conversation the Minister has had with the Resident, or what opinion the Resident holds on the subject. Now, the question is—Is Mr. Bosanquet's interpretation of the law correct? At the outset it would be difficult to find fault with his interpretation, as the Act is a British Act and the "State" and "public officers" mentioned in the sections must necessarily mean the British Government and the officers of the British Government. But at the same time there is nothing in those sections to show that the States governed by the Sovereign Rulers of India or as they are called the Native States, and the officers of those States are excluded from the privilege which those sections confer upon officers of the British Government. Considering the relations existing between the Native States and the British Government as the Paramount Power, is it not reasonable to sup-

pose that it was the intention of the Legislature to confer the privilege equally upon the public officers of the British Government and the public officers of the Native States? We really think that in case Mr. Bosanquet's interpretation be held correct, the Native States will have serious cause of alarm. The question affects not only the Hyderabad State, but all the Native States. The privilege which the British Government values so much for its own welfare, is equally valued by the Feudatory States, and it would be an act of the gravest injustice to them to deprive them of that privilege. The Nizam, we are credibly informed, is most anxious that his Government should not be deprived of this cherished right, and so must be the other Princes of India. The question then arises—Are the matters connected with Nawab Mehdi Hassan's case at all to be treated as State secrets? If our information is correct, while the Minister and Nawab Mehdi Hassan's friends in the Hyderabad Government, consider those matters as State secrets, His Highness the Nizam thinks otherwise. His Highness is anxious about one thing only—that the truth in the case should be known. It is said, His Highness never took so much real and absorbing interest in any case before as he has been doing in the present case. In the Sowar Commission case, in which he himself was concerned, the British officers, through mistake or from intention, made a mountain of a mole-hill—a merest accident being made to appear an intentional assault—and though every attempt was made to throw dirt on His Highness, he did not seem to feel the least concern in the matter, being certain in his mind that the truth would come out in the end—and the truth did come out in the end. In the Diamond case, His Highness had to suffer all the sad consequences of the innumerable mistakes committed by his advisers and yet he treated the whole matter—abuse included—as a sort of joke. But in the present case His Highness feels differently. If the main charge brought against Nawab Mehdi Hassan in the Pamphlet, should prove true—a grave insult has been deliberately offered to Her Majesty by one of His Highness's own officials. This is the reason why His Highness takes such keen interest in the present case. There is no Prince in India who is more sincerely loyal to Her Majesty than His Highness the Nizam Mahbub Ali. Coming to the throne at a time when he was scarcely weaned from his mother's breast, he acquired all the traditions of his family as he grew up—traditions best calculated to instil into the soul courage, magnanimity, and loyalty to the British Power. Thus he early discovered—what were not the least important of those traditions—how, while the throne of the Great Mogul was blotted out of existence, and the rich principalities which had been carved out by the brave contemporaries of Asaf Jah were swallowed by the British Lion one by one, Hyderabad alone was allowed to remain in peace and tranquillity, and how when Tipoo on one side and the Peshwa on the other threatened to crush Nizam Ali between them, the British turned the tables against both and saved Hyderabad from imminent ruin. Learning all these traditions as he grew up—nourished upon such unexceptionable historic pabulum—the young Prince naturally learnt to look upon the British not only as his friend and ally but also as his protector. This feeling of loyalty for the Paramount Power which was engendered in his mind in early infancy increased with his years, and it was this feeling which, on the eve of his installation, induced

him to visit Calcutta—the seat of the Imperial Government—and invite Lord Ripon to Hyderabad in order to install him on his ancestral *gads*. (And so for the first time in the annals of Hyderabad a Nizam of Hyderabad was installed on his ancestral throne by a representative of the Paramount Power.) But besides this feeling of loyalty for the Paramount Power, His Highness has, in common with every other Indian, a personal feeling of respect and veneration for the Grand Old Lady who, through God's grace, wields her sceptre over India as the Queen-Empress. It was this personal feeling of respect and veneration for Her Majesty which led His Highness to give such hearty and warm reception to the Royal visitors—the Duke of Connaught and the late lamented Prince Victor, and to indulge in such lavish expenditure on the occasions of those royal visits. The genuine pleasure which the Nizam felt on those two occasions fully testified to his sincere attachment for Her Majesty. It is therefore not difficult to conceive the anxiety with which His Highness is watching the proceedings of the Pamphlet case. His Highness earnestly wishes that the enquiry should be as thorough as possible, and that his own Government should withhold no information or documents that may be in its possession and that may be required for the purposes of this enquiry. The Nizam also wishes that such information and communications as may throw any light on the present case should not be considered as State secrets. He believes that neither the State nor the public will in the least suffer by any disclosure that may be made about Nawab Mehdi Hassan's affairs. He does not at all wish that his officials should claim for such information and communication the privilege under the two sections of the Indian Evidence Act. We do not pause to enquire whether His Highness is right or wrong from point of view of statesmanship, but we have no hesitation in saying that the attitude which His Highness has taken in this case does credit to his heart. It shows how deeply loyal His Highness is to Her Majesty, as it also shows that he has shaken off the obnoxious influence which had hitherto held him down. It shows that he is resolved to think and act for himself.

The Government of Hyderabad is differently minded. And here we must inform our readers that the peculiar constitution so to speak of Hyderabad makes its sovereign a distinct personality from the Government. The Minister, as the head of the administration, is alone responsible for all administrative miscarriages and blunders. Thus, just now, justly or unjustly, the Government is very unpopular, but the Nizam continues to be as popular as ever. The unpopularity of the Government does in no way affect the popularity of the Prince. It is owing to this peculiarity that we find that, while the Nizam is taking one view of the questions that arise, Mr. Furdunji, his Government is taking another. In this connection we may mention that, in the Pamphlet case, exactly what to do with regard to the question of privilege raised by Mr. Furdunji, Nawab Mushtak Hossein, the Minister's right-hand man, drafted a most angry, unmeaning and threatening minute on the subject for the edification of the Government of India. Fortunately, the draft was shown to Nawab Mahdi Ali—as a new departure from the ordinary practice—and that officer having condemned it, the elaborate document was at last consigned to its proper sphere—W. P. B.

## ISLAM IN ENGLAND.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Liverpool, 13th October, 1892.

Sometime ago a Christian clergyman who for some years we believe resided in Calcutta, but who subsequently removed to Rheims in France, paid a visit to Liverpool and devoted several days to attending the public lectures at the Mosque and otherwise enquiring into the progress of Islam in England. He was so struck by what he saw and heard that he wrote a book called "Studies in Mahomedanism" and expressed in his preface his object in so doing as being a desire to, if possible, win back the Moslem converts to Christianity.

His book has been somewhat harshly criticised by the "Athenæum" and other papers and recently one of the Liverpool weeklies thus alluded to his work :—

"An author, late of Calcutta, has just published a book entitled: 'Stories in Mahomedanism, with a chapter: "Islam in England." Special attention is paid to Liverpool as the headquarters of the Eastern faith, and he says: 'In the autumn of 1891, being in England, I resolved to visit Liverpool and investigate thoroughly Mahomedanism in that city. During the four days of my stay I was the guest of the President, and was treated with much kindness, and shown everything in the Institute, and told all about the inner working of the whole movement, with the clear understanding that I could make public whatever I pleased. I timed my visit so as to arrive on a Friday, the "Day of the Assembly," and at once made my way to the Institute, though doubtful of obtaining admittance, as the services on that day are for the Faithful only. It was the hour of evening prayer when I reached Brougham Hall, and the first thing I saw and heard was the President standing in the balcony of a window, which did duty for a minaret, giving the Azan or Call to Prayer, both in Arabic and English. I had not heard the famous Call since leaving Egypt in the year 1888, and it sounded passing strange to me to listen to it in the streets of an English city. As the cry "Allah is Great! Allah is Great! I bear witness there is no God but God! I bear witness that Mahomed is the Prophet of God! Come to prayers! Come to salvation! Allah is Great!" was raised a crowd gathered and listened with considerable curiosity, but without any remark.'

Mr. Pool speaks highly of Mr. Quilliam, the president, who was converted to the Mahomet's doctrine in 1884, when on a visit to Morocco. He, however, arrives at the conclusion that "the movement is a forlorn hope; Islam in England may drag on for some years a feeble existence, but then it will probably die a sudden death." I have not much faith in prophets, so I cannot hazard an opinion on his conclusion."

Seeing that the Liverpool Moslem Institute has now made eighty-six (86) converts from Christianity, Judaism, Spiritualism and atheism to Islam, and in addition has a capital boy's school with masters who have had English University education, the prophecy of the Reverend author is not likely to be fulfilled. Probably with him "the wish is father to the thought."

Last Sunday evening (October 9th) Mr. T. Omar Byrne delivered a lecture on "Personal Responsibility." The attendance was everything that could be desired, and the excellent remarks of the lecturer were listened to with great attention.

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Amcer Ali of Calcutta is in London. He has invited Mr. Quilliam to join him there.

The London Anjuman-i-Islamia holds a dinner on Saturday in commemoration of the birthday of the Prophet. The Liverpool Society have arranged to feed 250 poor people in commemoration of the same anniversary. Yours ever,

HADJI ADAM MOHAMMED.

## THE COURTS OF THE RANAGHAT SUB-DIVISION.

5th October, 1892.

There are now two Munsiffs in the Ranaghat Sub-Division, the first Munsiff Babu Manath Sen is an experienced and hard-working officer and though he does not soar above mediocrity, he performs his duties tolerably well. He is rather of an irritable temper and, like the tip of a lucifer match, ignites at the least friction and is extinguished immediately. The second or additional Munsiff Babu Jagut Chandra Dass comes from the District of Faridpur, bordering on Backhergung. It seems that he has been in the service for a short time and has not gained that power of critically discriminating right from wrong and truth from falsehood which intelligent and mature experience gains in time. His intellect seems to be of the ordinary run but it is hoped that mature experience will make him a passable judge.

On the 12th of September last he came to court at about 11 A.M., and left it after half an hour alleging that he was unwell; and

those who saw him at the time must have been convinced that he was not all right in his health. The ailment seems to be ephemeral, for on the next day he was found sitting in court precisely at 11 A.M. doing his office work without any appearance of illness. He ought to consider what amount of expense, vexation and trouble the parties to suits and witnesses had to suffer for his absence on that day. Both the Munsiffs have been here for a few months only and the cases decided by them have not been subjected to the crucial test of an Appellate Court, so I do not make any comment on the subject.

The Deputy Magistrate of Ranaghat has been in charge of the Sub-Division for nearly three years. The public have watched his proceedings for sometime, but so long they kept their opinions to themselves. I will now refer to some of his doings as a judicial officer.

(a) He comes to court generally between 12 noon and 1 P.M. and sometimes even later. But no party is allowed to present a petition after the time of call for *Darkhast* is over; and on some days no call for *Darkhast* is made at all, so that people coming from long distances are obliged to stay at Ranaghat for another day to present a petition, to the great loss and inconvenience of those parties.

(b) He frequently gets out of temper and sometimes speaks in high words and browbeats parties and witnesses to suits according to his own sweet will.

(c) He remains in court some times to 10 P.M., to the great inconvenience of *Amla*, *Munktears*, parties and witnesses.

(d) In taking down depositions of witnesses he translates in English what the witnesses depose to in Bengali. This translation unfortunately is not always accurate, and sometimes does not express the meaning of the deponent. Here are some specimens of the erudite Deputy Magistrate's translations :—

1. "A little remaining of the night."
2. "After they left, I saw the bolt catcher broken."

What this "bolt catcher" means, the Deputy Magistrate will be good enough to explain for the benefit of the public.

3. "I pay his fee sometimes in cash and sometimes in arrears."
- A nice method of payment in arrears!

4. "Shortly after a constable came and talked to Jemadar in silence."

What a wonderful man the Deputy Magistrate must be, to make a constable talk to Jemadar "in silence!"

(e) As already stated the witnesses give their depositions in Bengali and the Deputy Magistrate translates them into English; but after the completion of the deposition of a witness he does not condescend to read over to him (the witness) what he has deposed to. This is optional with him (the Deputy Magistrate) in Summary and Summons cases, but in Warrant Cases he is bound to do so. Sec. 360 of the Criminal Procedure Code strictly enjoins "As the evidence of each witness taken under Sec. 356 or Sec. 357 is completed, it shall be read over to him in the presence of the accused," &c. The "shall" above quoted is imperative and obligatory.

The Subdivisional officer Babu Kedarnath Biswas is very unpopular, and there never was before (with a single exception) such an unpopular officer in Ranaghat.

O. C. B.

## ACT NO. X OF 1892.

[This Act of the Governor-General of India in Council received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General on the 25th October 1892, and is published in the *Gazette of India* of the 29th October 1892.]

*An Act to provide for the levy of a rate on private estates under the management of the Government to meet the cost of supervision and management.*

Whereas it is expedient to provide for the levy of a rate on private estates under the management of the Government to cover the cost of all Government establishments in so far as they are employed in the supervision and management of such estates, other than establishments specially entertained for any particular estate or group of estates, and to meet all contingent expenditure incurred by the Government in connection with such supervision and management; It is hereby enacted as follows :—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Government Management of Private Estates Act, 1892.

(2) It extends to the whole of British India, inclusive of Upper Burma and British Baluchistan; and

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. In this Act, unless there is something repugnant in the subject or context,—

(1) "immoveable property" includes land, buildings, hereditary allowances, rights to ways, lights, ferries, fisheries or any other benefit to arise out of land, and things attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything which is attached to the earth, but not standing timber, growing crops or grass;

(2) "gross income" includes all receipts of every kind in produce or cash, except money borrowed, recoveries of principal and the proceeds of sale of immoveable property or of moveable property properly classed as capital; and

(3) "private estates under Government management" include—

(a) estates under the Court of Wards;

(b) encumbered estates under Government management;

(c) estates attached for default of payment of Government revenue;

(d) minors' estates placed under the guardianship of a revenue-officer of the Government by a Civil Court;

(e) estates managed by a Collector in pursuance of any order made under the Code of Civil Procedure; and

(f) all other estates made over to or taken under the management of a revenue-officer of the Government as such under any law for the time being in force or in virtue of any agreement.

3. It shall be lawful for the Local Government—

(1) to levy on all private estates under Government management a rate, not exceeding five per cent. on the gross income, calculated as nearly as may be possible, to cover—

(a) the cost of all Government establishments in so far as they may be employed in the supervision or management of such estates other than establishments specially entertained for the supervision or management of any particular estate or group of estates, and

(b) all contingent expenditure incurred in consequence of such supervision or management;

(2) from time to time to vary such rate; and

(3) to reduce or remit such rate in any special case or cases as may be equitable;

Provided that, in deciding the amount of the rate to be levied under this Act on any particular estate or group of estates, the Local Government shall consider the expenditure incurred on special establishments for such estate or estates.

4. In cases where an officer of the Government is employed to give legal advice or to audit accounts on behalf of any estate, the Local Government, if it considers the services rendered to be of a special nature, may, in its discretion, direct a special charge to be made against that estate on account of such services, irrespective of the rate leviable under the last foregoing section.

5. Nothing in this Act shall apply to the cost of establishments specially entertained or to expenditure of any description specially incurred in respect of any particular estate or estates.

6. All rates for general supervision or management levied by any Local Government before the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to have been levied under this Act.

7. The Local Government may make any rules and issue any orders which may be necessary for carrying this Act into effect, and which are consistent therewith.

8. Where any Government establishment is employed in such supervision as aforesaid, the Local Government shall be the sole judge of the cost attributable to such employment, and its decision thereon shall not be questioned in any Court of Law or otherwise.

9. Section 17 of the Court of Wards Act, 1879 (passed by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in Council), and so much of Act III of 1881 (also passed by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in Council) as relates to section 17 of the said Court of Wards Act, 1879, are hereby repealed.

#### GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT OF PRIVATE ESTATES BILL.

The hon'ble Sir Philip Hutchins moved (in the Viceregal Council held at Simla, on the 20th October 1892) that the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for the levy of a rate on private estates under the management of Government to meet the cost of superior supervision and management be taken into consideration. He said:—

"I shall not trouble the Council with many general remarks on the policy of this Bill. It is enough to remind them of the fundamental principle upon which it rests, namely, that it is only for the benefit and protection of private proprietors that the State undertakes the management of their estates, and that consequently all expenditure incidental to such management, including a fair share of the pay of supervising officers, ought to be provided for out of the income of the estates and not out of funds levied from

the general taxpayer. The Bill has been favourably received in all the provinces, and, I believe, by the Press also so far as it has been noticed at all. I may therefore pass on at once to a brief statement of its principal details, noticing in particular those in which the Select Committee has made any material alteration.

"Of the definitions contained in the second section the most important is that which indicates the income upon which the Government rate or commission is to be calculated. We have made it clear that borrowed money is not to be taken as income. The sale-proceeds of immoveable property have all along been excluded; we have now exempted also the proceeds of such moveable property as would itself be properly classed as capital. I will illustrate what is meant by an example. Jewels could not be properly classed as income, but are capital. Accordingly, if the Court of Wards ever finds it expedient to sell any of its wards' jewels, the money realized will not be regarded as income and will not be liable to the rate. On the other hand, there are obviously many kinds of moveable property which could not be classed as capital. Such, for instance, are the crops raised on the proprietor's home-farm, the produce of his cattle, and in horse-breeding districts his young stock. Where these are sold the proceeds will be regarded as income. The Bengal Government wished to assess the rate on the 'current demand,' or rents payable by the tenants of the estate, but we preferred to adhere to the draft Bill in this respect, as the alternative proposal would have left out of account all such items as I have just indicated.

"Then comes section 3, which empowers the Government to levy a rate on all income, defined as I have stated; but this rate is subject to two limitations: it must not be more than sufficient to cover a reasonable estimate of the cost of establishments and contingent expenditure, and it must in no case exceed 5 per cent. The maximum first proposed was 4 per cent., but instances have been adduced from Bengal, the Punjab and Ajmere which seem to show that a somewhat larger percentage may occasionally be required. We have accordingly allowed a maximum of 5 per cent. This rate will cover, among other things, all ordinary legal advice, and it will of course be subject to the other condition that no more is to be taken than the estimated value of the services rendered.

"Power is reserved to the Local Government to reduce or remit the rate whenever this seems equitable, and the Committee has inserted a proviso to make it clear that whenever any considerable special establishments are entertained for an estate its claim to a reduction shall receive due attention.

"I have been asked how this will work, and in reply it may be convenient that I should explain how I anticipate that Local Governments will ordinarily proceed. General estimates of the cost of supervision and management have already been framed in all provinces, and the probable income of each estate will be shown in its annual budget. As soon as the budgets are ready for next year—or at once upon the estimates of the current year—the Court of Wards or Financial Commissioner will probably submit a statement showing the amount to be raised, the aggregate income, and what estates have special managers or any other special establishments which would give them a claim to reduction. They will also propose a general rate and such reductions as appear to them appropriate; and thereupon the Local Government will determine the rate and what reductions or remissions shall be allowed. In subsequent years, if matters have generally remained the same, it will only be necessary to show changes which have taken place or are proposed. As an instance of a case in which reductions should be allowed, I may refer to a province in which most of the smaller estates are under the direct management of tahsildars, although others have special managers. The former would naturally be made subject to the full rate, while the latter would be entitled to a reduction.

"The next section to be noticed is section 5. This provides that nothing in the Act is to apply to establishments specially entertained, or to expenditure specially incurred, for any estate or group of estates. It has been objected that the Bill gives no power to charge such special expenditure to the estates; but the reason is obvious. Every estate is clearly liable for its own special expenditure under the general law. The only doubt has been whether the cost of general supervision and management could be levied from all estates by a general rate, and it is that doubt which will now be removed. For the same reason it has not been thought necessary to provide that the rate shall take precedence over private debts. Creditors can only look to the net income, or, in other words, to the gross income less the cost of management and other expenditure incurred in the realization of the income.

"In conclusion I have only to mention that we have added a section, at the instance of my hon'ble friend the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, repealing enactments which provide in that province for very nearly the same matters as are dealt with by this Bill, but not so comprehensively."

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**THE AGE OF CONSENT BILL.**

THE following publications by the Calcutta Committee in support of the Age of Consent Bill may be had from the Secretaries of the Committee at their office, No. 12, Wellington Square, at No. 1, Uckoor Dutt's Lane, and at 12, Lal Bazar Street.

1. On the Legislation of the Rishis and the Age of Consent Bill. One anna.
2. The Memorial to the Viceroy. Half anna.
3. The Bengali translation of the Memorial. Half anna.
4. The Oordoo translation of the Memorial. Half anna.
5. The *Garbhadhan Vyavasta* by Pandit Ramnath Tarkaratna (of Santipore), author of *Vasudeb Bijya* (a Sanskrit epic) and Pandit attached to the Asiatic Society, Bengal. One anna.
6. Abstract of the *Vyavasta* in English with notes by Nyalankar Nilmani Mookerjee, M.A., B.L., Professor of Sanskrit, Presidency College, and a preface by the President of the Committee. Half anna.

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 Sir A. Scoble, on the passing of the Bill on  
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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1892.

No. 548

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### ON THE BRIDGE.

IT was young Robin and his love  
Stood on a Bridge at even-song ;  
Night's countless lamps were lit above ;  
Below, the streamlet slid along.  
Across the rail she lightly leant,  
And gazed into the quiet stream,  
Wherein she saw with deep content  
The buried stars reflected gleam ;  
But never stars shone half as bright  
As Elsie's eyes, that summer night.

Around her taper waist, an arm—  
Her gallant Robin's—gently lay ;  
In place and hour there lurked a charm,  
That owned no kinship to the day.  
Familiar sounds upon the gale  
Were softly wafted to the ear,  
And from the darkness of the vale,  
The love-lorn mavis fluted clear ;  
But sweeter than the song he sung,  
The words that trembled on her tongue.

The shadows deepen in the dell ;  
Weird bats athwart the water play ;  
And on the fitful breezes swell  
The village church-bells far away.  
Through all the windings of the glade,  
The stately trees, like phantoms stand ;  
Whilst Love was leading man and maid  
Far onwards into fairyland ;  
And neither had on earth a part,  
Save only in the other's heart !

Anon, from yonder wooded ridge,  
The cold moon climbs the blue expanse,  
She glorifies the rustic bridge,  
Her beams upon the brooklet dance ;  
She softly winds about the twain  
The radiance of her liquid light,  
As though, for lovers, she would fain  
Create a fairer day from night.  
Her silver signet—nothing loth—  
She sets upon their plighted troth !

F. B. DOVETON.

### LOVE IS LOVE FOR EVERMORE.

UNDER the blue of a summer sky,  
Under the spell of Beauty's thrall,  
Watching the sun-clouds floating by,  
Watching the wavelets rise and fall ;  
Happy as lovers alone can be,  
Dreaming what bliss the years will bring—

Dreaming beside the summer sea—  
Hearing the dancing waters sing,  
With rippling murmur along the shore—  
'Love is love for evermore.'

Under the gray of a cloudy sky,  
Under the shadow of Love's eclipse,  
Standing apart with flashing eye,  
Standing apart with quivering lips ;  
Fighting a duel 'twixt love and pride,  
Waging a war that is fraught with pain,  
Turning Love's pleading lips aside—  
Turning deaf ear to the wave's refrain,  
Breaking in sadness along the shore—  
'Love is love for evermore.'

Under the gloom of a gathering storm,  
Under a midnight wild and dark,  
Watches a shivering maiden's form,  
Watches and waits for some one's barque ;  
Helpless it rides without spar or mast,  
Driven ashore, and tossed about,  
Drifting to death, and the cruel blast  
Drowning his cries with mocking shout.  
Above the roar breaks a wail ashore—  
'Love is love for evermore.'

Under the dawn of a smileless morn,  
Under the sorrow that grieves for the dead,  
Weeps a woman with heart forlorn—  
Weeps, and will not be comforted ;  
Suddenly, swiftly, with eager face  
Steals one to her through wrack and rain—  
Love has its triumph in a long embrace—  
The dead hath risen to life again ;  
And the waters murmur as before,  
'Love is love for evermore.'

W. C. H.

### SPRING IN AUTUMN.

SHALL we remember in some time far off,  
When youth is dead and life has lost its sweetness,  
What scents and sounds that day was woven of,  
Whose memory, rose-like, in our life's December,  
Would melt its snows to June's divine completeness ?  
Shall we remember ?

O day too bright, too brief ? when we two stood  
Beside the old wall, ivy-veiled, moss-covered ;  
The purple mist clung to the crisp dun wood—  
May to our hearts, set in the year's November—  
Above our souls the soul of parting hovered !  
Do you remember ?

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

Ah, that one moment ere we turned to go !  
 If this my earthly life have end to-morrow,  
 Strong in that memory my soul will know  
 Not one regret for life's expiring ember,  
 Nor one thought's pain, nor one hour's dream of sorrow,  
 While I remember !

E. NESBIT.

—Chamber.

## WEEKLYANA.

ON Thursday morning the *Englishman*, in a little paragraph, gave warning to the public that "it is probable that the Bengal Government will shortly publish all the papers in connection with the jury question." The "probable" was of course only journalistic modesty for the certain.

Our contemporary is evidently in the confidence of Government. It not only made the announcement of an early publication of papers, but devoted a leader on the "Truth about the Bengal Jury System" —from Abolitionists' point of view. Evidently, the *Hindoo Patriot* has ceased to be the confidant of the Bengal Government. What is the Press Association about? Has it no truth to give out in regard to the question of the hour? Mr. Risley is on leave. Perhaps we must wait till his return in December. In the meantime, Sir Charles Elliott himself may be explaining and justifying his own action.

THE *Englishman* begins its leader with the statement that the action of Sir Charles Elliott has received the sanction of Lord Lansdowne's Government and the approval of the Calcutta High Court. Our contemporary adds that the Lieutenant-Governor did not take the step without consulting his officers, and that there "is a practical consensus of opinion among all the officials who were consulted that the evils of the present system in embarrassing the course of criminal justice far outweigh the public material advantage of utilizing the participation of the people in trials as a means of their social and political advancement." On that latter statement we join issue absolutely and in every respect—in fact no less than in principle. We question the statement as we question the generalization. We deny the alleged "consensus of opinion among all the officials who were consulted." And we challenge the correctness of the opinion itself. Under any circumstances, the people have been most shabbily treated by their rulers. Dramatic surprises and stage tricks ill comport with the gravity of administration. Nor had Her Majesty's lieges of Bengal and Behar given any cause for the extraordinary secrecy and haste with which the operation of the Abolition of Trial by Jury has been carried out. As for the publication of the exculpatory papers on the jury question, the justification should precede not follow the action taken. Of course, our contemporary, with all its zeal for Government, is English, at bottom, and admits that "it would have been more judicious on the part of Sir Charles Elliott had he simultaneously with the issue of the notification published a resumé in the *Gazette* of the reasons for curtailing the scope of the jury." That is the suggestion of a struggling conscience ill at ease under the obligation of defending the indefensible. A little more judiciousness would not have made much difference. Absolute judiciousness was needed by the gravity of the problem. Oh for the rarity of statesmanship among our rulers !

THE announcement in the morning is followed up in the afternoon with an Extraordinary issue of the *Calcutta Gazette*, in which is published for general information twenty-two letters leading to the Notification of the 20th October.

THE Government Astronomer, Madras, Professor Michie Smith, observed no features of special importance in the lunar eclipse of Friday week. The magnitude of the eclipse amounted to only 1.92 of the moon's diameter, that is, the diameter of the shadow cone of the earth was less than one and one-tenth times the moon's diameter; consequently the eclipse to the naked eye at no time seemed total, though totality really lasted for 44 minutes. The most striking feature, however, was the way in which Aristarchus, the most brilliant crater in the moon, shone out brightly through the dull red glow of the surrounding country, long after it was completely immersed in the earth's shadow. The coppery red colouration of the eclipsed moon was well marked.

Father A. de Penaranda of this city thus rectifies in the *Englishman* the Madras observations :—

"The extract from a Madras paper under this heading in your to-day's issue lapses into manifest astronomic heresy, when it ventures on a would-be explanation of the technical term 'magnitude' (which, by the way, was in the late eclipse 1.992, not 1.92, as therein stated.) 'That is,' says the para in question, 'the diameter of the shadow cone of the earth was less than one and one-tenth times the moon's diameter.' Now, the diameter of the 'shadow cone,' i.e., the diameter of a section of that cone at the distance of the moon, is always, even when the moon is in apogee or at its greatest remoteness from the earth, between two and three times the moon's diameter and was, in fact, on the present occasion, more than two and a half times that diameter (5549" as against 2013"). The magnitude of a lunar eclipse is in reality the ratio borne to the moon's diameter by the depth of immersion, at mid eclipse of the most deeply immersed point of the moon's disc, a rather complex notion, which it is not easy to make clear without the aid of some diagram. But this I dare say matters little."

ACCORDING to the *Englishman* of the 10th November, "it is probable that Sir Steuart Bayley will get the next vacant seat in the India Council," and "Sir Mortimer Durand may be invited to take charge of the Political and Secret Secretariat at the India office."

UNDER the authority conveyed by the 29th section of the Act 21 and 22 Victoria, Chapter 106, His Excellency the Governor General of India is pleased, subject to the approbation of Her Majesty the Queen, Empress of India, to appoint the Honourable Sir Charles Haukes Todd Crosthwaite, K.C.S.I., of the Indian Civil Service, to be Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces and Chief Commissioner of Oudh.

THE following notification dated Simla, the 2nd November, 1892, appears in the *Gazette of India* of the 5th November 1892 :—

"In exercise of the power conferred by Statute 33 Victoria, Chapter 3, Section 6, and in supersession of the rules published in Notification No. 1534, dated the 22nd August 1879, the Governor General in Council has been pleased to make the following rules, which have been sanctioned by the Secretary of State in Council with the concurrence of a majority of the members present:

1. The Local Government may appoint any member of the Provincial Civil Service subordinate to it, who is a Native of India and of proved merit and ability, to any of the offices, places, and employments ordinarily held by members of the Civil Service of India, to fill which it has been declared by such Local Government (by notification in the official Gazette) that members of such Provincial Civil Service can properly be appointed; provided that no appointment shall be made to the office of District and Sessions Judge, or Chief Administrative Officer of a district, or to any Administrative office of higher rank, if the vacancy to be filled is permanent, or for a period of more than three months, without the sanction of the Governor General of India in Council.

2. The Local Government may, with the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council (but not otherwise), at any time appoint any Native of India of proved merit and ability to any of the offices, places, and employments specified by such Local Government in any such notification as in Rule 1 is mentioned; provided that not more than one-fourth of the offices, places, and employments so specified shall at any one time be held by Natives of India not members of the Provincial Civil Service subordinate to that Local Government; but this proviso shall not apply to or include any Native of India (not a member of a Provincial Service) who has, prior to the making of these rules, been appointed under Statute 33 Vict., Cap. 3, Section 6, to an office, place, or employment in the Civil Service of India.

3. The Local Government may (with the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council, in any case in which such sanction is required for a permanent appointment) declare any appointment to be made on probation only, and may prescribe the terms on which it is made and the conditions with which the person appointed must comply before he can be confirmed.

4. The Local Government may at any time suspend and, with the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council, remove any person appointed by such Local Government under these rules."

THE most remarkable prodigy in the journalistic trade must be credited to France. Certainly the biggest, wonderfulest concern of a little newspaper is *Le Petit Journal*, a Parisian daily paper with the largest circulation of any journal in the world, edited, managed, and entirely conducted by the chief owner, M. Cassigneul. The number of copies printed is 1,200,000, the number of readers being from 3,000,000 to 5,000,000. It is a diminutive sheet of only four pages of five columns each, yet it commands great influence in France. The first and second pages are occupied by signed leaders. The writers are such men as Xavier de Montepin, Paul Blouet, Jules Mary, Emile Richebourg, Paul Saumières, and Paul d'Agremont. For a single article they often receive a hundred pounds—the rate at which Mr. Gladstone has been paid for his recent article in the *North American Review*. No wonder that the charges for advertisements

are very high. So much as £2 a line each insertion is payable for every advertisement in the last page and £4 a line for that on the third page. This is not only the unalterable rate, but no deduction is allowed on any account for long or continued advertisements. If the letters in a line are twice or three times as large or deep as the letters of a reading notice, they have to be paid for in proportion. Nor are advertisements ever allowed intrusion into the first two pages. There are three editions of the paper. The first is printed at from five to seven in the evening for outside cities of France, like Bordeaux, Nice, Marseilles, &c. The second edition, at from seven to nine P.M., for transmission by railways to Lyons, Dijon, Havre, &c. The last is reserved for Paris and its suburbs.

The offices of this monster of a letter-press dwarf on the Rue de Lafayette occupy fourteen buildings. 500 to 600 men are at work for the journal. The editorial, reportorial and other departments are above, while the great machines, consisting in part of fourteen gigantic rotary Marinoni presses—after the invention of Hippolyte Marinoni, the father-in-law of M. Cassigneul—are below. The presses print 40,000 copies an hour. These machines, in fact the entire offices, are owned by Cassigneul. This gentleman has had a remarkable career. The sixth son of a policeman in a little town in Italy, he commenced life as a compositor, and he is now worth £3,000,000, or over four crores of Rupees. The capital of the company running the paper is estimated at £2,000,000.

\*\*\*

ON Tuesday, the 8th November, Mr. Ganesh Krishna Shahane, the Editor and Proprietor of the vernacular newspaper *Suryodaya*, published every week in Thana, was arrested in Poona, on a warrant issued by the First Class Magistrate at Sholapur, in a case of defamation preferred against him by Rao Bahadur Hebliker, Huzur Deputy Collector and Magistrate at Sholapur. He was released on a bail of Rs. 500.

..

HERE is a characteristic anecdote of European pretension :—

"Mr. Shakespeare, the great authority on the dialects of northern India, and whose Urdu Dictionary is the standard work of reference, used to pride himself on the purity of his Urdu pronunciation. But his amiable vanity once received a severe shock. Once he spoke to his new Delhiwal syce [even the mehtars of Delhi, by the bye, speak classical Urdu] on some matter, but the syce kept gazing at him. Mr. Shakespeare repeated what he had said, but still that perplexed stare. At length his patience gave way and he rushed at his humble retainer *a la Anglaise*, when the poor fellow blurted out : *Hazur main Angresi nahin samajhta!* Here was the mystery cleared,—the Urdu of the Sahib, over which the courtly Munshis used to go into ecstasies, was incomprehensible in the home of Urdu."

## NOTES & LEADERETTES

with

### OUR OWN NEWS.

THE distress owing to scarcity of food is spreading in the country. We have received the following telegram from Balasore :—

Nov. 8.—At the instance of Raja Boikunth Nath Dey Bahadur, a public meeting was called last evening at the zilla school hall to raise subscriptions for the relief of the poor people of Kamarda in thana Balia-pal of this district, who are suffering from scarcity. The District Magistrate, Mr. Cornish, presided. A committee has been formed to raise subscriptions for administering relief to the poor sufferers in the affected parts, and nearly Rs. 4,000 have already been subscribed. The grateful thanks of the public are due to Mr. Cornish, our popular and kind hearted Magistrate, for the timely measures he has adopted to meet the crisis."

IN our issue of the 3rd September last, we commented on a communication from a so-called "Turk of Constantinople," published in the London *Daily News*, in which the writer proclaimed that the approaching advent of Mr. Gladstone to power was causing lively satisfaction at the capital, inasmuch as the Mussulmans of all but the official classes had, it was said, always regarded the illustrious English statesman a defender of the oppressed of all creeds and nationalities. Since then, a friend of ours, who seems to be well acquainted with the writer of that letter, tells us that "the 'Turk of Constantinople' writing in the *Daily News*, is originally a Christian Syrian by birth, the son of the

famous Arab grammarian and poet Ahmed Faris, who, not finding himself sufficiently rewarded in Constantinople, has gone to England where he is serving the cause of the Grand Old Man. These letters are luckily not taken for seriously by any body, nor will the anger of the Grand Old Man be so vehement as his words, for Lord Rosebery has got quite different views on the Eastern Question, and appreciating the difficulties the Sultan has to contend with, he will hardly deviate from the course of Lord Salisbury."

THE Bengal Government has found it necessary to republish the Rules contained in Home Department Resolution of the 11th May 1885, emphasised in the same Department's Resolution of the 22nd July 1887, forbidding all servants of Government, covenanted or uncovenanted, to receive complimentary or valedictory addresses in any form, or to accept testimonials of any kind, or to attend public meetings or complimentary entertainments of a formal and public character held in their honor. Sir Charles Elliott warns all officers under his Government that any breach of the rules therein laid down will be seriously dealt with. The rules by themselves do not apply to the receipt of addresses by the heads of any Government or Administration. Nor are they, we find, elastic enough to embrace the wives of officers, who are, we believe, free to accept what may be offered them in recognition of the services done by their husbands or by themselves.

OF the many anecdotes which are being told of the late Poet Laureate perhaps the most characteristic is that furnished by the *Tablet*. The writer was on a visit to Farringford some four or five years ago. Sitting under the shadow of the great magnolias that cover one side of the house, the conversation turned upon the supernatural and the possibility of communications from the other world. Tennyson then related how, one fine Sunday, in one of the New England States, a dissenting minister noted for his powers as a preacher, instead of reading a text and giving a sermon, suddenly in a most dramatic manner began to recite "The Charge of the Light Brigade." The congregation listened breathlessly to the end. They could not choose but hear that impassioned musical tongue. But before the end of the service elders and people alike were loud in their anger at the way in which the house of prayer had been profaned. The minister was wholly unprepared for the complaint. He remembered having gone into the pulpit intending to speak on the need for charity and was wholly unconscious of what a different performance he had given. Convinced at length by irresistible testimony, of the *contretemps* he had committed, he was filled with shame and remorse. He kept a close sabbath that day, within his room, and passed a sleepless night. At daybreak word was brought that a man looking like a tramp wanted to see him urgently. Though as yet scarcely prepared, he made a desperate resolve to see him. The visitor walked straight up to him and said calmly : "I come to thank the man who has saved my soul." The minister stood in silence wondering whether this was another illusion for his confusion, while the stranger went on : "I was all through the Crimea and I was in the thick of the fight at Gettysburg but never till I heard you recite that poem in the chapel yesterday did I know what I had to thank God for. Sir, from that hour I determined to change my life, and I want to thank the man to whom I owe my salvation."

We are not told—at least in the Allahabad *Morning Post* in which we read the charming story—whether, and how, the pastor was reconciled to his flock. Perhaps delicacy is not much observed in the great democracy of the West. Still we can scarcely conceive the reverend gentleman proceeding next Sunday in high spirits, armed with his godsend of a visitor of Monday morning—like a teetotal orator with his drunkard reclaimed—to face his congregation, if not to justify his strange behaviour in the pulpit which had scandalized them on the previous sabbath, at any rate to show them how the Lord in his mercy had turned the matter to good account. The incident was too sacred for making political capital of, or religious. No reverent soul would think of such a use of such a thing. A true pastor would brave the obloquy of elders and congregation ten times over than degrade the mysteries of grace that may be vouchsafed in the thick of the faithlessness of our work-day world. Yet it were a pity if the wonderful conversion of the retired man of war and the world in both hemispheres through a well-known piece of poetry of bloodshed impressively recited in absent-mindedness from the pulpit of a chapel by the minister in lieu of the sermon, were entirely

withheld from the members of that church. If the knowledge did not make more converts, it would dispose them all to a better frame of mind. The unco-religious have little hope in this world—or the next. But many of the rest might learn to relent towards many things which they have been taught by foolish teachers to despise and hate as the abominations of the world.

OUR old friend Kassim Atiff Soorati, the well known merchant, landholder and owner of the only silk manufactory in Calcutta, recently returned from pilgrimage to Mecca, and is now a full blown Haji. He intends to celebrate the event befittingly. Our readers are aware, that it was he who threw water on the blazing fire of dispute between the Mahomedans of Shambazu and the Hindoo purchaser of the ground on which the small mosque stood and which had caused the unfortunate riot in the beginning of last year—by buying up the piece of land from the Hindoo proprietor and making it over to the Mahomedans living in that neighbourhood for purposes of the mosque. He will now build a grand mosque upon that site, measuring about 10 cottahs, and make a Wakf (religious trust) of that property from the proceeds of which the regular expenses of the mosque are to be met.

We are glad to learn that Haji Kassim Atiff did not forget the convenience and comfort of his co-religionists performing the Haji. During his recent visit to the Hijaz he got a well excavated at Jeddah at a cost of Rs. 1000, repaired all the taps of the Water Supply at Mecca, carried 12 coolies with him, from Mecca to Medina and back, and had the 14 or 15 wells on the way cleansed at a cost of Rs. 1,500, and paid the return passage of 100 poor Indian pilgrims. If the other wealthy of the Mahomedan persuasion similarly spent their money to facilitate the uncomfortable and irksome journey which Indian Mahomedans have to undertake in the Haji season, the discomforts attending such pilgrimages will gradually be minimised.

THE last witness examined for the defence by the Commission in the Hyderabad defamation case, was Raja Rampal Sing, of Kalakankar. He is reported to have said that he had heard Miss Donnelly was bad. In the year 1870 Mehdi Hassan had introduced her to him as his friend not as his wife. The Raja was not spared by the counsel for the prosecution. The questions then turned on his own marriage. Regarding that he made a curious statement that after the death of the Indian Rani of Kalakankar, he has been plunged in the arduous business of matrimony, not only marrying repeatedly but also devising new forms of union or new adaptations of old forms. It is all right, of course. Our Raja is no Rajpoot polygamist. He has been true to one love—so true indeed that he has been wedding her over and over again—to make assurance doubly sure. He said that Mrs. Rampal Sing is an English lady, married to him according to Hindu law, and that in 1891 he once more married her before the Registrar. We are not told whether the witness was asked to explain the nature of the first union. Perhaps the counsel did not stand in need of information, like ourselves. Lawyers are not so ignorant as Editors. To us we confess the idea of an English lady, presumably the daughter of Christian parents, being united in holy wedlock to a Hindu gentleman in the Hindu way, is so strange and grotesque as scarcely to be a possibility of thought.

By marriage "according to Hindu law" is no doubt meant marriage according to Hindu rites. These rites are some of them onerous enough to the natives themselves, and Raja Rampal must be gifted indeed to have persuaded an English lady to submit to him. The lady herself must be endowed with extraordinary powers of patience and endurance. It is no ordinary trial. After going through the greater part of it, the European, man or woman, who has accepted Hindu rites, may, after all, fail to complete the process, flying from the torture of the *Kushandika*, as some widows rush out of the burning pile to which they voluntarily submit themselves to be bound. Oh the torture of the *Kushandika*! If Hindus knew what was in store for them they would take the vow of celibacy. Hindu rites of course must be performed before Narayan, the symbol of Deity, and by the priest. We wonder what Brahman the Raja got to unite him to his British spouse. Is there a Hindu Gretna Green unknown to us?

THE Hindus and Mussulmans are at war at Pind Dadan Khan. For once the police, however, are not asleep nor averse from pouring oil over the troubled waters. They have even caught two city lads sticking up posters inciting the Hindus and Mussulmans to fight. This seems such a departure from the practice of civil defenders of the society in the Panjab, that people are in ecstasy and showing the most extravagant appreciation of minute mercies. The Press itself is off its head. While rewards are called for for the singular policemen who caught the boys posting up objectionable notices, all the vengeance of the law short of the capital is invoked for the heads of the two juvenile bill-stickers, who are probably as innocent as the infant unborn. We really have cause for anxiety regarding the fate of the two lads when even the Lahore *Tribune*, under the present management, can talk wildly as to call the boys "dreadful criminals." Dreadful criminals, indeed! Says our contemporary:—

"These dreadful criminals, by capturing whom the police have saved the country, perhaps, from serious political disturbances, will shortly be sent up for trial. Nothing short of transportation will meet the ends of Justice. The constables have been no doubt recommended for promotion."

If constables are to be rewarded for seizing poor bill-stickers, the Police may as well be abolished.

Journalists in frontier provinces ought to cultivate stronger nerves than those that are upset at any local or tribal contests, however desperate, in out of the way places.

WE take the following from the Resolution of the Government of Bengal on the Report on Public Instruction in Bengal for the year 1891-92:

"For the last 17 years the Central Text-book Committee (which now consists of 17 members with Babu Bhudeb Mookerjee, C.I.E., as President) has been entrusted with the duty of selecting school-books out of the very large number of publications offered by private enterprise for its acceptance. It is composed of the best scholars available, all of them men of some distinction, and 16 of them Fellows of the Calcutta University. As Mr Tawney observes, their position is such as to make them entirely independent, and there is not the smallest ground for any suspicion that they ever subordinate their duty to private influence. He gives an account of the procedure followed by the Committee in respect of every book submitted to them for examination. There are six Sub-Committees for the various branches of literature: the publishers and authors generally furnish sufficient copies of their works for the use of each member of Sub-Committee concerned: each member reports on the work on certain definite points: these reports are tabulated in a book and duly considered at a meeting of the general Committee, after notice given: each book is then accepted either unanimously or subjected to further examination, and approved or rejected after fair discussion, or it may be referred back for re-examination. The proceedings of the meeting are printed and circulated and confirmed at the next meeting. The Director annually revises the list of text-books in accordance with the Committee's recommendations, and managers of schools are restricted to the use of the books named therein. It would be difficult to devise a system giving a better guarantee of fairness in original selection. At the same time, as Mr. Tawney points out, books which have been entered on the authorised list may become obsolete, or are superseded by later works, and for the purpose of revising the list of 690 passed books, a special Sub-Committee was lately appointed: their labours are not [sic] nearly concluded, and will be subject to the approval of the general Committee. The above remarks refer to their duties in connection with text-books for middle schools, but they have also undertaken to prepare similar lists of books for high and primary schools. In this connection they dealt with 476 works, approving 152 for school use, 82 for prizes and inclusion in school libraries, and declared 233 unsuitable for schools; nine were still pending. The numerous authors disappointed doubtless resent the unfavourable verdicts of the Committee. The Lieutenant-Governor is, however, satisfied that the General Committee, the Sub-Committees and the Branch Committees for Bihar and Orissa, have done a great deal of very useful work for which they deserve the thanks of Government. The only suggestion that it occurs to him to offer—and its principle is perhaps already acted upon—is that, when a book comes up for examination and discussion, a member of any Committee who is in any manner connected with the publisher or author should withdraw from the consideration of the particular work."

The book constitution may be all right. But are the disappointed authors only to blame? Have not some of the fortunate ones exceptional cause for merriment?

We take the suggestion of the Lieutenant-Governor in the concluding sentence to mean that the Committee should be free of any influence in the consideration of any book, that unprejudiced or disinterested minds should determine the eligibility or otherwise of a publication. If this rule were acted upon, there would be no cause for complaint. Yet good authors have good cause to be aggrieved. The hint thrown out in the Resolution for thus purging the Committee of its bad element is suggestive. The good opinion in the statement of the case for the Committee is nullified by the doubts by way of advice in the end.

DEVI SAHAY and Chamba Mull, of Amritsar, have just finished four fine woollen carpets for the Chicago Exhibition. The Viceroy also has just had prepared for him two very handsome carpets (26 x 20) on an ancient Persian design. This firm has not only kept up an interesting and important industry, but has had the firmness to this day to resist the temptation of cheap chemical dyes, if not also the inroads of outlandish patterns.

THE Royal Botanic Garden of Calcutta is increasing in its richness of newly introduced plants from different parts of the world, chiefly from the Royal Herbarium of Kew. From its director, the botanical garden received during the year 1891-1892 collections of plants from Florida and other places. Baron Mueller sent some beautiful Australian plants. There was also an accession from Thibet, China, Mexico and the Saharanpur Herbarium of the north-west Himalaya plants. Dr. Prain, its curator, visited the Andaman Islands, Mount Parashak, and the Khasia hills in the interest of this garden.

THE Viceroy made an important speech at Hyderabad which we publish elsewhere. It was in reply to the toast of his health proposed by the Nizam in a neat little pregnant speech. After going through the round of festivities magnificently prepared in the Nizam's dominions, the Viceroy is now at Mysore, which was reached at 4-30 P.M., on the 10th. The Maharaja attended by the Resident, Colonel Henderson, and the principal officers of State, European and Native, received the Viceroy at the railway station. The Dewan had welcomed him in advance at the Seringapatam station. After the welcome by the Maharaja at the station, the Resident introduced the principal State officials to the Viceroy. The Viceroy then drove to the Government House. The whole city was out to receive Lord Lansdowne. At the north gate of the Fort, the Municipal Commissioners were ready with an address and floral offerings. In his reply Lord Lansdowne was glad that they were able to bear witness to the general progress achieved not only in the capital but throughout the Mysore State. He concluded by saying that he would carry away with him nothing but pleasant recollections of his visit to Mysore.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, November 12, 1892.

### TRIAL BY JURY.

#### THE EXPLANATION WHICH DOES NOT EXPLAIN.

AND this is your Brummagem man of blood and iron! The Civilian *coup d'état* has condescended to explain. Sir Charles Elliott is constitutional after the event—out of season. This is not despotism under the forms of constitutionalism. It is simply the bravery of bureaucrat careful of his skin. Fifteen days after the mischief done, the Bengal Government issued on Thursday, the 10th November, a Gazette Extraordinary containing some papers in justification of the revolutionary notification withdrawing the jury trial in 91 offences, from murder downwards, in seven districts of these Provinces. If it was necessary to attempt a vindication so soon after the perpetration of the proud administrative outrage, where was the wisdom in notifying a peremptory immediate order, sweeping away a valuable privilege of British subjects, without any previous intimation, without the ordinary decency of notice which both the law of man and God enjoins? The country was charged behind its back with culpable neglect and gross incompetence, convicted unheard and punished without an opportunity for appeal. If it was necessary, in the interest of justice and of perfect criminal administration, to suppress in seven districts the trial of the highest offences by jury, the growth of more than a quarter of a century, was it necessary, in that interest or any

other, to surprise the people of a vast tract of country, one fine morning, with the withdrawal of the right? It was British statesmanship that had granted the privilege, and it was unEnglish to withdraw it in a moment as it were, after thirty years, when it had already taken root in the country. It is no palliation of the retrograde policy that the order is not thorough and wholesale. It is a vain contention that jury trial has not been abolished in Bengal. The axe has been laid at the root of the tree. The trial by jury has been abolished in the higher offences, including the capital. If a man can be hanged or transported for life without that safeguard of British justice, it is of minor, if any, importance, that he is not to be punished for marital offences unless convicted by his own peers. If that trial is a necessity in England, it is doubly so in India. The evils of the system—its inherent weaknesses—lie on the surface and are confessed; they exist in England as in India. Notwithstanding, the privilege is so valuable and valued that even the extreme abolitionists in India who declare the system a total failure, do not advise its extinction. Nor has the Bengal Government made out any case for going against the consensus of its advisers. The justificatory opinions published recommend certain modifications, if modifications are wanted. The reasons given in support of the change, are so many arguments in favor of the extension and continuance of the system. But nothing comes amiss to the arguer in favour of a foregone conclusion. Every conceivable Indian sentiment and feeling is set down as contributing to the failure of the system. Are none of these feelings and sentiments of any account? One would have thought that wise alien rulers would consider them specially valuable and worthy of respect. It is said that the Judges have declared against the trial by jury. Indeed, there are cases in which they have found that the verdict of the jury has been against the weight of evidence. But that is only the Judges' impression, and judges are neither infallible nor above human frailties. The present question itself supplies the argument against the infallibility of Judges. The High Court Judges themselves, after more than one attempt, could not agree to the opinion they should submit as that of the High Court. It is notorious, again, how evidence is manufactured in India. The present cry is that criminals escape punishment and therefore trial by jury must give way to trial by Judges. Yet, if the truth is told by the people, it will be discovered that more innocent men have been capitally or otherwise punished than criminals have escaped the administration of the bloody Indian Penal Code. The opinions published tend to confirm the general belief that the Police needs reform. The Police, on the other hand, denounce the popular trial and cry for protection against the verdicts of the jury. And Government, in its wisdom, take up the cry of the Police and take the cases out of the hands of the jury, without reforming the Police. No wonder that the country is in alarm.

It is not in official publications that the true origin of official measures is usually found, and it would be foolish perhaps in the just published papers carefully compiled for the exculpation of Government to trace the genesis of the blow on popular privileges. This compilation, steering as much as possible clear of offence, shifts the responsibility on the Supreme Government. So far as the official correspondence is laid before the public—and it is not

in official communications, in numbered letters carefully copied and docketed, that the fates of individuals and states are sealed—the initiative was the Government of India's. But the Supreme Government at the worst simply instituted an inquiry. It was Sir Charles Elliott who, in reporting to the higher authority, interpreted the results into a condemnation of the Jury System as prevalent in Bengal.

The history of the Notification as disclosed in the papers published, is this. The Government of India, in considering the working of the Police and the machinery for the repression of crime, was advised that the jury system had, in some degree, favoured the escape of criminals. They, therefore, on the 31st May 1890, requested the Local Government "to consider and report how the system has worked in the Lower Provinces, what opinion is entertained as to its merits as a means for the repression of crime, and what improvements, if any, are called for in its application."

The Government of India also consulted the Chief Justice and the Judges of the High Court, who, at request, furnished a copy of their opinion to the Lieutenant-Governor.

The Bengal Government, on the 23rd June 1890, called for reports on the three points, from (1) the Commissioners of the Presidency, Burdwan, Dacca and Patna Divisions; (2) District Judges of the 24-Perganas, Hooghly, Burdwan, Murshidabad, Nadia, Dacca, and Patna; and (3) Inspector-General of Police.

The last report received by the Bengal Government from its officers, is dated the 18th February 1891.

After an examination of four months, the Lieutenant-Governor summarizes these reports in the view he takes of the question and makes his own suggestions which we publish elsewhere. They astutely make for practical Abolition. We have no space this week for the detailed views of the Government of India. We only give the conclusions. "The Governor-General in Council has no doubt that the action which His Honour proposes to take for the revision of the list of offences triable by jury in Bengal, as described in paragraph 6 above, is fully justified by the results reported." This we unhesitatingly beg leave to deny. The allegation is not borne out by the papers unless by reading them in a peculiar way. Still His Excellency is not prepared to effect any change in the law as suggested in the Bengal recommendations. "It is not clear to His Excellency in Council what advantage there would be in retaining the jury system at all, if it is to be reduced so nearly to the level of a trial with assessors; and he is reluctant to abolish the distinctive feature of trial by jury, the comparative finality of the verdict, until all other available methods for the improvement of the system have been exhausted." With these and other remarks, the Government of India "commend the subject to the consideration of the Bengal Government, and suggest that such action as the Lieutenant-Governor may consider necessary should be taken under sec. 269 of the Criminal Procedure Code."

Sir Charles Elliott reconsiders the matter for nearly two months and then decides to hurl on the country the Notification of the 20th October 1892.

The Jury system in Bengal is thus improved in Bengal by being improved out of the country as regards 91 graver offences, including murder.

The enquiry started with an initial mistake—a

fundamental misconception of the function of trial by jury. The mistake and misconception was to regard that mode of adjudication as a special means for the repression of crimes. It was not as such a mode that the institution arose in its original home—it was not as such that it is prized there or anywhere else. Trial by jury is not a complement to the Police. It was not founded on the belief in its efficacy as an organ for hunting down criminals. It is rather a safeguard against the tyranny of the king and his minions—the state and its agents. It is in the interest of justice to the accused that it everywhere exists. It is more necessary in India than in England or the United States. It is an indispensable protection in this country with a notoriously corrupt Police and a timid ignorant population unable to help themselves and to claim, far less to defend, their rights. It was in this view that the truer statesmanship of the past grafted this beneficent institution of the mother country on to the judicial constitution of this country. There has been nothing to justify the cutting it down. These papers certainly disclose no sufficient ground.

That the alien authorities of a dependent country should sympathise with an alien constabulary which is one of their chief weapons of civil government, is not to be wondered at. But that they should echo the Police view of the great institution of Trial by Jury, is remarkable. A more preposterous blunder surely was never made by Englishmen than to regard that Trial as an efficient method for the punishment of criminals and the repression of crime.

That such an idea should be not nursed in secret but boldly and officially enunciated and proclaimed as the foundation of administrative policy by the Government of India, and that it should be appreciatively accepted by the Government of Bengal, proves how little our Anglo-Indian rulers are in touch with British notions. It is this unEnglishism of the initiative and of the final determination of the Government of India which fixes the whole business as a pet of the Indian Bureaucracy. We discern not in it the personality of the Viceroy himself. A Lansdowne could scarcely sympathise with a policy so retrograde. All the same, the outrage has been perpetrated. The object of having a Viceroy and Governors every five years out fresh from England, was by these griffins to check the absolutist tendencies of the acclimatised Qui Hyes and Ducks and Mulls. In allowing the old Indians the *carte blanche* in such a grave matter, Lord Lansdowne has impaired the *raison d'être* of his high office.

#### THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACT.

SURGEON-GENERAL Sir William Moore, in his paper read at the Sanitary Congress, thus expresses himself in favour of this abrogated law, with less show of reason than of feeling. "It is therefore to be hoped that the Contagious Diseases Act may be again employed and that there may be a prompt reversal of the policy imposed upon the House of Commons by certain misguided enthusiasts." His ground for the re-introduction of the Act is that venereal diseases are gradually increasing in the army of India. To make more forcible his own statement, he thus quotes from a letter of a soldier published in the *Times of India* of 12th June, 1891: "Day after day the evil increases; day after day the death march wails over the victims of legislative imbecility, while the triumphant influence of the bigot howls forth the never-

ceasing pæan 'Thank God I am not as other men are.' The Doctor's conclusion is "that its abolition was calculated to produce more evil to the soldier than all the other sanitary measures in India can compensate for."

In the annual report of the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, 1890, the strength of the European troops in India is given at 69,266 and 67,823 for the years 1889 and 1890 respectively. The strength of the native troops for the same period is 128,642 and 127,746. So the number of native troops was nearly three times that of the European ones.

The same report gives a comparative statement of the years 1866 before the introduction of the C. D. Act, 1884 while it was in force, and 1889 and 1890 after it was abrogated, with respect to the European army of India affected by the disease. The venereal disease is made to include primary and secondary syphilis, gonorrhœa, &c., and the ratio is per thousand. The table is as follows:—

|            | 1890. | 1889. | 1884. | 1866.      |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|------------|
| Bengal ... | 504   | 491·2 | 290·6 | 217·7      |
| Madras ... | 491·2 | 451·6 | 306·7 | 236·1      |
| Bombay ... | 515·5 | 481·1 | 291·6 | not known. |

This clearly indicates that before the introduction of the Act, the venereal disease was much less and that it gradually increased in spite of the law. It went on increasing even after the repeal. At any rate, there is nothing to show that the law had much deterrent effect.

As to the native troops,

|            | 1890. | 1889. | 1884. |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Bengal ... | 39·7  | 39·8  | 31·3  |
| Madras ... | 48·9  | 33·6  | 22·6  |
| Bombay ... | 47·5  | 51·7  | 32·1  |

The proportion for the year 1866 is wanting. The ratio of secondary syphilis of the two armies has also been compared:—

|              | 1890. | 1889. | 1884. |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
| European ... | 66·3  | 51·2  | 21·4  |
| Native ...   | 6·9   | 6·3   | 4·8   |

This shows the comparative morality of the two different races placed in the same situation.

The Surgeon-General and Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, Mr. W. R. Rice, M.D., thus remarks on the increase of syphilis:—

"It shows that though there is an increase in the secondary syphilis ratio of native troops, it is slight, and runs at an altogether lower level than the corresponding increase in the ratio for European troops. It is, of course, but natural that the ratios of the native troops should be much lower than those of the European troops, considering the very different environment of the two bodies of men."

We are at a loss to understand why there should be so much difference between the two when they are placed within the same regulations, and we do not see why they are in different environment, as it has been taken for granted by Dr. Rice.

Syphilis is a European importation in this country. It has no Indian name. In *Bhabaprakasha* it is named as Feringhee disease. It was not known before the age of this book which is taken to be about two hundred years, and this name does not appear either in *Charaka* or *Susruta*. *Upadansa* may be mistaken for syphilis, but the symptoms as stated are quite different from those of syphilis. Syphilis has been mentioned as contagious and productive of secondary eruptions, while *upadansa* is

not. To some extent we may make it synonymous with primary chancre, but primary may run into secondary while *Upadansa* does not. Rheumatic pain may follow the last mentioned disease, but there are no skin eruptions of any kind. This differentiates it from the Feringhee disease which is the present form of syphilis. It may therefore be assumed that this form of the disease was at first introduced by the Europeans and that the spread was generally due to them.

There would have been some show of reason for the re-introduction of the Act, if Sir William Moore could show that the spread of this disease rests principally with the prostitutes. But the fact is that both genders are responsible for it. It will be quite a one-sided measure if the Act is to be for women only as before. Such an enactment would be a complete failure, like the land quarantine, and it proved to be so during the time it was in force. It would be quite unreasonable, nay a moral perversion if any step were taken to re-introduce it. There are many evils which flesh is heir to, but the suppression of every one of them by legal force is quite an impossibility. Sir William Moore's statement as to the deterrent effect of this Act, is after all his own creation and is not borne out by facts. In 1866, when the Act was not in force, the disease was less and it gradually increased notwithstanding the legislative remedy against its spread since adopted. It proved on the contrary an instrument of oppression to the poor destitutes and a source of gain to the underlings of those reputed gentlemen who still advocate its cause. It not only filled the pockets of these underlings and the myrmidons of the police, but it also placed within their clutches the destitutes who dreaded them as more than infuriated beasts. It was a mighty engine in their hands who had no hesitation in crushing any woman who would not satisfy them. Its abolition has not been a legislative imbecility, but its introduction would be a legislative insanity.

### A SHOCKING OUTRAGE.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Allahabad *Morning Post* gives the details of the recent assault in Cashmere on Miss De Bourbel, a daughter of General De Bourbel. They are most harrowing. The assailant was a menial in the household, one of the four syces who, with an Ayah, attended Madame De Bourbel's three children, their governess and another lady and child staying with the Bourbels, on an invitation to a children's party at the Munshi Bagh, Srinagar. It was when taking leave of the party they were about starting on their return journey, that the onslaught was made. It was at once a treacherous, cowardly, and a savage attack. After the final leave-taking, Miss De Bourbel called for her jacket. It was handed to her by the syce in attendance. She proceeded to put it on. Introducing herself into the piece of clothing, when she had got both arms pinioned in the sleeves, the jacket being neither on nor off—in that moment of perfect helplessness, her manly enemy made war on the poor girl. Indeed, there was nothing manly about the matter, nor was it war but assassination that was aimed at. While entangled in the sleeves, Miss De Bourbel received a blow on the head from behind. She instinctively turned round, calling out to her syce—the same who had handed her the jacket—for protection. The appeal was responded to with a blow in her face causing a wound from below the brow of the left eye, narrowly avoiding the destruction of that delicate organ, to the roots of the hair on the forehead. Discovering that her own servant was bent on murdering her, the poor lady attempted to run, but she received a blow at the back of her knees which brought her down on them. She was still in the meshes of her jacket. As soon as she could shake it of, she seized her horse's tail and, notwithstanding

the blows still levelled, with more or less success, at her, rose on her feet. And now she made another effort to save herself by flight. It was in vain. The enemy soon overtook her and stabbed her in the throat, close to the wind-pipe and again in the head, cutting the scalp three inches long down to the skull. The poor thing fell, dropping like a flower torn ruthlessly asunder by a high wind. Still, like the blind wind battering away at its fallen victims, that cruel insatiate man went on delivering blow upon blow upon the devoted child, who, with a presence of mind and a pluck which heroes have not surpassed, received them on her back and shoulders until, feeling alarmed, she by desperate effort obtained a crouching position, and thus contrived to receive them on her arms. This could not go on long. Luckily, one of the other grooms entered appearance and grappled with Wahait, as the miscreant is called. Miss De Bourbel now ran in the direction of the other children all trembling with fear, but she fell down unconscious on the way, exhausted from loss of blood. By this, however, help came, and she was removed and surgical aid procured. Meanwhile, Wahait had freed himself from the grasp of his brother-groom and disappeared. Although General De Bourbel gave prompt information all round, the man has not been traced to this day.

This is a shocking outrage of the most dastardly diabolical kind. We trust the strictest measures are being taken to find the man.

#### THE VICEROY AT HYDERABAD.

The Nizam entertained the Viceregal party at a State Banquet at the Chowmahal Palace on the 5th November, at which there were present about 300 guests, representing the leading members of the official and non-official community at Hyderabad, Chuddergat, Secunderabad, and Bolarum. The Nizam dined with the company and proposed the health of the "Queen Empress" and afterwards of the "Viceroy" in the following terms:--

"I cannot express to your Excellency with what pleasure I rise this evening to welcome Lord and Lady Lansdowne to my capital. The historical friendship that has existed between my State and the British Government, has not been confined to mere mellifluous words, but has been tested by deeds, in which the best blood of Hyderabad has been shed in the defence of British interests; deeds too, in which British blood was spilt in the defence of the throne of their faithful ally. This friendship is a most precious legacy left to me by my ancestors, which I am not only most anxious to maintain, but to increase by continuous deeds of loyal amity. I will not detain your Lordship and Lady Lansdowne with further expressions of my happiness in welcoming you. I therefore conclude by proposing your Excellencies very good health." The toast was duly honoured.

His Excellency the Viceroy, in responding to the toast, said:-- "I have listened with the keenest interest to the forcible words in which your Highness has borne witness to the hereditary friendship by which, in past years, the Hyderabad State and the British Government have been united. That precious legacy, as your Highness has well described it, is one of which you and I are the joint trustees, and I feel sure that, on your side, as upon mine, no pains will be spared in order to keep it intact. Your Highness has welcomed Lady Lansdowne and myself to your capital in the kindest possible terms. Let me take the opportunity of saying that I have, ever since my arrival in India, looked forward to a visit to the Hyderabad State, and to making the personal acquaintance of its Ruler. Within a few days, I am not sure that I should not be correct if I were to say within a few hours of my landing in Bombay, in the autumn of 1888, I received from your Highness a very cordial invitation to Hyderabad. If I have, hitherto, been prevented from availing myself of that invitation, it has been due to engagements and calls upon my time, which it would have been difficult for me to avoid, but I may say that I have never for a moment contemplated allowing my term of office to come to a close before I had complied with the wish which your Highness had so kindly expressed. I desired to come here not only on account of the personal regard which I feel for your Highness, but also because, believing as I do that it is one of the duties of the Queen's representative in India to see something of the principal States which form a part of her Indian Empire, I should certainly have felt that duty had been very incompletely performed so long as I omitted to accord to this State that recognition which is implied in a visit from the Viceroy. I dwell upon this consideration because I yield to none of my predecessors in my desire to treat, with the respect which is due to them, the Indian States in subordinate alliance with her Majesty the Queen-Empress. I have always recognized the advantages of the arrangement under which a considerable portion of the Indian Empire continues to be governed by its hereditary rulers and to be subject to forms of

administration, differing to a considerable extent from our own, but inspired by our proximity and stimulated by our example. No one would be more averse than I should be to any changes in our relations with the Native States inconsistent with the measure of local autonomy which they now enjoy. It is because I entertain these feelings so strongly, that I am anxious to see the Government of these States carried out upon sound principles, and in such a manner as to place it beyond the power of any one to say that the Government of India, in arresting, as it has striven to arrest, the process by which the greater part of the territories of India were passing under the direct rule of the Crown, has shown itself unmindful of the welfare of the millions of people who still remain outside the limits of British India. Nowhere is it more important that the government of an Indian State by an Indian Ruler should be successful than it is at Hyderabad. His Highness the Nizam is Ruler over an area of 100,000 square miles and a population of over eleven millions of human beings. It is, perhaps, instructive, in order to give ourselves a correct idea of the importance of the State, to recall the fact that its population is about five times that of the kingdom of Denmark, and considerably more than double the population of the Netherlands, that of Norway and Sweden, and that of Turkey in Europe, while it is also considerably more than double that of the whole of the great island continent of Australia, and of that of the vast Dominion of Canada in which I had, for some years, the honor of representing her Majesty. His Highness's territories comprise some of the richest districts in natural resources of any in India, and it is not too much to say that, given a Government founded upon justice and personal security, there is no reason why the State should not be what his Highness, I am sure, desires it to be--an exemplar to the rest of India. And if it be true to say this of the State, I think I am justified in adding that there is no Ruler whom, upon personal grounds, the Government of India is more desirous of supporting and encouraging in the discharge of his onerous duties than his Highness the Nizam. I have had the advantage of meeting several of those who have had official relations with his Highness, and they are all agreed in bearing witness to the personal qualities which have attracted to him the sympathy and good will of those with whom he has been brought into contact. It is satisfactory to know that he has, on more than one occasion, shown by his acts that he is sincerely anxious to do his duty as the ruler of this important State. I may refer, in illustration of my meaning, to the liberality with which the support of the State has been given to such useful measures as the improvement of the water-supply of Secunderabad, and to the public spirit shown by his Highness in connection with the appointment of the Chloroform Commission, so ably presided over by Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrie--an enquiry which has already produced scientific results of importance, and which shows that his Highness is prepared to recognise the claims of a philanthropy transcending the limits of his own possessions. His Highness is, however, only at the beginning of his career as a Ruler. Those who have watched over its inception and are now awaiting its development, will be the first to admit that during the first years of his rulership it was natural, and in accordance with the dictates of prudence, that he should proceed cautiously and familiarise himself with the circumstances of his people before taking more vigorous strides along the path of reform. We may, however, be permitted to look forward to the time when his ideas having been matured, he will be in a position to impress them upon others, and to undertake measures which will leave their mark upon the State and entitle him to the lasting gratitude of his subjects. I have the best reasons for knowing that his Highness has lately bestowed much earnest thought upon the position and affairs of his State, and that our expectations are no likely to be disappointed. I believe I am right in saying that his Highness was advised, at the time of his accession, by one of my predecessors to look carefully to his finances. That was a very sound piece of advice, not because large cash balances or vast hoards of treasure are in themselves productive of good, but because a solvent exchequer is the indispensable condition of fruitful and beneficent administration. No Government, from the Government of India downwards, can succeed unless its liabilities are punctually fulfilled, unless it is able to remunerate adequately the services of those whom it employs, and unless it can devote an adequate part of its finances to the development of the natural resources of the country. But this is not all. It is one of the misfortunes to which we are exposed in India, that income derived from land revenue is, owing to the climatic conditions of the country, and to other causes, always liable to serious fluctuations. Your Highness's State is no exception to the rule. This is a point which your Highness and your advisers cannot, any more than the Government of India, afford to lose sight of. It is a fact which obliges you, as it does us, to regulate your expenditure in such a manner as to ensure one year with another, a reasonable margin of income over expenditure. The temptation to which we are all exposed under such conditions, is that of allowing expenditure to rise to the level of the full revenue of the best and most prosperous years. I need not dwell upon the perils by which such a policy must be attended. The expenditure of the Hy-

derabad State amounts to a very large sum. Whether that sum, in view of the elements of uncertainty in the revenue, is in excess of what the State can afford, or whether the whole of it is expended in the best possible manner, are questions which merit, and which are, I know, receiving the earnest consideration of your Highness. I have heard with the greatest satisfaction that your Highness has in contemplation considerable reforms in the military administration of the State. Your Highness's decision to take up this question is interesting to me for several reasons, and for one reason in particular. We are all aware that several of the Indian States have placed a portion of their forces under special discipline for purposes of Imperial defence. Now I believe I am right in saying that it was from Hyderabad that the first offer of a contribution towards the defences of the empire proceeded, and I am aware that comments have been made upon the fact that although this was the case, nothing real has yet been done by Hyderabad in this direction. It has, I believe, been supposed in some quarters that the fault lay with the Government of India, and in others that it lay with the Hyderabad State. Now I am glad to have this opportunity of stating publicly that I do not believe that it has ever been in your Highness's contemplation to recede from the offer which you made in 1887—an offer which, let me say, undoubtedly produced a very considerable effect upon other Indian States. But I am able to go further and to say that since my arrival here, your Highness spontaneously, and without any reference to the subject from me, has made me an unconditional offer of a regiment of cavalry, specially selected from your existing troops, for purposes of Imperial defence, an offer which your Highness is ready to supplement after a suitable interval of time by the contribution of a second regiment. There is no mystery whatever as to the circumstances, in consequence of which no action has yet been taken in connection with this matter. I have on several occasions publicly explained the policy of the Government of India with regard to these Imperial Service troops. We found that there were certain States in which it was possible to substitute, for a portion of the State troops, a body of men recruited within the State and officered by natives of the State, so well trained, so thoroughly equipped and under such a good discipline, as to render them fit to take their place, in time of war, alongside of our own battalions. Such a substitution was clearly of advantage both to the State concerned and to the Government of India. It was of advantage to the Government of India, which obtained a small addition to the forces available for mobilisation in time of war; it was also of advantage to the State concerned, because an opportunity was afforded for getting rid of troops who were often of very indifferent quality, in spite of the expense involved in their maintenance, and replacing them by properly trained and disciplined soldiers. In the Hyderabad State, however, the position was unlike that obtaining in any other State. In the first place, we had the fact that that distinguished corps, the Hyderabad Contingent, as well as the Secunderabad force, are practically maintained at his Highness's expense; and in the next place we had to consider that his Highness's military forces already amounted to more than 30,000 men, involving a military budget of some 70 lakhs of rupees. Of this large sum no less than 52 lakhs is, I understand, spent upon the irregular troops. Now in the face of these circumstances, and while this large body of comparatively untrained and indifferently disciplined soldiers continued to be maintained at the expense of the State—to say nothing of the large bodies of men included in the ranks of the regular army—the Government of India did not feel justified in encouraging your Highness to add still further to your military expenditure by providing additional troops for Imperial defences. The only condition on which, in view of what I have just said, we could accept an Imperial Service corps from Hyderabad, was that its creation should be coupled with a sufficient reduction of the military expenditure already incurred. That is, I understand, for all practical purposes the very policy which, after giving the matter your personal consideration, your Highness has determined to adopt. It is in your contemplation that your Imperial Service cavalry should be selected from the existing force of that arm, and the change will, I hope, be carried out in such a way as to occasion no additional expense to the State, which will, I trust, gain in the reductions which it is proposed to effect what it will lose by the increased charges incurred on account of the new cavalry regiment. I do not, of course, for a moment intend to suggest that such reductions should be carried out in a sudden and violent manner, and without due regard for the interests of those concerned. The matter is one requiring careful treatment, and the methods to be adopted should, if sure, be gradual and cautious in their operation. I have spoken with absolute frankness upon this subject, because I am most anxious that there should be no misconception as to your Highness's position and ours with regard to the formation of a Hyderabad Imperial Service corps, and next, because I believe that whether such a corps is to be formed or not, the question of the military expenditure incurred in your Highness's State is one which your Highness is doing well to examine carefully. What is given to superfluous military expenditure is taken away from such objects as the improvement of communications, the

development of railways, the extension of irrigation works, and other forms of expenditure, which are reproductive and which will add to the well-being of your Highness's subjects and to the wealth and reputation of the State. I rejoice to know that these matters are already engaging your Highness's attention, and that it is therefore not necessary that I should press them upon your consideration. In dealing with them your Highness may count upon the support of the Government of India and upon the assistance and advice of the British Resident. You will find in Mr. Plowden a sagacious and trustworthy counsellor, who will not fail to merit your confidence. It has fallen to my lot on two occasions to select a British Resident for the Hyderabad State, the late, Resident Sir D. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Plowden. Your Highness will remember that at the time of the appointment of the former he held the high office of Chief Commissioner of Assam; but so anxious was I to place here a British officer whose position and antecedents would entitle him to your confidence and respect, that I did not hesitate to transfer Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick from his important charge, in order to bring him here. Now that he has been removed to the distinguished position which he is at present filling, as head of the Punjab Government, he has been replaced by a gentleman who has been selected, after the most careful consideration, as being specially fitted for the post. He has had experience of a varied and exceptional character, both in the Secretariat of the Government of India, in important Indian States, and as a local administrator: he enjoys the unstinted confidence of the Government of India, and I know that nothing will give him greater satisfaction than to feel that he is able to assist your Highness in the discharge of the arduous duties which fall to your lot as the Ruler of this important State.

#### WITHDRAWAL OF THE JURY TRIAL.

No. 122J—D, dated Darjeeling, the 22nd June 1891.

From—Sir John Edgar, K. C. I. E., C.S.I., Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department

I am directed to acknowledge your letter No. 742, dated the 31st May 1890, asking the Lieutenant-Governor to report how the jury system has worked in the Lower Provinces, what opinion is entertained as to its merits as a means of repression of crime, and what improvements, if any, are called for in its application.

2. This Government has consulted the Sessions Judges and the District Officers of the districts in which the system is in force, as well as the Commissioners of the Divisions in which these districts are situated, and the Inspector-General of Police. Copies of the reports received are enclosed. The Lieutenant-Governor has also considered the seven minutes of the Judges of the High Court, which were forwarded to you with the Registrar's letter No. 540 of the 9th February 1891.

3. It will be seen from the reports and the minutes of the Judges of the High Court above referred to, that the majority of the most experienced Judges and officers consulted emphatically condemn the system as at present worked in Bengal, and that all are of opinion that it is capable of improvement. The Chief Justice, though unwilling to express any opinion unfavourable to the existence of the system, thinks that an extension of the right of appeal from the verdicts of juries is desirable. Mr. Justice Tottenham is of opinion that, looking at the system as a whole, the results as tested by figures are not satisfactory, and that the system should be reduced nearer to the level of a trial by assessors only. Messrs. Prinsep, Wilson, Pigot and Macpherson state that the system has not been altogether successful in its results and that improvement is necessary. Messrs. Amir Ali and O'Kinealy write that the system has not satisfactorily answered the object for which it was devised; that in cases of homicide even when the crime is of an atrocious character, Indian jurors are averse from bringing in a verdict which would subject the accused to capital punishment; that in other cases, e.g. dacoity, rape, &c., race-feelings and popular prejudices play a great part, with the result that gross miscarriage of justice has often been occasioned by trials by jury; that in certain kinds of cases conviction, in others quittal, is a foregone conclusion; and that the system of trial by jury requires considerable improvement in its application, in order to become an efficient agency in the investigation of facts. Mr. Justice Trevelyan thinks improvement necessary in allowing appeal as of right and in compelling the Judge to refer to the High Court cases in which he differs from the jury. Messrs. Norris, Ghose and Banerjee, quoting the same returns as Mr. Justice Tottenham, say that they venture to think the facts and figures warrant their saying that the system has worked well on the whole, and that the results of their experience lead them to the same conclusion, but that some of the references which have come before them have disclosed cases of verdicts which they could not but think were opposed to the weight of the evidence. Mr. Justice Beverley thinks that although the system in the mufassal has worked fairly well on the whole, instances of

wrong verdicts occasionally occur, especially in certain classes of cases. The four Divisional Commissioners consulted are entirely opposed to the system. The Commissioners of the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions would abolish it altogether, and the Commissioner of Dacca would substitute assessors for jurors. The Commissioner of Patna states that he concurs with the general opinion that the system is not suited to the country. The Inspector-General of Police thinks that it is not worth continuing the system even under restrictions. Of the nine Sessions Judges consulted, seven pronounce trial by jury to have been a failure. Of the two Judges who express themselves favourably of the institution, one states that it is difficult to get juries to convict in capital cases, whereas there is a tendency to convict old offenders and dacoits on the slenderest evidence; and the other says that many a verdict of acquittal is given simply because the jury consider that the prisoner has suffered sufficiently before trial, and because they are afraid that a verdict of guilty will be followed by a punishment out of all proportion to the offence. None of the Magistrates of jury districts—except the Magistrate of the 24-Parganas—speak at all favourably of trial by jury: some of these officers express themselves very strongly against it: thus Mr. Romesh Chunder Dutt, Magistrate of Burdwan, writes: "During the short time I have been in Burdwan, the jury system has worked in a manner most detrimental to the interests of justice and the repression of crime."

4. The statistics before Government, which show the results of jury trials, are of great significance. In an article published in the January number of the *Calcutta Review* for 1888, Mr. Beighton, now Judge of Dacca, points out that of 1,060 jury trials in Bengal in the four years 1882-85, the Sessions Judge dissented in 249 cases, or 23·5 per cent. From the minutes of Mr. Justice Tottenham and Messrs. Norris, Ghose and Bannerjee, it appears that of the 1,708 cases tried by jury in Bengal and Assam in the five years 1885-89, the Sessions Judge disapproved of the verdicts in 325 cases, or about 20 per cent., and referred 114 cases, or 6·7 per cent., to the High Court, who set aside the verdicts in 63 cases, or 3·6 per cent. A very remarkable fact is stated in Mr. Justice Prinsep's Minute, that six cases were referred from five different districts during the last vacation, and that Mr. Justice Wilson and he refused to accept the findings of the juries in any of them, holding that "in none of these cases could there be any doubt that the jury obstinately refused to commit of murder against the clearest evidence." The Officiating Judge of Dacca shows that in the years 1887, 1888 and 1889, the Sessions Judge of that district disagreed in part or whole with the findings in one in three of the 124 cases tried by jury, but he only ventured to refer 12 of these, in seven of which the High Court reversed the verdicts given. The Commissioner of Dacca refers to a scandalous case tried in 1884 in the Dacca district, and notices four cases in 1888 in which the High Court set aside the findings of the juries. In Nadiya, where the system has not been so condemned as elsewhere, the Sessions Judge disagreed in 177 or 11·3 per cent. out of 1,563 cases tried since 1862. A large number of figures has been given showing the proportions of acquittals and convictions by juries, as compared with acquittals and convictions in non-jury districts; but the Lieutenant-Governor does not desire to lay much weight upon these. He thinks the verdicts should be judged by the proportion of cases in which the Sessions Judges have dissented or the High Court interfered, and in considering such cases, it is necessary to bear in mind the reverence with which the system of trial by jury is regarded in England, and the consequent bias which exists in the minds of English Judges against disagreeing with the verdicts of juries. This feeling is given expression to in the ruling of the Calcutta High Court in the case of Sham Bagdi, 20 W. R. 74, as follows:—"If the High Court is to interfere in every case of doubt in any case in which it may with propriety be said that the evidence would have warranted a different verdict, then it must be held that trial by jury is absolutely at an end." Taking this in consideration, the figures given above are much more telling than they at first appear.

5. A careful consideration of the opinions and figures now obtained leaves no doubt in Sir Charles Elliott's mind of the failure of the jury system in these Provinces in its present shape. It would be scarcely possible to obtain opinions from a large number of men more nearly approaching to unanimity than is the condemnation of the jury system in Bengal contained in the reports and minutes above referred to; and it appears to the Lieutenant-Governor that there can be no more convincing proof of its failure than this. His Honour thinks that if the result could have been foreseen, no advocate would have been found for the introduction of this Western institution into India. But as it has been introduced, and is prized as a rudimentary beginning of giving power to the people, Sir Charles Elliott deems it inadvisable on political grounds that it should be abolished altogether, but he would take early steps to make such changes in its working as seem best calculated to limit the injury to justice which it entails.

6. All the Judges of the High Court are agreed upon one point, viz., that some extension of the right of appeal should be made.

Messrs. Prinsep, Wilson, Pigot, and Macpherson recommend that there should be an appeal on the facts, at least against a verdict which is not a unanimous verdict, whether it be for a conviction or not. This is much the same as a suggestion made by Messrs. Norris, Ghose, and Banerjee, and none of the other Judges seem opposed to it. The Lieutenant-Governor accepts with a slight modification the recommendation on this point in Mr. Justice Prinsep's minute, and would amend the law so as to provide that there should be an appeal on the facts whenever the jury is not unanimous, unless the Judge records his agreement with the majority.

7. Still more important is the proposal that section 307 of the Criminal Procedure Code should be amended so as to make it incumbent on the Sessions Judge to refer to the High Court every case in which he differs in opinion from a jury. This is the opinion of Messrs. Prinsep, Wilson, Pigot, Macpherson, Trevelyan and Beverley. There can be little doubt that if the reference in such cases were made obligatory by the law, one effect would be to counteract the tendency of the High Court "to refuse to interfere with verdicts unless satisfied that they were altogether perverse or otherwise insupportable." These are the words of Mr. Justice Tottenham; and Mr. Prinsep's minute, which is concurred in by three more High Court Judges, shows that the practice of the High Court in dealing with references is still unsettled, that the uncertainty prevents Sessions Judges from referring cases in which they think that the verdicts are contrary to the weight of the evidence, and that consequently failures of justice not unfrequently occur. Sir Charles Elliott entirely agrees to make references compulsory in all such cases.

8. It has also been suggested by several of the most experienced Sessions Judges that section 303 of the Criminal Procedure Code should be altered so as to make it incumbent upon the Judge to ascertain and record fully the reasons of the jury for their verdict. It is pointed out that as long as the right of interference with a verdict exists, the reasons which guide a jury to a certain finding are among the most important elements in arriving at a conclusion whether a verdict is reasonable or not. His Honour is disposed to favour the proposal, because it is a simple but reasonable way of enabling the Judge to be sure that he ought to disagree with the jury.

9. Several of the Hon'ble Judges and the great majority of the officers consulted are of opinion that the system of trial by jury in Bengal is particularly unfitted for certain classes of cases, especially those relating to murder. Sir Charles Elliott is aware that the power of withdrawing classes of offences from juries rests with the Local Government; but as the Government of India has referred the question specially for the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion he deems it better to submit his views, and not to give effect to them on his own authority. His Honour would withdraw the whole of Chapter VIII of the Indian Penal Code, offences relating to public tranquillity, the whole of Chapter XVI, offences against the human body, except those triable by jury in the North-Western Provinces, viz., kidnapping, abduction, and rape, and also the whole of Chapter XVIII, offences relating to documents and trade-marks. He would leave to juries all Chapter XVII, offences relating to property, and would add to their power Chapter XX, offences relating to marriage. Sir Charles Elliott considers the evidence adduced clearly points to the necessity of making the withdrawals proposed.

10. A great deal has been said by Sessions Judges and local officers concerning the *personnel* of jurors, and suggestions have been made that some qualifications as to property, education, and respectability, should be laid down by law. The Lieutenant-Governor conceives that it is possible that suitable men have not been selected for jurors in many districts; but His Honour thinks that this is due to the failure of the Judges and of the other officers associated with them under section 321 of the Criminal Procedure Code, to take care that only qualified persons are entered in the jury lists prepared by them, and he proposes to impress strongly on all Judges in jury districts that under the law they are primarily responsible in this matter. In some districts where suitable men are difficult to obtain the local Government might with advantage fix the number of jurymen at a trial at three instead of five as at present. This matter will be separately considered. His Honour thinks it neither necessary nor desirable to reserve any class of cases for special jurors, especially if capital cases are no longer to be triable by jury. Careful calculations should be made of the number of jurymen likely to be required in a jury district every year, and care should be taken that the most suitable men up to that number are entered in the lists. The Lieutenant-Governor would raise the limit of age to 25, but cannot see his way to advising that any rules as to qualifications should be prescribed by law.

11. Sir Charles Elliott hopes that if the various improvements suggested in this letter are adopted, the almost universal complaints of failures of justice in some of the most serious cases under the criminal law will cease, and that this reform will be effected without much outcry from the educated classes.

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(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1892.

} No. 549

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### YESTERDAY COMES NOT.

I HAD a diamond ring,  
Radiant with love's bright promise long ago;  
But ah! it could not bring  
Fulfilment—love and life alike lay low!

I gave it to a friend—  
Its sparkle seemed so mocking 'mid my tears—  
A tried and faithful friend,  
And lived a dim gray life through lonesome years.

Then lately hope began  
To throb within me feebly once again;  
Each morrow had its plan,  
And memory was not altogether pain.

And with this new-found life  
Came a great longing for the radiant ring;  
My fancies aye were rife  
With what of olden joy it yet might bring.

My friend the wish had guessed,  
And sent it back, right generous, to me.  
How shall I tell the rest?  
Look at my hands; their story you may see!

With widow's toil rough grown,  
The ring could clasp my finger now no more;  
Ah, youth and joy have flown!  
And earth can never hopes once lost restore!

The past comes never back!  
Thank Heaven for the old glamour—though 'tis o'er—  
Something the days to come must lack;  
The ring will fit the finger nevermore!

HYACINTH.

### LOVE'S EXCHANGE.

THERE is a pleasant void within my breast—  
It is the place where once my heart did dwell  
Ere thou hadst stolen it from its peaceful rest  
By witchcraft-goodness and by beauty-spell.  
Restore it not, but let my blissful loss  
Be sweet remembrance of my pilfering fair;  
I would esteem it as but less than dross  
If thou returned it from thy bosom's care.  
Mayhap I did abet thee in the deed—  
My heart without thee were an empty toy;  
I will not chide if thou but hear me plead,  
O give me thine, and great will be my joy.  
Or if, alack, thy heart be given away,  
Grant mine a tomb where thine so lately lay.

D. H. KENNEDY.

## MISSED.

A SILENCE like the hush of fear  
Fills all the house this summer day;  
Familiar accents startle near,  
Or fade in murmurs far away.

And breaking as from distant gloom,  
A face comes painted on the air;  
A presence walks the haunted room,  
Or sits within the vacant chair.

The lightest wind that shakes the glass,  
The sound that stirs awhile the street,  
Seems to the listening heart, alas!  
Like footfall of beloved feet.

And every object that I feel  
Seems charged by some enchanter's wand,  
And keen the dizzy senses thrill,  
As with the touch of spirit hand.

At morning in the rosy flush,  
At noontide in the fiery glow,  
At evening in the golden hush,  
At night as pass the minutes slow,

A form beloved comes again;  
A voice beside me seems to start,  
While eager fancies fill the brain,  
And eager passions hold the heart.

S. CLARKE

## NIGHT.

DARK shadow 'twixt to-morrow morn and me!—  
If but a shadow, my heart shrinks from thee;  
If but a heavy gloom on vale and height;  
If but a black shroud for the sun's sweet light,  
Earth like his widow lying love-forgot—  
O Night, I love thee not!

If but a passage to the coming day;  
If but a waiting for the morning ray;  
If but a silence, when the solemn hush  
Is moved, as if the wings of angels rush  
Over the babies with a cradle-song—  
O Night, I did thee wrong!

If but a respite from the toil of day;  
If but a pause, to ponder on the way;  
If but a time to shut the eyelids tight,  
Wresting with evil in a deadly fight;  
If but a pillow where white wings descend—  
O Night, thou art my friend!

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If but a time of promise of the Far ;  
 If but a waiting for the morning star ;  
 If but dreams brightening of a gorgeous morn,  
 Where life and love and joy are newly born ;  
 If but a yearning for eternal light—  
 Thou teachest well, O Night !

K. S.

—Chamber.

## WEEKLYANA.

THERE arrived from Aden at the Bombay harbour on the 4th instant the *Saida*, an Austrian man-of-war, under the command of Captain Sachs. She had left Pola on the 1st September on a cruise in the Mediterranean. She has on board eleven big and four small guns, and a complement of 368 men, all told. She was to coal at Bombay and remain there for a fortnight and then to visit Colombo, Calcutta, Singapore, Bangkok, Java, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, China, &c., before returning to Pola. On arrival at Bombay, she fired a salute of 21 guns which compliment was returned from the Saluting Battery. She had a visit from the German Consul who was received with a salute of nine guns.

WE read lately in an Overland paper :—

"Among the Asiatics studying at the University of Oxford is a native of Afghanistan named Fida Mohammed Khan. He is the only Afghan in England, and intends to become a barrister before returning to his country. The Ameer takes an interest in Mr. Fida Mohammed Khan, and wishes, the *Manchester Guardian* states, to secure his services on the completion of his studies in Europe."

What will he do with it? one involuntarily asks. What can the Amir want an English barrister for? A gunner would be more to his purpose.

THE sacred fire brought by the Parsis to India is preserved at Udwarda, now enshrined in a temple, the gift of Sir Dinshaw Manockjee Petit, Bart. They have just added to the temple a portrait of that charitable gentleman at a cost of Rs. 1,628 subscribed by his friends and admirers. The portrait was unveiled by the High Priest in the presence of all the Parsis of Udwarda and a few from Bombay. There was a jassan or thanksgiving ceremony in the morning. The Priest then descanted on the many charities of Sir Dinshaw. The ceremony concluded with a special prayer for the health of the benefactor, the whole assembly standing. Sir Dinshaw was present and thanked the assembly for their good wishes and was specially thankful to God for enabling him to do good to his community.

THE Bombay papers record the death of a Parsi lady, by name Avabai, of Barkote Mahla, at the age of 105 years in full possession of her senses. She was not alone long-lived of her family though she beat all previous record. Several of her paternal ancestors were centenarians at their death, her paternal grandmother being an ultracenturian, having attained the age of 103 years. The deceased leaves a large family, the eldest of whom, her eldest daughter, is 85 years of age.

THE *Hindoo Patriot* would send away Sir Charles Elliott from Bengal on six months' leave. The *Times of India* now transports him from Bengal, or at least alters the geography of the Province. Under the head of N.-W. Provinces and Punjab, our Bombay contemporary gives the following information :—

"The sum of Rs. 12,000 has been given at Hazaribagh by the local Zemindars for the Dufferin Fund, to celebrate Sir Charles Elliott's visit, Raja Ram Narain Singh, of Ramghur, having given Rs. 5,000. The town was illuminated on the evening of the 7th. His Honor and party left for Ranchee on the 8th."

THE *Madras Times* writes :—

"In anticipation of the visit of H. E. the Governor to Madura, the Rajah of Ramnad purchased a house in that station for some Rs. 20,000, which he furnished for his Excellency's reception, through Messrs. Oakes & Co., at a cost of some Rs. 30,000, having entered into arrangements also with Messrs. D'Angelis & Co., for supplying his Excellency's table. Almost at the last moment, however, a person at variance with the Rajah laid a criminal charge against him in the Madura Court, whereupon Mr. Turner, the Collector, wired to the Governor, announcing this fact. His Excellency at once replied, in-

forming the Collector that, under the circumstances, he must decline to accept the hospitality of the Rajah of Ramnad."

ACCORDING to the *Jewish Era*, the quarterly organ of the Chicago Hebrew Mission,

"up to 1884 only 303 Jews were permitted to live in Jerusalem. Since this one restriction after another has been removed, and the last four or five years they have been literally flocking to the old city and land. The number now at the city is estimated at 30,000, and in the land 70,000. This is greater than the number that returned from the Babylonian captivity."

WHILE our Pran Nath Saraswatis are dying within their thirties, in Europe men at that age pass from youth to manhood. Talk of dying in the thirties! why men are hale and hearty at eighty and upwards! Here is a string of veteran working bees still laying in honey for the Hive :—

"Kossouth, who has just celebrated his 90th year, is still busy on his memoirs, and is also preparing a collected edition of his works. M. de Lesseps, who is yet hale and strong, is 87. Marshal MacMahon, Duke of Magenta and ex-President of France, is a year older than Mr. Gladstone and has also just written his reminiscences. Pope Leo XIII. is 83, and is one of the busiest and most powerful statesmen in Europe. Even Belgium has its G. O. M. in the person of the veteran Parliamentarian M. Frere Orban, who has just entered his 81st year."

WE read :—

"Many of the Kulu people aver that a cobra only lives, in the shape of a cobra, for twelve years. On its twelfth birthday it ceases to be a snake, and is transformed by some mystic process that they do not profess to explain, into a partridge—a modern version of the pterodactyl."

WE had in Bengal Mrs. Bellie, the Judge of Rajshahi. They have in the Hyderabad Residency Mrs. Bosanquet, Second Assistant to the Resident. The *Advocate of India* of the 14th November in its Hyderabad News column reports—

"The Resident and his staff, with the exception of Mrs. Bosanquet Second Assistant, have removed from Chudderghaut to Bolarum."

HERE is news of matrimony in old Fogeedom. Near Feltham, Twickenham, there was married David Macnamara aged 78 to Rebecca Marling of the age of 72 years. Both had been in the service of the Queen. Macnamara is a pensioner who had served in the Inniskilling Dragoons 60 years ago, and is quite hale and hearty. The bride had had three husbands in succession and was half a century ago employed in the kitchen at Windsor Castle. The bridesmaids were three maiden relatives of the ages respectively of 60, 68 and 70. The best man was a brother of the bridegroom aged 75, and an octogenarian priest united the couple. These seven counted between themselves as many as 503 years.

RECENTLY the Secretary of State reminded the Government of India of excessive military expenditure thus :—

"The extreme importance of the subject of exchange renders it necessary that the utmost economy should be exercised in every branch of the service, and I desire especially to enforce this view with reference to the military expenditure. While the established strength of the army has remained practically unchanged since the budget of 1887-88, the charges for the effective service are now higher than at that date by Rs. 9,38,400 in India, and by £511,200 in England; and, including exchange, the net payments for the army, effective and non-effective together, now amount to more than 24 per cent. of the total net revenues of India. In my despatch of the 9th July, 1891, I drew the attention of your Government to the great increase which had taken place in recent years in the military expenditure; and I have again to beg that your earnest attention may be given to this subject."

Accordingly, the Government of India direct that

"the expenditure on military services generally, shall be carefully considered in detail by Governments and Departments concerned, and that early reports shall be furnished as to what measures of reduction are practicable, and the amounts involved therein. The Governor-General in Council also desires that no proposals involving increased military expenditure shall be submitted for consideration, unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the measures are of primary importance in improving the efficiency of the army for war."

ACCORDING to the *Civil and Military Gazette* :—

"The Ameer appears to have been in fear of a general Shia insurrection owing to his proclamations in which the Shias were denounced as infidels; for he has been recalling them, and purposes, it is stated, to issue another proclamation contradicting the former and explaining that only Hazara rebels were referred to as 'infidels.' It is also

believed to have been through fear of Shia disturbances in Cabul that the Ameer caused certain Shia officers condemned to death for cowardice and misconduct in the Hazara campaign to be brought to Paghman to be executed. The feeling of the Shias generally throughout Afghanistan is such that any spark might kindle a widespread revolt."

MOULVI Mahomed Yousuff Khan Bahadur, the wellknown Pleader of the Calcutta High Court, has been robbed of his gold *lota* or *lotia*. It was a sort of jug like our Hindu *garon*, weighing about 2 seers of pure gold, and valued at upwards of Rs. 4,000. The Khan Bahadur took his potations out of this pot and out of this pot only. We mean no offence, and a Persian and Arabic scholar will forgive the alliteration. The pot, deposited in a box, was of course taken upstairs and brought downstairs, and carried about in his landau or brougham wherever he went. It did not strike our Moulvi, although a lawyer, that his precious goblet was a source of infinite temptation to many. Probably, as a good Mussulman his faith in predestination supported him in his unconcern. Thus years passed away, confirming his trustfulness, when one evening a fortnight ago, on opening the box, he discovered that the gold jug had disappeared and a piece of wood lying in its stead.

There was a great commotion. The Police were at once called in, and on their arrival, the gate of the Khan Bahadur's castle was closed, egress and ingress being completely stopped, and a search made throughout the extensive place. The premises were watched the whole night as well as the whole of the next day, servants were repeatedly examined and cross-examined, but no trace of the missing article could be discovered. One of the servants, who was suspected from having been employed in taking upstairs and bringing down the precious box, and was in the hands of the Police, was discovered the following day to have a knife wound in his throat. This was in a lumber-room within the premises. He charged the police with striking him with a knife, whilst the police accused him with attempting to commit suicide. He was immediately removed to hospital. It is still a mystery why and how he was wounded.

In connection with this case, we have heard that the Khan Bahadur habitually dines off golden plate, and that his food is cooked in silver pots and pans. What superb *pilans* and *kabobs* must our Lucullus have! And what must be the pay of his cook and *abdar* and *hooka-burdar*? Perhaps, any pot-luck would be delicious taken off gold. We know that many wealthy noblemen and princes have golden dinner sets, but these are displayed on special and festive occasions. For instance, we read in the European papers that the Royal relatives of the King of Greece, recently presented him with a service of gold plate on the occasion of his silver wedding. But this is the first time that we have come across a native gentleman using golden services in his every day life. It is something to have a man of such elevated tastes in our society.

While so many in this country are talking of gold and discussing its advantages as a medium, Mr. Yousuff has given a practical example of appreciation of the more precious metal and contempt for the "mean white." He has grappled valiantly with the Currency Question, anticipating the state solution, as it were.

#### NOTES & LEADERETTES

##### with OUR OWN NEWS.

THE Governor of Madras is on tour. He has now been to the extreme South. We hope he will with his own eyes realise the importance of the railway extension from Madura to the island of Rameswaram. This section is a natural complement—the proper completion—of the grand system of triangulation of India. Under a national Government, that line would have long since been taken up and opened, if only in deference to the religious feeling of the Hindus who have one of their principal shrines situated in the channel between India and Ceylon, where they proceed in vast numbers every year for the purification of their sins and the salvation of their souls.

LEAVE and free passage to Marseilles have been granted to Lieutenant-Humfrey of the 12th Cavalry, who being bitten by a mad-dog, applied to go to Paris to place himself under the treatment of Mr. Pasteur.

THERE is no end to the enormities of Brahmanism. There is scarcely an evil in Indian society which has not been ascribed by one European writer or another to the influence of those demons incarnate the Brahmins. Still there remained some few exceptions. These, however, are being swept away, one after another. At length, it is proclaimed that Brahmanism and the Brahmins have been the cause of the decline of arts and the industrial fall of India. The credit of this discovery belongs to Mr. Gostling, who announced it in his address as President of the Industrial Conference at Poona.

THE Calcutta correspondent of the *Times* places Mr. Conway's ascent of the Himalayas near Hunza to be the highest that has been recorded. He climbed up to 23,000 feet above the level of the sea, while Mr. Schlagintweit could accomplish only 22,230 feet. We believe Babu Sarat Chandra Das attained to not less a height in the Himalayas during his journey from Darjeeling towards Thibet.

WE regret to record the death of Rai Bahadur Babu Juggadanund Mookerjee, junior Government Pleader, High Court. He is one of the victims of the late eclipse, having joined the concourse of bathers at Benares on the occasion. He died on Thursday, of smallpox caught in the Holy City. He was brought down to Calcutta a week before he expired. He was a well known, not to say prominent, member of Calcutta native society. One of his chief achievements was to invite and *ôte* the Viceroy. He will always be remembered as the only native whom the Prince of Wales visited. But he got nothing by these ruinous services of loyalty, except the envy and abuse of his countrymen.

THE Bombay Tramway Company sued an Englishman Mr. Soundy for defamation for having written to the papers that the Company carried lepers. Mr. Justice Farran has decreed the suit against the defendant for Rs. 50 but without costs. The Judge holds that the defendant was justified in the exercise of his right as an Englishman in writing to the newspapers in reference to a grievance, which had been proved. At the same time, he thought that it was also proved that the Company had not voluntarily allowed such people to ride. The Judge further held that the publication of the letters had done some good, and that it would be cruel to saddle the defendant with the costs of the plaintiff. The decision is too nice. Nor is it calculated to encourage honest men to agitate for removal of a public grievance.

A CORRESPONDENT under date Sholapore, November 1, writes to the *Times of India* :—

"A meeting of the Kasha Ward voters and others, numbering over 2,000, was held last evening, under the presidency of Rao Bahadur Deshmukh, in Mallikarjun's Temple, with a view to call upon their three elected Commissioners to explain why they voted for an outlay of Rs. 1,11,385, which the Municipality at their recent meeting sanctioned almost with indecent haste. Only one member attended, and said he was not present and did not vote, and would not have voted. The other two did not appear though duly invited. After a long discussion a vote of censure on the two absenting members and a resolution condemning the action of the Municipality were unanimously passed. The meeting also condemned the motion brought in by the managing committee for increasing the halalkhore and water taxes, which are already oppressive."

It would be interesting to know why the other two Commissioners would not attend the meeting of the ratepayers called to examine their conduct. Had they no explanation to give or did they consider themselves not bound to attend and explain? That raises an important question as to the rights of the two opposing parties—the ratepayers and their representatives. How far, in the absence of specific instructions, is a representative bound or free to exercise his own individual wisdom? Unless the two Commissioners in question were elected with the distinct understanding that they were not to vote for the outlay complained of, did their election bind them to act in the manner the meeting after the event wished them to have done? How were they to anticipate the wishes of the electors and was their own conscience no factor in the voting? No methods of government can transcend human nature and there is a tyranny of the elective system worse than monarchical or oligarchic oppression. Such meetings as that of the 31st October at Sholapore, are a mistake and a nuisance. Candidates, like other men, are bound by their pledges. Pledges or no pledges, they are responsible for their conduct generally, subject to explanation. But electors should be careful not to carry their rights too far.

THE problem of aerial navigation is no longer confined to men of science, like Mr. Maxim, Mr. Edison and Professor Langley. It is attracting the notice of States and Governments. Already a million roubles has been expended by Russia on experiments after an aerial man-of-war. Less ambitious or chimerical, the French ministry is satisfied with constructing a steering balloon which will probably stand the French in better stead than the Czar's aerial war ship. The Germans are still at the threshold of the experiment. And the practical British?—nowhere!

A COLOSSUS of curd!—such will be among the appropriate contributions of the Land overflowing with milk to the coming *Mela*. Mr. Robertson, the Dominion Dairy Commissioner, has just made for the Chicago Exhibition the largest cheese in the world, weighing over 22,000lbs., out of the curd of one day's milk of 10,000 cows. Formidable as this enormity of delicacy is, it is pronounced to be perfect in texture, flavour and colour. The ultimate destination of the cheese, after the Fair, is England. The lucky British! How their bards will be inspired to sing the glories of the welcome consignment whose minutest fragments are delicious!

THE following paragraph from the British press at Home, is being reproduced all over the East:—

"In China, the oldest weekly newspaper in the world—really the oldest, A. D. 911—is now issued three times daily. It is not merely three editions, but three issues, all presumably full of news. This publication is under the immediate superintendence of the Emperor, and the staff is exceedingly active; their principal stimulant being the bastinado. There are no less than six editors (all members of the Academy of Sciences), so that when one of them is, so to speak, 'prostrated,' there are plenty to go on with the publication."

It is a pity that the name of the newspaper is not given. Is it the *Pekin Gazette*? Nor is it quite clear whether the oldest weekly is now a daily, or simply gives three different issues at three different hours of the one day of issue. That is so preposterous an idea that we are forced to the conclusion that the ancient hebdomadal has turned a diurnal and no mistake. Yea, it has turned a daily with a vengeance, making three different appearances every day, each time with new matter. This would be a bore in Europe perhaps, and is no ordinary infliction on the public, we may be sure, in the Land of the Lotos-eaters.

A WELL-WRITTEN little communicated article in the *Rust Gostar* laments in feeling, though not in exaggerated, terms the death of one of Bombay's amiable and worthy, if not prominent citizens. Mr. W. E. Hart, the subject of the obituary, after a distinguished academical career as a Cambridge Bachelor and prize-man, was called to the bar and came to the East where he began as Professor of History of the Elphinstone College and an advocate of the High Court, Bombay. With the moderate opportunities open to him, he soon gave such an impression of his abilities as a lawyer that he was appointed to the chief seat on the bench of the Small Causes Court. For thirteen years he discharged the duties of his difficult situation, in the busy bustling commercial community of the Western capital, with the highest credit. Thrice he acted as a Judge of the High Court, embracing in the aggregate a period of nearly 12 months. In retiring recently from the bench, he did not mean to retire from active life, but rejoined the bar on purpose to practise again. But, though he did not suspect it, his health had utterly broken down, and in two months of the commencement of his profession again as an advocate, he was seized with paralysis and died at sea immediately after leaving Bombay. He was a modest shy man, genial and pleasant in a select circle, kind to friends, and honourable with all. A good lawyer and a ripe scholar, he did not obstinately hide his light under a bushel, but was ready to give out his stores of thought and information. Bombay so rich in its men of letters, native and European, who are always enlivening the tedium of Indian life with their edifying addresses and discourses, will long remember the late Mr. Hart as one of its most impressive lecturers. The bar will always be proud of his *Lays of the Law*.

THE civilized world has pronounced against imprisonment for debt and even in India it has been generally abolished by law. But the Gov-

ernment of Bengal still sticks to the barbarous method and imprison defaulters of rent, income-tax and excise duties. Sir Charles Elliott is, however, alive to the shame and we find him thus discouraging the practice in his Resolution on the Board's Land Revenue Administration Report for the year 1891-92:—

"There was a satisfactory decrease in the total number of cases in which compulsory measures of sale were necessary from 6,593 to 3,552, but the Lieutenant-Governor regrets to see that there was an increase from 63 to 71 in the number of persons imprisoned, who were eventually released without payment of the debt. In the Resolution on the Land Revenue Report for 1890-91, it was laid down that imprisonment should be discouraged and only resorted to when the officer ordering it is satisfied that the defaulter is concealing property. The Board have now called the attention of Collectors to this order, and His Honour hopes that very different figures will be shown for the year 1892-93. The same remarks apply to the case of persons (of whom there were 45) imprisoned for non-payment of Government demands, such as Government rent, income-tax, and excise duties."

IN another part of the same Resolution we read:—

"Sections 2 and 3 of Act VI (B. C.) of 1862, and sections 90 and 91 of Act I (B. C.) of 1879, empower the Court to award damages in rent-suits to the non-suited party at the rate of 25 per cent. on the amount of rent decreed or claimed. In the year under report, Rs. 41, 140 were decreed under these sections in 4,280 cases. This seems to Sir Charles Elliott to be a very objectionable provision, and in the course of his inspections His Honour formed the opinion that the penalty was awarded with very little consideration. There is nothing corresponding to this provision in the Bengal Tenancy Act, and the Lieutenant-Governor would like the Board of Revenue to consider whether the power, which is permissive, to award such damages should not be withdrawn by executive order."

Bentham drew attention to judge-made law. Here we have a fine example of official-made law.

Sir Charles Elliott is fond of exercising the discretionary powers vested in the Governor, until he has so far demoralised himself as to override the law altogether, prepared to govern by ukase. The next step will be to assume the knout, we apprehend. If the law empowers judges to grant damages, is that power to be pronounced inoperative by any executive authority? On more than one recent occasion the Lieutenant-Governor has been profuse in pledging his honor for the good behaviour of his administration, in order to prevent the establishment of legislative safeguards. And now he is for constituting the Secretariat into a supplementary Legislature under the rose, unhampered by responsibility and safe from criticism. His indiscretion is becoming proverbial. He will pass down to history as the hasty and indiscreet, if not erratic, Sir Charles.

AT Samarang, a store-keeper named Cores de Vries, to put a stop to constant theft of petroleum from his premises, set in the store house a musket loaded with small shot. A string tied to the trigger was so fastened to an oil tin, that the musket would assuredly go off on removal of the tin. The contrivance took and a thief, on opening the door at night with a false key and raising the tin, received the full charge of shot and died. Cores de Vries was charged with murder of the thief. The Assize Court thought that the facts disclosed nothing punishable, and discharged the accused. The Public Prosecutor appealed to the High Court, which found the accused guilty of murder under extenuating circumstances, and sentenced him to two years' imprisonment. There is much public sympathy at Batavia for Cores de Vries.

These Batavians are all dunderheads, more or less, and their hearts are no better than their heads. This too clever by half petroleum owner is, as the High Court has found, a clear murderer, or, in the language of our law, a culpable homicide. But that Court loses all merit by ascribing extenuating circumstances. There was none such in the connection. The man coolly and deliberately laid a murderous man-trap, and bagged his man. He had no more right to shoot his victim with his own hand if found lurking or even caught in the act of committing larceny than to kill him by means of an infernal machine of a man-trap of any kind.

RUSSIA is not behind other Powers of Europe even in its scientific progress. The Imperial Institute at St. Petersburg is in full swing. It has physiological, pathological, chemical, bacteriological and epizootological sections. There is also a department where Pasteur's treatment is carried out with a small hospital for infectious cases. The sections are arranged on the newest principles on a very large scale. The Institute has its report published every two or three months by the

directors. Professor Neucki's researches into the microbe-producing inflammation of the mammary glands of milch cows and goats reflect great credit, though similar investigations are being made by Dr. Klein in England. Professor Winogradsky's paper on the various nitrifying organisms discovered by him in the soil of different countries, is the most important that has ever appeared on this subject.

Pasteur's treatment also proved a great success.

The institution owes its origin to the liberality of Prince Alexander Petrowitch of Oldenburg. In November 1885, a Russian guard was bitten by a rabid dog. He was sent to Paris and the prince at his own expense established this laboratory. But it was found to be too insignificant and it stands as one of the laboratories in Europe. The expenses are defrayed partly by the prince and partly by public subscriptions. England is yet wanting in an institution as this.

Russia has some of the best chemical laboratories in Europe, and yet she is to have a new one at St. Petersburg.

THE Hyderabad Pamphlet scandal prosecution has been resumed. A charge has been framed against the accused Mr. S. M. Mitra who has pleaded not guilty. The prosecutor Mr. Mehdi Hassan seems to have grown weary of the investigation and is anxious to withdraw. He would, against the advice of his counsel Mr. Inverarity, be satisfied with an apology and have done with the case and Hyderabad.

THE native community cannot be sufficiently thankful to Sadyk Dost. He has taken up his vigorous pen against the Jury Notification, and in a series of able letters in the *Indian Daily News* is preparing the ground for a thorough and satisfactory agitation against the order.

"We clip the subjoined interesting item," says the *Times of India*, and then prints something more formidable than Greek in Roman characters, and not only makes no comment but declines all explanation. A pretty "interesting" business this, to be sure. We were about passing it over in despair, when the name of Mr. Alexander Russell Webb arrested us, and looking into it we discovered other proper names which enabled us to identify the person. The word "Fahometaniaid" occurring in it, we were prepared to regard it a misprint for Mahomedan, but then we found the same form repeated. Further search disclosed the word "Mahometaniaeth." Fahometan.....or Mahometan.....which is the genuine form and which the—devil's deed? Then we have India and Bombay and Hyderabad. The occurrence above all of "Ynysoedd [whatever that may mean] Phillipia"—doubtless, a classical form of a modern designation of a Pacific archipelago—pointed to Mr. Webb, late Consul of the United States at Manilla, as the subject of the gibberish. Further confirmation is given by the name of "Budridin Abdulla Kur, (sic.) Bombay." What it is all about, in particular, Heaven knows, and, under Heaven, the naughty Bombay journalist who coolly launches at our heads the strange lingo without translation, note or comment! Of course we may, without hazard, roundly take it for a notice of the conversion into Islam of the American Consul at Manilla, who was lately among us in Calcutta and who is still in India, the guest of Her Christian Majesty of Great Britain's Mussulman subjects or allies and feudatories. It is by no means a bland colourless notice, we are afraid, judging from the single word of English with which it concludes, to wit, "Mr. Budruddin has of course the right of reply." Surely, that is ominous. Mr. Budruddin is clearly on his trial and trial without notice.

The case, indeed, is worse. Mr. Budruddin Kur though he sent one short covering letter to the *Times of India* forwarding one of Mr. Webb's letters from the Philippines, is quite innocent of English. He went to fetch Mr. Webb, to be sure, from Manilla, but accompanied by an interpreter. But the extract in the *Times of India*, taken as it is acknowledged from a Welsh newspaper, is not English but Cymric. How is poor Abdulla Kur to get an interpreter of that obscure *patois*? Under the best circumstances, a man is very much prejudiced by calumny in a foreign tongue. Here this Bombay Mussulman has practically been not simply accused but judged and condemned behind his back. This sort of thing cannot be fair. The *Times of India* is not only unkind to Abdulla Kur, but not at all considerate to its readers, the generality of whom have not, we take it, taken honours in Celtic in its different varieties. It is all very well in Cardiff papers to reserve a column or two for native gibberish, but there is no excuse

for Cambrian in Bombay. Anything else would be more to the purpose—Sanskrit or Pali—Pushto or Pehlvi—Himyaritic or Coptic.

SIR Charles Elliott has justified his Notification about the Jury trial, as best he could, by publication of certain opinions in the last week's *Calcutta Gazette*. But there is no explanation yet as to why no time was allowed the country to understand the situation as to the altered position by the withdrawal of trials by jury in 91 serious offences in the most important and advanced districts of Bengal.

THE ravishing hand has been extended to Assam. But Mr. Ward is considerate enough not to give his order immediate effect. It comes into operation with the new year.

OTHER Presidencies must now prepare to be divorced of the right of trial by jury.

IT is time therefore also that all the papers in connection with the raid against a cherished institution should be published by the Government of India.

THIS news comes to us by way of Europe:—

"It has been reported that the Thakore Sahib of Ghondal has entered the ranks of the medical profession, having passed his examinations for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh. He is the first of the Indian native princes to have identified himself with medical work. His subjects propose to signalise this unusual event by erecting a statue to their ruler in his capital at Ghondal, in which the newly-made medical Prince will be represented in the gown and hood of his degree worn over his full native costume."

European example has undermined all the simplicity and truth of Indian life, until our very princes are hankering for addresses and testimonials. Let Thakoorjee and his people make fools of themselves if they choose by raising and allowing to be raised a statue to commemorate the success of his Quixotic enterprise. But he is not the first Indian Prince to identify himself with medical work. Several of our Chiefs are and have been interested in scientific experiments, and many are zealous in affording medical relief to their subjects. The intelligent interest of the Maharaja of Tipperah in science and art, is well-known. The Maharaja of Kuch Behar is another notable instance. But there are many others, from great sovereigns like the Nizam of the Deccan, the Ram Raja of Travancore, the Gaekwar of Baroda and the Holkar of Indore, down to lesser Chiefs like the Maharajas of Vizianagram and Darbhanga. Of course, no body has taken up the study of medicine as a profession like the Thakore Sahib. But short of that, the late Maharaja of Khettri, a feudatory of Jeypore, did everything. That Chief's enthusiasm for science, and medicine in particular, has never been excelled.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, November 19, 1892.

### TRIAL BY JURY.

THE OPINION OF THE HIGH COURT JUDGES.

THE points of reference are:—

- (1) How has the system worked?
- (2) What opinion is entertained as to its merits as a means for the repression of crime?
- (3) What improvements, if any, are called for in its application?

To follow the discussion, it is necessary to know the law on the subject. We give it below as summarised by Mr. Justice Prinsep in his opinion:—

"The system of Trial by Jury outside Presidency towns was first introduced by the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1861, and was extended to some selected districts in Bengal, in regard to certain offences only, in 1862. By that law the verdicts were conclusive, even on appeal, except on a point of law, and it was further provided that there might be a verdict by a majority, provided that that majority was not a bare but an absolute majority of the jurors depending on the number of the persons constituting the jury. Thus, if the jury consisted of five, seven or nine persons, a majority of four, five or six respectively was necessary for a verdict (section 328). If the verdict was not unanimous or of such a majority of the jurors, a re-trial was necessary.

The Legislature, in the amended Code of 1872, altered the effect and also the constitution of the verdict of a jury. It provided (section 203) that if a Sessions Judge disagreed with the verdict, and considered it necessary for the ends of justice that he should do so,

he should not record judgment on that verdict, but should submit the case to the High Court. It further provided that the High Court should deal with a case so submitted as it would with an appeal convicting or acquitting the accused person on the facts as well as law on the charges regarding which the reference might have been made. At the same time, however, the Code of 1872 also enabled a Sessions Judge to receive and pass judgment on the verdict of any majority of the jurors, if he did not so disagree with it. The actual responsibility was thus taken from the jury and placed on the Sessions Judge, and through him on the High Court. In appeal or revision, the verdict of a jury was final except on a point of law; but in a case submitted for confirmation of sentence of death, it was always open to the High Court to consider and find on the facts, notwithstanding the verdict of a jury.

The Judges of the High Court, however, on any reference so made, refused to consider the case on its merits unless they were first shown that the verdict, which the Sessions Judge had refused to accept, was a perverse or unreasonable verdict; that is to say, they attached more weight to such a verdict than to the opinion of the Sessions Judge who had refused to accept it, because he considered it to be against the weight of evidence. The first case, I believe, in which this view of the law was not adopted, is the case of *Empress versus Mukhan Kumar*, 1, Calcutta Law Reports, 275, decided on June 23rd, 1877, but the practice was not completely changed; it varied according to the inclinations of individual Judges.

The Code of 1882, section 307, provided that if a Sessions Judge should disagree with the verdict so completely that he considered it necessary for the ends of justice to submit the case to the High Court, he might refer the case to the High Court and abstain from passing judgment upon such verdict. It also provided that, in dealing with a case so submitted, the High Court may exercise any of the powers which it may exercise on an appeal; but it may acquit or convict the accused of any offence of which the Jury could have convicted him upon the charge framed and placed before it.

The practice in this High Court still varied. The matter was fully considered and discussed in the judgment delivered on 29th August 1887, in the case of *Empress versus Itwari Sahu*, Indian Law Reports, XV, Calcutta, 269, but the practice is still unsettled.

The statistics prepared in the High Court, show that in the five years 1885 to 1889 there were 1,708 cases tried by jury in Bengal and Assam. "References were made to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in 114 of these cases, that is to say, in 6·67 per cent. In 63 of these references, that is to say, in 55·26 per cent. (or in 3·6 per cent. of the whole number of jury cases), the verdict of the jury was set aside. In 211 out of the above 1,708 cases, the Sessions Judges, although they disagreed with the jury, made no reference to the High Court under section 307." The extract is from the joint opinion of Mr. Justice Norris and the two Bengali Judges.

The Judges of the High Court are divided in their opinion. They met more than once to agree but could not. "Owing to considerable divergence of opinion among them, they have been unable to formulate any reply to the reference which would satisfactorily represent their views as a body." The thirteen Judges accordingly recorded seven distinct minutes. Sir Comer Petheram, and Messrs. Justices Tottenham, Trevelyan, and Beverley, recorded each a minute of his own. The longest minute is that of Mr. Justice Prinsep to which Messrs. Justices Wilson, Pigot and Macpherson generally agree. Next comes Mr. Justice Ameer Ali's in whose opinion Mr. Justice O'Kinealy concurs. This is followed by the joint opinion of Messrs. Justices Norris, Chunder Madhub Ghose and Gurudas Banerjee.

By far the wisest deliverance on the subject, is that of the Chief Justice. Sir Comer Petheram is still English lawyer enough to be unreconciled to the system of government by fools and foolscap bequeathed by the East India Company. He has no literary vanity—no temptations in the direction of long-windedness. He is outspoken and to the point. He has disposed of the reference with a *multum in parvo*. To our mind, his is the best essay not only of the High Court but of all the numerous competitors, though it requires very intelligent reading of the few lines and between them to appreciate their full force and far-reaching import. Sir Comer Petheram has resolutely set his

face against the official intrigue for abolishing a valuable civil institution. His minute may be disappointing to those who look out on such occasions for literature, but as an expression of opinion it is neither vague nor inadequate. The antecedent circumstances of its production ought to be remembered. It is possible that the present head of the Bengal High Court does not think laws are best made in consultation with Judges. We, the present writer, certainly incline to that view. Be that as it may, the Chief Justice may well regard the calls of the Executive for opinion a bore, and from their frequency, a nuisance, as demoralising to the Judges and diverting them from their proper vocation—the interpretation of the law and the dispensation of justice. Still, according to practice, he loyally received the reference and took the usual steps for honouring it. He invited his colleagues to a conference at which "the important questions raised by the Government of India" were discussed, but to no purpose. The Chief doubtless took his full share in the discussion and did his best to bring the different views to a focus, but the Judges could not agree. He spoke as well as listened to his Puisnes separately and together, but in vain. After repeated fruitless efforts to come to a united understanding, the High Court had no other alternative left than to make the humiliating confession to the Government of India of the Judges' fundamental and irreconcilable difference between themselves. There they might have ended, with strict propriety. The opinion of the High Court is far more valuable than the opinion of any individual Judge, not exceptionally gifted and recognised by the public as an authority. It was the opinion (on each point) of the High Court that was required, and as there was no such opinion to give, it was only necessary to tell the Government of India so, explaining how it was so, with the usual expression of regret. It was not only a work of supererogation but almost a piece of officiousness to send a parcel of essays by eminent hands in lieu of the deliberate deliverance of united wisdom of the High Court of Judicature in Bengal. Surely, the gods of Simla are human enough to anticipate the possibility of difference among the Judges, so that if they cared to see how the highest Judges might be at sixes and sevens, holding opposite views on points of the highest importance touching the administration of justice, they would have said so. It is strange that the grave and reverend seigniors of the Bench did not think of the danger of thrusting uncalled for things. They certainly incurred the risk of inviting rebuke for their pains. Is it possible that some of them have not yet been cured of the ambition of school and college days? The Chief Justice has shown that he, at any rate, is above all puerility of sentiment. When there was no opinion of the Court to deliver, he rightly conceived his duty in the connection over. And as for sending without being asked individual opinions, anything was a superfluity. The least said, the soonest mended. Certainly, the less said the less offence. Thus Sir Comer Petheram gave his opinion as briefly as possible, leaving his arguments more to the inference of the knowing. We shall not be surprised, though, to find him misunderstood. Those who should imagine that he has shrunk from responsibility, would miss his meaning altogether.

The Chief Justice is "unwilling to express any opinion unfavourable to the existence of the system of Trial by Jury, as it is called, in these Provinces, or as to its merits as a means for the repression of

crime." It would be a mistake to suppose that Sir Comer is afraid to give his opinion. The Chief ought not to be taken too literally at his word. There is no real unwillingness at all in the matter. This is a mere mode of language—a form of refined expression. In declaring his unwillingness to express an opinion, he really manages to express it most effectively, that is for the higher order of English minds or minds accustomed to think in the higher English dialect. As we take it, Sir Comer with an eye to the discussions with his colleagues, speaks with resolute sympathy for the institution in danger, saying the he, the Chief Justice, for one "is unwilling to express an opinion unfavourable to the existence of the system.....or as to its merits as a means," &c. As much as to say, that he would not utter one word that might be taken advantage of to discontinue the system. That is to speak like a Briton and an English Judge. Sir Comer in that pithy remark has a quiet sneer at the jury trial in this country as modified by Indian Civilian statesmanship—"Trial by Jury, as it is called, in these Provinces." It is so much different from that in its home in England. It is so much vitiated in this country. Yet, he has such an enlightened sympathy for it that he will not in any way swell the cry raised against it with a view to its ultimate abolition in this country. As for improvements, if any, called for, he is "of opinion that some extension of the right of appeal is desirable." At the same time, he is "not prepared to offer any further suggestions." In fine, Sir Comer has treated the institution tenderly, though without any sentimentality. Practically, therefore, the Chief Justice has nothing to say against the system in the present connection, and he sees no ground for its curtailment, much less its abolition. Not that the Chief does not remember any wrong or perverse verdicts, but he knows that such miscarriages occur in every land and must occur under every system. Therefore he declines to talk of the merits and demerits of Bengal juries. It is enough for him that he sees no sufficient reason for condemning the system here.

According to Mr. Justice Tottenham, "in particular districts the system has seemed to work well in the majority of cases tried: but, looking at the system as a whole, I do not think that the results as shown by the figures (compiled by the Registrar and quoted above) are satisfactory." He seems to base his opinion on the change in the law made by sec. 307 of the present Code of Criminal Procedure. That change must be taken as "a proof that the system could not be continued in the unrestricted form in which it was set going in the Code of 1862." Thus reduced, to his mind, the Jury system has no great advantage over the Assessor system, while "it is to some extent anomalous and productive of inconvenience and of dissatisfaction." Why not then revert, say we, to the old unimpaired system? As regards repression of crime, it is immaterial to him whether an accused is tried by one or the other system, for he does not believe that "an intending criminal would be deterred by the knowledge that if detected he would be tried by a Jury and not merely by a Judge with Assessors." And he does "not suppose that his conduct would be influenced one way or the other by the probable mode of his trial." All that is true enough. No wonder that Mr. Justice Tottenham does not believe that the system as a means for the repression of crime, has, *per se*, any merits. But that is not the object of the system. For im-

provements in the law, he is for reducing the jury trial further, and that "in capital cases it would be well to do away with the trial by Jury in the mufassal." Altogether, Mr. Justice Tottenham takes a mild view of the situation, and no body would think of basing on it any considerable change.

Mr. Justice Trevelyan is as brief as the Chief. He has very little experience of the working of the jury system in the mufassal, and from what little he has seen, he is of opinion that "in cases of conviction there should be an appeal as of right. In cases of acquittal the Judge should be compelled to refer whenever he differs from the jury."

He seems to think that as the highest Court, the High Court should have the final voice.

Mr. Justice Beverley is of opinion that the system "has worked well on the whole, but that instances of wrong verdicts do occasionally occur, specially in certain classes of cases," but that section 307 C. P. C. guards against such miscarriage of justice. As to Mr. Justice Tottenham, it seems to Mr. Justice Beverley that, as a means for the repression of crime, it is quite immaterial whether an accused is tried by a jury or by assessors. He would, however, prefer a jury trial, not that it is the English method, but that "the employment of juries to try criminal cases does tend to disseminate a knowledge of the Criminal Law, and such extended knowledge, it may be presumed, must have a tendency to repress crime." Thus, instead of proving a failure in repressing crime, according to this Judge, the jury trial is an efficient method for indirect repression of crime. To guard against any failure of justice, he thinks with Mr. Justice Prinsep that "it should be made compulsory on Sessions Judges under Section 307 to refer to the High Court every case in which the Judge is not prepared to accept the verdict of the jury, and that it should be distinctly laid down that it is the duty of the High Court in such references to determine the case on the merits in the same way as on an appeal from a sentence passed in a trial by a Sessions Judge with assessors." He is for no other change.

Too much is made by Government of the opinion of Mr. Justice Prinsep. But what does he say? His utmost condemnation of the jury trial is that "the system has not been altogether successful," as if any body thought it would. What human measure is successful throughout? There is not a system which is not without its defects and is not capable of improvement. This Judge lays stress on the uncertainty of practice which he points out in the statement of the law quoted by us at the commencement. He does not advocate fresh legislation to set the difficulties he points out at rest and to which he attributes the failure of justice complained of. His experience in the mufassal and in the High Court is that "in cases of homicide the jury are prone to acquit or take an unreasonably lenient view of the conduct of the accused, while in cases of offences against property they are too ready to convict on weak and doubtful evidence." His suggestions are that every case in which the Judge and Jury do not agree or the Judge does not approve of the verdict should go up to the High Court, and that "the powers of appeal should be relaxed and that there should be an appeal on the facts, at least, against a verdict which is not an unanimous verdict, whether it be for conviction or acquittal." To these conclusions, Messrs. Justices. Wilson, Pigot and Macpherson "generally agree."

The Mahomedan Judge's evidence is most damaging to his countrymen. Its value may be estimated from the fact that it is based on his experience at the Bar and not on the Bench. The experience of the lucky briefless or of the lucky barrister in his briefless stage of existence is, "In certain kinds of cases conviction, in others acquittal, is a foregone conclusion. Verdicts are not arrived at upon the evidence, but upon prejudices and predilections, and upon what is heard outside the court." But there are those who think that the advocacy of lawyers goes a great way in moulding the verdicts of jury, and that perverse verdicts are not unoften the result of clever advocacy of counsel. If the opinion of Mr. Justice Ameer Ali be correct, it is useless to employ expensive counsel in jury trials. The accused must be feeling their counsel only to know beforehand what the verdict of the jury would be. Regarding the merits of the system of trial by jury, Mr. Justice Ali is, from his large experience as counsel, "able to say that the system in question has not satisfactorily answered the object for which it was devised." That object is thus explained: As Mr. Justice Ameer Ali "understands the matter, trial by jury and trial with assessors were introduced as a means for the investigation of the real facts of a criminal case. In certain districts juries were introduced, in others assessors, to assist the European Judges, who were supposed to be unacquainted with the customs of the country, in the consideration of particular kinds of cases. These two systems were in substitution of the old system, under which English Judges were assisted by Mahammadan Muftis." The systems were modified by section 307 of Act X of 1882, and now he would modify them further by allowing an appeal to the High Court in every jury trial "in order to safeguard the liberty of the subject, as well as to meet the requirements of justice." Mr. Justice O'Kinealy concurs in this opinion.

The last in the batch of the High Court minutes is in every respect the most important. It is the joint opinion of the three remaining Judges—Messrs. Justices Norris, Ghose and Banerji. They think that "the system has worked fairly well on the whole—a conclusion which is based upon statistics furnished to us by the Registrar of the High Court, and upon our individual experience, gathered from our having from time to time sat as members of the Criminal Bench." The statistics are the same which we publish in the commencement of this article and on which Mr. Justice Tottenham bases his opinion. While the Civilian Judge "does not think that the results as shewn by the figures are satisfactory, the Barrister and Pleader Judges "venture to think that these facts and figures warrant our saying that in our opinion the system has worked fairly well upon the whole." While Mr. Justice Prinsep makes the non-reference by Sessions Judges under section 307 a peg whereon to hang his condemnation of the system, these three Judges construe the omission in its favor. "This, we think, we may well presume was owing to their not having so completely disagreed with the verdict of the jury as to lead them to consider 'it necessary for the ends of justice to submit the case to the High Court.'" Their own experience too confirms the conclusion. They also bear testimony that "No doubt some of the references which have come before us have disclosed cases of verdicts which we could not but think were opposed to the weight of evidence, but their number was small: and the instances in which

such verdicts were so entirely opposed to the weight of evidence as to justify their being looked upon as perverse were rare." They further find a complete remedy in section 307 for the rare cases. To what are the rare perverse verdicts due? The reasons are not so plain to these three Judges as to others, chief among them Mr. Tweedie, Judge of Patna, who lays down every conceivable cause, possible or impossible, numbering them from one to thirteen. They speak throughout humanly and as sober Judges. "They may have been due," say they, "in some instances to prejudice on the part of the jury, or to their inability to grasp the numerous details of complicated cases." The fault is not entirely the jury's. "On the other hand, some of these verdicts may have been due to the Judge's charge being defective." Just so! In the haste to condemn native jurors, no body stops to inquire into the influence of untrained European judges on their mistakes.

The third reference somewhat puzzled these three Judges. They are not sure of what it aimed at. They therefore divide the question into two parts and answer it accordingly. "If, as we suppose, it is intended to ask our opinion as to whether the system has favored the escape of criminals, we should, putting aside exceptional instances, answer in the negative; but if we are asked whether in our opinion the system has been successful in obtaining the conviction of guilty persons, our answer would be in the affirmative." That is candid.

As for improvements, they would seem rather to leave the law untouched. But if anything is to be done, they would extend the system in the first instance. If practicable, let the offences punishable with death, and others which the Sessions Judges may direct, be tried by a special jury. The next suggestion is that, where practicable, let the number of the jury be seven, and that no verdict be received unless concurred in by five, and where the jury consists of five, let no verdict be received unless four agree. These failing, as the last remedial measure, if the law about bare majority is to remain unaltered, an appeal on both law and facts should be allowed against all convictions where the jury are not unanimous.

The whole opinion is honourable alike to the head and the heart of the Judges who sign it.

And what is the net result? All the "improvements" suggested by the Puisne Judges make for larger powers of the High Court. Of the three Native Judges—while one condemns the two others not only argue for the retention of Trial by Jury, but also recommend its extension.

#### THE ADDRESS TO THE NIZAM.

[ Translation. ]

To—His Highness Asaf Jah Moozufferool Moolk Moozuffernool Moomalik Nizam-ud-Dowlah Nizam-ul-Mulk Nawab Meer Mahboob Ali Khan Bahadur Futeh Jung, G.C.S.I.

We Jagirdars, nobles, munsuddars, and gentry, your Highness's most ancient and devoted servants, beg most respectfully to address your Highness in the matter of our ancestral rights.

The history of our country testifies that the Jaghirs granted by the Sircar to our ancestors were bestowed upon them as the reward of blood shed by them in the conquest of countries and for onerous services worthily performed. There is no tract of land in these dominions which does not in its archives bear record of those achievements. Only recently it was ordered that the ancient interests and honors which had been conferred by beneficent sovereigns and handed down to us by inheritance and succession were not transmissible by us to our descendants. The condition of your devoted servants was like that of a man half dead, but one look of favor and regard from your Highness as our sovereign endued us with life, and we are further strengthened since it has pleased your Highness to choose for promotion and increased honor

our countryman, Imad Jung Bahadur. For from this we are full of hope for ourselves for the future. What power have we to—what tongue can express—our gratitude, now that we have hope that our services will be recognized. We have no more fear that we shall not enjoy the favor of our sovereign. Even had we ever such fear it is now dispelled.

For us there are only two places, no third. First in this world the court of your Highness, in the next the door of the Almighty.

It must be known to your Highness that whatever was granted by the Sircar has descended to us through increasing generations and that now owing to our numbers it is difficult for us to maintain ourselves properly, but because we are the ancient retainers of your Highness' house and because it is impossible that either we or our children can go to other countries or take possession of the rights of the nobles of those countries, we desire to pass our lives in contentment under the shadow of your Highness, and we earnestly hope and fully believe that by one sign of your Highness' finger we shall be freed from the terrible position in which we now find ourselves and that for the future we shall enjoy that favor and protection under which our ancestors passed their lives. Now with one mind and from the bottom of our hearts we pray to the Almighty, "Oh God may it please thee long to preserve to benignly reign and rule over us such a just, equitable, upright, sincere, liberal and benevolent sovereign and administrator nor allow us for one moment to be forgotten or to be separated from his blessed shoes. Amen! Oh Almighty God!

Dated 11th Rabiussani, 1310 Hijri (2nd November 1892.)

### THE NIZAM'S REPLY.

[ Translation. ]

Ashruf-ud-Dowlah and those present,

I have listened to your expressions with much pleasure, although I do not consider the occasion of such an importance as to require an address from you. The matter is one of ordinary administration in which my Prime Minister and the officers of State are quite agreed. The administration is one of harmony and pure intention—the best that is possible.

I am fully aware of your ancient rights as expressed by you and as far as my knowledge extends, I know that my advisers and my officers of State have at all times not only watched over those ancient rights but have also in every way preserved and protected them, and you need not fear that such protection will be wanting in the future.

If any mistake has been made, as shown by your manner of expression, by any of the servants of the State, you must know that such mistakes are possible in all administrations and in every State. And it is good and necessary that mistakes should sometimes occur as their rectification brings about reforms.

You know that the constitutions of Western States, particularly those of the European States, are based upon three pillars or orders. First the aristocracy, second the gentry, and third the people generally.

The great duty of an administrator is not to allow the dignity of any one of these three orders to be detracted, but to conserve them in such a way as to enable them to help in the administration of the State. Of all these orders that upon which the work of education and civilization most depends is that of the nobles.

You have demanded attention to your rights from me. Now I shall speak to you about your rights and your duties.

The first is that you educate your children and their education should be such that they may not only be ornaments to my court but be the pillars of my State and permanent members of my Government, loyal and faithful servants of my dynasty, civilized and abstinent, honest to their nation and fellow countrymen. If after attaining this much you ask for help against the foreigners who are employed in the Government, it might be proper.

The second point which deserves more consideration is that it is your duty to be obedient to my present Government, so that I may have an opportunity of saying that my dear subjects are the true and loyal friends of my Government. The question as to the employment of foreigners or your fellow countrymen, rests with me. In conclusion I have to express my pleasure upon the fact that the Jagirdars of my Dominions have laid the solid foundation of mutual esteem and friendship and that they have formed an association with that object. I trust that the association will render much aid and assistance to the Government by its views for the improvement of the country.

### WITHDRAWAL OF THE JURY TRIAL.

No. 1107, dated Simla, the 25th August 1892.

From—C. J. Lyall, Esq., C. I. S., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department,

To—The Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

I am directed to reply to Sir John Edgar's letter No. 122J.-D., dated the 22nd of June, 1891, forwarding, with enclosures, a report on the working of the jury system in Sessions Courts in the Lower

Provinces of Bengal. Your confidential letter No. 4675J., dated the 21st of December, 1891, is replied to at the same time.

2. It is understood that under existing orders the jury system is in force in Bengal in the districts of Burdwan, 24-Pargannas, Hooghly, Howrah, Murshidabad, Nadia, Dacca, and Patna, and that all offences under the Penal Code which fall within Chapter VIII. (offences against public tranquillity), Chapter XI. (false evidence and offences against public justice), Chapter XVI. (offences against the person), Chapter XVII. (offences against property), and Chapter XVIII. (false documents and offences against property marks), and also attempts to commit and abettments of these offences (Chapters V. and XXIII.) are triable by jury before the Court of Session.

3. The result of the recent inquiry, so far as as Lower Bengal is concerned, is to show that the system of trial by jury as hitherto carried out, has worked in an eminently unsatisfactory manner. The opinions of District Executive and Judicial officers and of Divisional Commissioners are almost unanimous in its condemnation. In this conclusion the Local Government concurs. On such a question, however, the Governor-General in Council has felt bound to attach the greatest importance to the opinions expressed by the Judges of the Calcutta High Court. The Judges have been unable to formulate a reply which would represent their views as a body, and have recorded separate minutes on the subject; but the balance of opinion, as given in their minutes, is distinctly unfavourable in regard to the manner in which the system has worked in Bengal and Assam. The only opinions at all favourable are embodied in a joint minute recorded by the Honourable Justices Norris, Ghose, and Bannerjee, and in a separate minute by Mr. Justice Beverley. The Honourable Justices Amir Ali and O'Kinealy condemn the system. Mr. Justice Tottenham considers that it has worked unsatisfactorily, and suggests that capital cases should be withdrawn from juries. The Honourable Justices Prinsep, Wilson, Pigot and Macpherson also consider that the system, as at present in force, has worked unsatisfactorily, but think that it is capable of improvement if certain substantial changes of law and procedure are made. The Hon. the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Trevelyan have abstained from giving an opinion on the merits of the question. It is observed that even those Judges who report favourably on the system rely to a great extent on the provisions of section 307 of the Criminal Procedure Code as a safeguard against failures of justice, and that practically all the Judges are inclined to the opinion that some action should be taken in the direction of granting a right of appeal on the facts or of adopting other measures for rendering the verdicts of juries less final than they are at present.

4. The Government of India have also observed that the Committee (Messrs. John Beames, President, J. F. Stevens, J. C. Vasey, E. Macnaghten, Raja Peary Mohun Mookerjee, C. S. I., Mr. H. H. Risley, C. I. S., members) recently appointed under the orders of the Lieutenant-Governor to enquire into the question of police administration in the Lower Provinces have unanimously condemned the jury system in the mufassal. In paragraph 209 of their Report are the following remarks:—

"The conclusion seems inevitable that the jury system is responsible for a not inconsiderable number of failures of justice. We think that some restriction of the system in Bengal is desirable in the interests of public justice, and we would suggest that cases of murder and culpable homicide, in which its failure is notoriously most conspicuous (as also it is most serious in its results), should be excluded from its operation."

5. The Lieutenant-Governor's general conclusions are summed up in paragraph 5 of Sir John Edgar's letter under reply, in which it is stated that "a careful consideration of the opinions and figures now obtained leaves no doubt in Sir Charles Elliott's mind of the failure of the jury system in its present shape. It would scarcely be possible to obtain opinions from a large number of men more nearly approaching to unanimity than is the condemnation of the jury system contained in the reports and minutes above referred to; and it appears to the Lieutenant-Governor that there can be no more convincing proof of its failure than this. His Honor thinks that if the result could have been foreseen no advocate would have been found for the introduction of this Western institution into India." As, however, it has been introduced, Sir Charles Elliott would not abolish it, but he would take steps to make such changes in its working as are essential to secure the due administration of justice.

The proposals of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor for amending the law with a view to remove the defects which exist in the present system of trial by jury are, briefly stated, as follows:—

(1) that a reference to the High Court should be made compulsory in all cases in which the Sessions Judge thinks that the verdict of a jury is contrary to the weight of the evidence;

(2) that it should be made incumbent upon the Sessions Judge to ascertain and fully record the reasons of the jury for their verdict; and

(3) that a right of appeal should be granted on the facts against the verdict of a jury, when the jury is not unanimous, unless the Judge records his agreement with the majority.

The first and third proposals are based on the minutes recorded by Mr. Justice Prinsep and other Honourable Judges of the Calcutta High Court; and the second on the suggestions of experienced Sessions Judges. The result of the changes recommended by the Lieutenant-Governor would be to extend the power of modifying or reversing the verdicts of jurors, and thus to reduce trial by jury more to the level of trial by assessors as regulated by the Code of Criminal Procedure.

6. His Honor further proposes to withdraw from the list of cases triable by juries the whole of Chapter VIII. of the Penal Code, offences relating to public tranquillity; the whole of Chapter XVI., offences relating to the human body, except those which are now triable by jury in the North-Western Provinces, *viz.*, kidnapping, abduction, and rape; and the whole of Chapter XVIII., offences relating to documents and trade marks. On the other hand, he would add to the list offences under Chapter XX. relating to marriage. The list of offences which would then be triable by jury would apparently include the following classes of cases:—Chapter XI, false evidence and offences against public justice; the offences of kidnapping, abduction, and rape, sections 363-369, 372-373, and 376 in Chapter XVI. (all other offences in this Chapter being omitted); Chapter XVII., offences against property; and Chapter XX., offences against marriage; and also abettments of and attempts to commit any of the above offences (Chapters V. and XXIII.) It is within the competence of the Local Government to make these changes on its own authority under section 269 of the Criminal Procedure Code, but His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has thought it best in the first instance to place his views before the Government of India.

7. I am now to communicate the conclusions at which the Governor-General in Council has arrived after careful consideration of the entire question. In the opinion of His Excellency in Council, derived from a review of the reports from other Provinces as well as from Bengal, the defects of the present system of trial by jury appear to be mainly attributable to two causes—

(1) to the extension of the jury system (a) to areas to which it is unsuitable, and (b) to classes of offences which, as the experience now gained has shown, ought not to be cognisable by juries;

(2) to the fact that the provisions of section 307 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which were intended to give Sessions Judges and the High Courts power to remedy and correct wrong verdicts, have failed to fulfil this intention.

8. As regards the first of these causes, section 269 of the Criminal Procedure Code confers on Local Governments and Administrations complete liberty of action in respect of the determination of the areas within which offences shall be tried by juries, as well as of the classes of offences which shall be so triable. The Governor-General in Council has no desire to interfere with or to limit by legislation or otherwise the discretion entrusted to Local Governments in the matter; but he is constrained to express his concurrence in the Lieutenant-Governor's view that cases of murder and culpable homicide should be withdrawn from the cognizance of juries, and he is further inclined to agree in the view that cases of rioting under Chapter VIII. of the Penal Code should be withdrawn. His Excellency in Council has no doubt that the action which his Honor proposes to take for the revision of the list of offences triable by jury in Bengal, as described in paragraph 6 above, is fully justified by the results reported.

9. The difficulty under the second head seems to arise from the interpretation which Sessions Judges and Judges of the various High Courts place or have placed on their duty in making or dealing with references under section 307 of the Criminal Procedure Code. In many instances a strong disinclination has been exhibited by the High Courts to interfere with the verdicts of juries, and as a consequence Sessions Judges are often reluctant to make references under this section. It has been proposed by the Governments of Madras and Bengal that the law should be so amended as to make such references compulsory in every case in which a Sessions Judge disagrees from the verdict of the jury. The Governor-General in Council is, however, unwilling to adopt this course. Section 307 in its present form prescribes that the Sessions Judge shall refer such cases when he considers that there has been a substantial failure of justice, and it confers on the High Court the fullest power to deal with such references. It does not seem to the Government of India to be desirable that the Judge should be bound to refer cases in which the failure of justice is not quite clear—such as cases in which he differs from the jury on some minor point, or those in which the evidence is possibly so nearly balanced that even trained Judges might differ in their conclusions on it. His Excellency in Council has not overlooked the fact that there is a strong body of opinion among the Honourable Judges of the Calcutta and Madras High Courts in favour of the proposal in question; but on the whole he would prefer not to make an alteration in the law which might have the effect of encouraging unnecessary references. If the practice of the High Court is based

on the principles laid down in 1887 by Prinsep and Pigot, JJ., in the case of *Itwari Sasu* (I. L. R., 15 Calcutta, 269) no such alteration of the law is required; while, on the other hand, if a different and narrower practice is allowed to prevail, the mere fact of a reference under section 307 being obligatory on the Sessions Judge would probably not affect the view which the High Court is likely to take of its duty in dealing with these references.

10. It has however been suggested by the Bengal Government that in order to facilitate the disposal of references under section 307 of the Code, the Sessions Judge should be specifically empowered or required to ascertain and record the reasons of the jury for their verdict. The Governor-General in Council admits that the present system is defective in so far as the Judge, although bound by the Code to refer to the High Court cases in which he considers this course to be necessary for the ends of justice, is not in a position to place before the High Court in a proper shape materials for determining whether the verdict is a wrong one or not. His Excellency in Council, however, is averse to requiring or authorizing Sessions Judges to question juries as to the reasons for their verdict, except in cases already provided for by section 303 of the Code. In the first place no room should be allowed for anything approaching to a cross-examination of the jury. Besides, not only would it be difficult for untrained men, such as the jurors would be in most cases, to formulate their reasons in a satisfactory shape, but it is doubtful whether a mere statement of their reasons would help materially towards the disposal of the case. It seems to the Government of India that a statement of the facts found by the jury, rather than of the reasons for their finding, is what is desired for the purpose of enabling a satisfactory decision to be arrived at as to the correctness of their verdict. His Excellency in Council would therefore adopt the alternative proposal made by the Judges of the Bombay High Court, (Mr. Justice Birdwood, Mr. Justice Telang, and Mr. Justice Candy) and amend the law so as to empower the Sessions Judge, if he thinks fit, whether before or after a general verdict has been taken, to require special verdicts from the jurors on particular issues of fact, and perhaps on the general credibility of particular evidence. Such an amendment of section 303 would be sufficient both to place the Sessions Judge in a position to decide whether a reference should or should not be made to the High Court under section 307, and to furnish the High Court with proper materials for determining whether the verdict is one which should be upheld or not. This point has accordingly been noted for further consideration when the Criminal Procedure Code may next come under revision.

11. Lastly as to the question of allowing an appeal on the facts from the verdict of a jury. The concession of a right of appeal in one form or another is advocated by the Bengal Government, by a strong majority of the Judges of the Calcutta High Court, and by some of the Judges of the Madras High Court; and it has been forcibly contended that mistakes on the part of a jury, like other supposed judicial errors, should be left to be brought before the appellate Court by the parties concerned instead of by the presiding Judge. Accordingly, the Government of India have very anxiously considered whether section 418 of the Code should not be amended by allowing an appeal on the facts either when the jury is not unanimous and the Judge does not approve of the verdict of the majority, or when the opinion of the jury is unanimous but the Judge expresses a positive disapproval. The latter rule would be in accordance with section 307 as it now stands, while the former would do little more than extend to Sessions Courts *mutatis mutandis* the rule which prevails in High Courts under section 305.

But after due deliberation, and while attaching full weight to the expressions of opinion above quoted, the Governor-General in Council has come to the conclusion that it is not expedient, at all events without some further trial, to permit an appeal to be made against the decision of a jury. It is not clear to His Excellency in Council what advantage there would be in retaining the jury system at all, if it is to be reduced so nearly to the level of a trial with assessors; and he is reluctant to abolish the distinctive feature of trial by jury, the comparative finality of the verdict, until all other available methods for the improvement of the system have been exhausted. The Government of India are, moreover, of opinion that no such change in the law as that involved in the proposal under consideration will be really necessary if cases which have been shown by experience to be unsuitable for trial before juries are removed from their cognizance; and if, in addition to this, the safeguard against failures of justice already provided by section 307 of the Criminal Procedure Code is strengthened in the manner proposed in the preceding paragraph.

12. With these remarks I am to commend the subject to the consideration of the Bengal Government, and to suggest that such action as the Lieutenant-Governor may consider necessary should be taken under section 269 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The Government of India will be glad to be informed in due course of the action taken by His Honor in the matter.

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No. 550

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2.

Come thou with thy beloved spouse—  
A gentle lady she—  
Your heart will melt, your feelings rouse  
To see my wife and me.

3.

My son and daughter, sister dear,  
My uncle, aunt and friend,  
You 'll find them all devoid of cheer,  
- None helping hand to lend.

4.

O dreary home I with nothing bright,  
No food wherewith to live,  
No furniture would greet thy sight,  
Nor aught to comfort give.

5.

A mat or two—few beds of grass—  
A *charpoy* rude, perchance,  
Hard rind of gourd—thin cups of brass,  
The sorry scene enhance.

6.

Unglazed pots of earth, here and there,  
A few, and black with smoke,  
These chief engross my earthly care  
And of my women-folk.

7.

Of living things, I boast of naught  
Beside the crested train ;  
To pass for rich if e'er I sought,  
I should some pigs maintain.

8.

My yard is clean enough, though bare,  
But for dunghills about.  
If blam'd for this, what do I care ?  
No food, manure without.

9.

No food, because no crop, without  
Manure. And crop or not,  
I must pay for my field, no doubt :  
Such is the Kole's hard lot !

10.

\*From rising sun to fall of night,  
I work for daily bread,  
\*Though all day long I stand upright,  
My hunger's not allayed.

11.

- My children all—a starving group—  
My partner—famished dame—  
Sir Charlie ! see the luckless troop,  
Have e'er you seen the same ?

12.

\*A naked band ! the clothing coarse,  
They wear to hide their shame,  
Of death, disease, the fruitful source,  
And hardly worth the name.

13.

The son must work, the father work,  
The mother, all the same,  
Nor daughter dear nor sister shirk,  
No matter, blind or lame.

14.

"No work, no food," the motto plain,  
Nor age nor sex exempt,  
The wife and children weep, in vain,  
Their cry but wins contempt.

15.

O chief of rulers ! kind of heart,  
When thou hast come to see,  
For Heaven's sake, do not depart  
Till thou hast heard of me.

16.

My tale is short :—I want to eat,  
I want to keep me warm,  
To cool myself in summer-heat,  
To sleep and do no harm.

17.

Self-government I do not know—  
Although I pay the cess,  
With rent—nor e'en Municip'l show,  
Nor how present Address ;

18.

I know not what's the Consent Bill,  
Nor court the Councils Aot,  
\*I care for only stomach's fill—  
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19.

Grave matters leave to learned friends,  
The lawyer, master, leech ;  
For them the State such work intends,  
'Tis mine to learn, not teach.

20.

I want my Bhag-wa \* and my beads,  
And wooden combs and flow'rs,  
Such are the things a Kole-man needs,  
And not Home Ruling pow'rs.

21.

The only lux'ry that I seek  
Is home-brew'd paddy beer,  
That feeds my body, makes me meek,  
And gives my heart good cheer.

22.

My woman dear, she loves to pass  
Her days in labour hard,  
Wears bangles cheap and made of brass,  
Nor knows she watch nor guard.

23.

At leisure hours, she dances free,  
And sings immensely sweet,  
Her friends all join with mirth and glee,  
That serves us quite a treat.

24.

She cooks our simple food with tact,  
She feeds us all, good soul !  
And never cares to do an act,  
Unless she does the whole.

25.

With muddy hands, she pastes our floor,  
She sweeps our yard so clean,  
She feels for beggars at our door,  
Whenever they are seen.

26.

She takes good care of all our stock,  
A house-wife rare of gift,  
Her notice 'scapes no pig nor cock,  
All matters doth she sift.

27.

Her form though gross and face though soily  
And plain to other eyes,  
To loving eyes how charming truly !  
Her best of gems I prize.

28.

Her heart is warm, her thoughts are chaste,  
Her limbs robust and strong,  
What else we want ? our simple taste,  
In her, knows nothing wrong.

29.

Our sons, when young, can tend the sheep  
And lend them back to fold,  
'Can eat the coarsest food that's cheap,  
And bear the sun and cold.

30.

Our daughters too do this and that,  
To help their mammy dear ;  
And often sit to spin and chat,  
Nor have they care nor fear.

31.

We seldom quarrel with our friends,  
Nor treat our neighbours ill,  
To 'stablish love and peace this tends,  
And all unkindness, kill.

32.

I'd thus be happy, in my land,  
Could I but get my bread,  
Nor were compelled, in need, to stand,  
Of serving 'broad instead.

33.

As beasts of burthen, pack'd up close,  
Doom'd coolies, home we leave,  
Would that the wile the *Arkaf*\* shows,  
Your Honour could believe.

34.

Thus lured, conveyed to distant land,  
Up puff'd with idle hope,  
Too late we 'gin to understand  
'Migration's drift and scope.

35.

The wages poor, the diet low,  
The climate all but good,  
None care upon the slave bestow,  
There ev'rybody's rude.

36.

Amassing money—foolish thought !—  
And eating hearty meal,  
Such dreams soon vanish, leaving naught,  
But wounds that hardly heal.

37.

Such wounds as torture's hands imprint  
\* On skin that's black, though pure,  
For wrong-imposed labour's stint,  
At the worst, to be sure.

38.

Enough ! We can endure no more.  
Deign, lord ! to hear our plaint—  
Our heart, all full of gash and gore,  
Is weary, sore and faint.

39.

Before thou part'st from our poor land,  
And sails't on Sona's† breast,  
O ! deign to give us this command,  
"Go, live and eat and rest."

DALTONGANJ :  
The 16th November, 1892. }

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\* A narrow strip of cloth made to pass tightly through the thighs and fastened to another, round the waist, both in front and behind, used by the aborigines of Chota-Nagpur, instead of the *dhoti*.

\* *Arkati* is the "recruiting serjeant" of Coolie emigration.

† Sone.

## WEEKLYANA.

THE Abolitionists in their stress made too much of Mr. Justice Prinsep's supposed condemnation of Jury Trial in Bengal, until he looked more like an African Mumbo Jumbo than a British Judge. No wonder that this experienced Judge and text-writer has taken the earliest opportunity to set himself right with the public. Not much expenditure of breath was required for the righting operation. The misunderstood and misrepresented Judge had only to utter from the bench—"No Jury would accept the version of the" &c. In refusing an application for a rule to shew cause why the conviction and sentence of six months' rigorous imprisonment of three prisoners accused of rioting in a Jury district, before a bench consisting of himself and Mr. Justice Ghose, Mr. Justice Prinsep remarked,

"No jury will accept it."

Whereupon, counsel for the prisoners,

"Mr. Hill.—The jury will have nothing to accept now, at least in the moment."

Prinsep, J.—Yes; but I think jurors are the best judges in determining the bona fides of claims like this.

Mr. Hill.—I hope this will be reported in the papers, as this opinion comes from one of the oldest members of the Bench.

Ghose, J.—I entirely concur with what my learned colleague has said. Their lordships, after hearing Mr. Hill, saw no reason to interfere, and rejected the application."

THE outrageous haste in which the Trial has been virtually abolished in Bengal, has roused English indignation. The *Overland Mail*, a well-informed Conservative paper, not enamoured of Trial by Jury, thus speaks of the Elliottic Notification:—

"We had not thought that the Indian authorities were sufficiently enamoured of Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji to present him gratuitously with a splendid opportunity for a parliamentary debut. They seem however to have done so. A *Times* telegram from Calcutta announces that trial by jury has been abolished by 'notification'—there is a charming simplicity about these Indian arrangements for suspending legal and constitutional rights which many a good English Radical in his haste for reforms must almost envy!—in Bengal District Courts. Now, we know that there is a good deal to be said against the manner in which native juries discharge their duties. They very often do not discharge them at all, but, as in the good old time satirised in *Hudibras*,

—give their verdict

As if they felt the case, not heard it.

There may be excellent reasons for proposing to do away with the jury system, especially in inferior courts. But what Indian official could have conceived the notion of issuing an order of this kind when a Radical Ministry was in power, and before the public mind at home had been carefully prepared for the reform by a demonstration of its necessity? We have often remarked how liable Indian officials are to fall out of touch with public feeling at home, and this is a peculiarly unhappy example of it. Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji must be dancing a saraband over this ill-advised order, and, unless the Secretary of State should meanwhile quash it, there will be a lively field day for the National Congress and the downtrodden Native 'on an early day' after next Sessions opens."

THE criminal charge against the Raja of Ramnad which dissuaded the Governor of Madras from partaking of the expensive hospitality of the Raja, is rape. It is being investigated by the Assistant Superintendent of Police. The Raja has applied that the Head Assistant Magistrate himself take up the enquiry.

A STATUTORY Civilian is under a cloud in the Madras Presidency. Mr. Rama Chandra Row, the Sub-Collector and Joint-Magistrate of Tinnevely, is charged with bribery and corruption in his capacity of Sub-Collector of Madura. Mr. Winterbotham, Collector of Tanjore, and Mr. Vencoba Charriar, Sub-Judge of Tanjore and a relative of the accused, have been appointed to enquire into the charges. The Native Commissioner has asked to be relieved of the embarrassing situation.

THE *Englishman* announces that "Rai Jaiprakash Lal, Dewan of Dumraon, has placed Rs. 25,000 in the hands of Mr. F. H. Skrine, Collector of Shahabad, to be expended in works of public utility in that District."

The *Englishman* leaves us in the dark—probably because, as we suspect, our contemporary itself does not know—whether it is the gift of the Dewan Sahab or of the Maharaja Bahadoor. The Dewan himself, we believe, is competent to do a striking act of beneficence, and when the time comes he will certainly not be found wanting.

THE Bengal papers were ringing for weeks with the praises of a titular Maharaja of this town for investing in the name of his mother a lac of rupees in charity, after no end of calculation extending over a series of years. But they hardly note the gift by a Parsi lady—the widow of the late Nusseerwanji Manockji Petit—to the Parsi Orphanage of twice that sum, on the occasion of the anniversary of the death of her husband. And this Rs. 200,000 over and above the magnificent donation made by her on the occasion of her husband's death. Too much cannot be made of such munificence. But court news-men, demoralised by "the rarity of Christian charity" or Heathen, have lost the sense of proportion in respect of gifts. They are silent where they should sing, and are copious where they might with better taste be brief.

THE *Bombay Gazette* learns from a correspondent at Hyderabad that

"the political changes which have recently startled that city by their apparent suddenness, are at an end. The rumours that the relations of His Highness the Nizam and Sir Asman Jah were strained, and that the position of the latter was insecure, have received a decisive contradiction from the Nizam himself. At the interview with the Resident on Tuesday last, His Highness stated that he desired it to be known that any difference which had existed was at an end, that he had entire confidence in the loyalty of Sir Asman Jah, and that he had no desire that there should be any further changes in the personnel of the Government."

Mere springes to catch wood-cocks.

THE *Morning Post* of Nov. 19 writes:—

"The *Simla News* has been taken to task by the Lahore paper for having written in an unseemly manner about an officer and sportsman of very high standing; and it retorts by thanking heaven that no Native State can produce against it 'a receipt for Rs. 5,000 signed by an indiscreet journalist, the policy in whose columns was too palpably plain in exposing the object of the subsidy.' To what particular paper does the *Simla News* refer? Our contemporary might throw a little more light on this remarkable transaction. The sooner the gutter journal in question is exposed the better."

THE Special Court, composed of Mr. H. F. Evans and Major Thornton, to try Ram Chunder and others for the murder of Kunj Behari Lal, a member of the Ulwar State Council, has sentenced Ram Chunder and Akhai Sing to death, Buddha to transportation for life, and Chandra to seven years' rigorous imprisonment. The Court thus disposed of the plea of justification:—

"They submit not only that the Maharaja assented to the conspiracy, but that he ordered the death of Kunj Behari Lal, and that they thus had legal warrant for taking his life in the manner that they did. The burden of proving this lies on them. They are not entitled to demand that any inference should be drawn from the letters and conduct of the Maharaja that is not strictly warranted by the language of those letters. The accused, Ram Chander, has, while claiming immunity from punishment on the ground that he was acting under the orders of his sovereign, observed the completest reticence as to the course of events and the circumstances which led to the murder, although he must have personal knowledge of them. Even if it cannot be said that he was bound to lay before the Court the whole of the facts within his knowledge, yet he cannot take advantage of his silence. The burden lies on him to prove his defence affirmatively, and his silence, therefore, warrants the conclusion that nothing he can say would throw any further light on the matter which would be favourable to his case. There is absolutely nothing to show that the plan for the murder of Kunj Behari Lal originated with the Maharaja, and therefore the active part taken by Ram Chander, both in the preliminary measures taken by him and in the actual accomplishment of the murder, points to him as the originator of the plot. It lay on him to show that it did not, and he has made no attempt to do so. Ram Chander, who, whatever may have been the origin of the conspiracy against Kunj Behari Lal, was from first to last the mainspring of that conspiracy, is a man of undoubted ability and intelligence. The Maharaja was a young man, whose physical constitution had been ruined by his indulgence in drink, and whose moral nature, it may be safely inferred, had not escaped deterioration from the same cause. The close and confidential intimacy and friendship that existed between the two has been amply demonstrated. That Ram Chander should have acquired ascendancy over the weaker character of the Maharaja can barely be doubted. That the latter, irritated by Kunj Behari Lal's actions and behaviour, should have felt, and given expression to a wish that he could rid himself of this officious stranger, would be natural enough; that he should have the strength of mind to deliberately plan his death, and of his own motion to authorize Ram Chander to set on foot and carry out a scheme for his murder, is improbable, and cannot be assumed without positive evidence to that effect. For it must be remembered that there is no evidence to show that the Maharaja was in any way cognizant of the plot till Akhai Singh was brought before him on 16th April, and much had been done before that. On the other hand, it is far from improbable that Ram Chander, the friend and confidant of the Maharaja, should be willing to take advantage of the weakness of his master and his hatred of Kunj Behari Lal, to obtain from him a promise of protection in a plot which would at once rid him of a rival and secure for the Maharaja

a release from the restraint and annoyance which he resented so strongly.

To sum up, we are of opinion that the contention that the letters of the Maharaja furnished any such sovereign command from the ruler of the Ulwar State as was in fact, or was supposed by the accused in good faith to be binding on them, so as to warrant their committing what was an offence against the law of their country, is altogether untenable. It is hardly necessary to add that, in the absence of any such binding command, there is nothing in the law of the Ulwar State to render the act of killing Kunj Behari justifiable by that law. With this plea the defence set up by the accused Ram Chander and Buddha, falls to the ground.

Now for this utterly unjustifiable murder, for reasons which will appear from what we have already said, we hold the accused Ram Chander to be morally the most deeply responsible of all those, from the highest to the lowest, who connived at it. The influence that he undoubtedly exercised over the Maharaja was made use of, not, as it might have been, to prevent, but to secure the accomplishment of this crime. His guilt was, in our opinion, of the gravest character.

Akhai Singh was a hired assassin, a man who, to save himself from, it may be, imprisonment, but also to secure pecuniary advantages, was ready to take the life of an innocent man guiltless of any offence against him.

Buddha, though present when the murder took place, did not, there is reason to believe, strike any blow himself. By reason of his presence he was technically guilty of the substantive offence of murder, but he did not actually do more than abet the murder. Although he showed no scruples in using every effort to instigate Akhai Singh to commit the murder, yet we cannot ignore the fact that he neither received nor hoped to receive any pecuniary or other tangible reward or benefit to himself individually. We, therefore, regard his guilt, serious though it was, as less in degree than that of either of the two last-named accused.

As to Chandra, the evidence as to his conduct *before* the murder is inconclusive: that he was fully cognizant of and privy to the plot is clear from his conduct at the time of, and immediately subsequent to, the murder; but the part that he played was comparatively insignificant, and he also does not appear to have been influenced by any hope of personal advantage."

We cordially concur in the argument.

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At the Incorporated Law Society's provincial meeting, Mr. G. R. Dod read a paper in which occurs the following:—

"Recently in France a lady has been called to the bar, and at Montana, United States, a lady also is practising as a Barrister, and is now seeking the appointment of Attorney-General. When ladies are admitted to the English bar, some serious questions will arise with regard to the forensic costume, and doubtless it will be necessary for a full Court to decide as to the nature of it. Possibly some ladies might be satisfied with a doctor's gown similar to that worn by the Princess of Wales, while others might prefer the parti-coloured gowns that were worn by members of the bar about two centuries ago. To any who may be interested in such matters, I shall be pleased to produce some illustrations copied from a law treatise written about the fifteenth century. By some it is stated that at the death of Queen Anne the bar went into mourning, and has never yet come out of it; by others it is asserted that the black gown came into use about the time of the Protectorate. However, it is probable that the ladies may not think black altogether becoming to them. Then, with regard to the wig, they might demur to the use of it, especially when they are informed that it was first worn to conceal the fact that the head had been shaven—for when priests were forbidden to continue to act as advocates in Court they took to covering the head with a wig that it might not be known that formerly they had belonged to the priestly order. Lord Abinger expressed a hope that the time would come when the wig and gown, which he described as "mummeries," would be entirely discarded—but there appears to be no such prospect at the present time, and I for one have no wish to see them done away with. The question of day or some other headdress would have to be fully considered by the Court. Many ladies who are favoured with good heads of hair may prefer wearing it uncovered in Court; but the Judges would probably have to decide as to the way it should be worn—that is to say whether perfectly plain, parted in the middle, or rough and wholly according to the present fashion, and whether ringlets are permissible, and whether or not the hair may be tied up in ribbons, and, if so, what colour; or it might be awkward, if the Judge upon hearing the voice of a lady advocate should be compelled to say that he heard some one speaking, but was unable to see any one addressing him. It might be necessary to set apart rooms at the Law Courts for the accommodation of coiffeurs for the ladies."

What time these enlightened British take in adopting the most obvious reforms! They still at home carry the burden of the wig "mummery." In India the severity of the climate early lashed the lawyers out of the nonsense.

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THE following letter has been addressed by Mr. H. J. S. Cotton, Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Inspector-General of Police, Bengal:—

"Sir,—I am directed to invite your careful attention to the discussion which took place in the Bengal Legislative Council, recorded in pages 1715 to 1718 of the Supplement to the *Calcutta Gazette*, dated 14th September, 1892, and especially to the observations of the Hon'ble the President of the Council, on the subject of an amendment proposed by the Hon'ble the Advocate-General in the Bill to amend the Village

Chowkidari Act, 1870, to the following effect:—

'Provided always that no chowkidar appointed under the provisions of this Act shall be employed by any Police Officer on his private concern, or on any duties not by this Act made obligatory on such chowkidar, and that any Police Officer so employing any such chowkidar shall be punishable with fine which may extend to fifty rupees.'

2. This proviso, with the exception of the penalty attached, met with the approval of the majority of the Council, and was ultimately omitted from the Bill on the express understanding that the Executive Government would undertake to give complete effect to the object which the Council had in view when they accepted the proviso. This object was to prohibit the use of chowkidars on menial employments.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor has observed with satisfaction that the following rule has been introduced into the instructions to police officers for holding chowkidari muster parades:—

'XV.—Chowkidars must not be taken away from their villages for miscellaneous or other work except in cases of special urgency, or when they are required to guard or escort prisoners. Police officers employing chowkidars on their own private business, or utilising them as menial servants in any capacity, will be severely punished and will be considered liable to summary dismissal.'

4. This subject has also been referred to in the 8th paragraph of the Government Resolution, dated 14th September, 1892, on your Annual Police Report for 1891, as follows:—

'Next to low caste and disreputable antecedents, one of the causes which has done much to degrade the village chowkidar in his own esteem and that of the public, and to lessen his influence for good, has been the habit, too common among the Provincial Police, of treating him as a beast of burden and a menial servant. The Government is pledged to do all it can to stop this custom, and special orders are under issue on the subject; but the Lieutenant-Governor takes this opportunity of giving publicity to his desire that Magistrates and District Superintendents of Police should set their faces sternly against the practice. When the chowkidar recognises that he is a servant of the State and bears a sanad of appointment under the Magistrate's hand and seal, it may be expected that he himself will refuse to submit to ill-treatment, and that the inferior police officers will understand that his status has been so raised that menial employment must not be thought of in connection with him.'

5. The Lieutenant-Governor now directs me to say that it is expected of every District Superintendent of Police that he will vigorously carry out these orders, and will make it a special subject of inquiry, when inspecting a thana or outpost, whether any improper use is made of the services of chowkidars, and whether the orders of Government on the subject are known and understood by all parties. He should also devote a special paragraph in his annual report to the mention of what he has done in this direction, and should give information regarding any instances he may find in which the rule on the subject has been neglected or traversed. You are also requested to devote a special paragraph to this in your own annual report, and both you yourself and the Deputy Inspectors-General should, on occasion of your local inspections, not fail to give your particular attention to the enforcement of these orders.

6. I am to add that the substance of these orders regarding the relations between chowkidars and the regular police should be posted up in every thana and outpost in the province in English and in the vernacular."

..

DR. Charles Page, in the *Arena*, is of opinion that typhoid fever, as at present treated by drugging and feeding the patient, is no better than the playing of a stream of petroleum upon a burning building. He says that until the crisis is past, food in typhoid fever is a drug, and a harmful drug, and the one thing that a typhoid fever patient needs is to fast. The Doctor has observed the effects of fasting from six to twelve days to be in the highest degree productive of health and comfort to the patients. He has a specific for cure of the disease. It is hydropathic. The treatment consists of immersing the patient in a comparatively cold bath when the temperature reaches 101 to 103 deg. F. (according to circumstances, including that of the physician's knowledge of the principle involved and—his courage.) Doctor Page has observed that while under the feeding system, the mortality is 20 per cent., under the cold treatment, it is only two or even less.

The learned of Europe are now gradually discovering for themselves truths familiar in the East to the good housewife and the experienced *mater familias*.

..

THERE has lately been at a municipal office in the neighbourhood of the metropolis a scene of more than usual excitement. The Vice-Chairman, seeing a bullock belonging to the municipality limping, enquired of a low-caste man (a *chamar*) in municipal employ how the animal had been injured. The man pleaded ignorance. Thereupon, he was struck. He took it quietly, saying nothing. He was asked again. He explained that he had been away on some other business on which he had been sent by the Vice-Chairman himself and that on his return he had found the bullock in that condition: Under the circumstances, how could he know? That explanation got him another blow. Thereat he said "Baboo! I am a low man and your servant, but you should not beat me for nothing." He got another and severer licking for his appeal. It was now time

enough for the worm to turn, and the brawny, navy-chested Nonaryan rushed upon the civic magnate and attacked him. The latter is no typical Bengali, being indeed a Baboo of fortune and yesterday, but a strong-built, muscular man. He was no match, however, for the Pariah Hercules, who seized him by the neck and pumiled him well—or ill, we should say perhaps. The municipal staff in attendance were, we are afraid, remiss in promptly rescuing the Vice.

HERE is the Isis Unveiled—of border life in America:—

"A notorious desperado, known as 'Commodore' Miller, who, it is believed, has been concerned in many dark crimes in the neighbourhood of Dallas (Texas,) was overtaken by a band of his pursuers on September 29th. Four bloodhounds led the sheriff's officers to the place where the robber was found, but the effort to capture him was unsuccessful. Miller killed three of the bloodhounds, and then ran to the underbrush for protection and shelter. Although four of the officers had been within 50 yards of him, as was afterwards ascertained, not one of them had the courage to attempt to capture the robber. Another pack of bloodhounds has been secured, and the exciting search is being continued. Orders have been given to shoot the robber on his appearing in sight."

We had no idea that Texas is still in that condition. Heathen savagery could scarcely match it.

### NOTES & LEADERETTES

with  
OUR OWN NEWS.

TODAY the Viceroy holds a Levée and Investiture at Madras.

Today is also the last day—as the unsophisticated public will be surprised to learn—for sending the cards for the Levée at Government House, Calcutta. The Viceroy being still far from the capital, it does not occur to the lieges that the day of bowing is near. Nor has any reminder been vouchsafed them. The fact is that the usual advertisements of the Levée and the Drawing Room have been withheld this year by our very economical Government. This is the right earnest way in which effect is being given to the Secretary of State's order for retrenchment in the Military expenditure of the Empire. As a consequence, many loyal subjects will miss the opportunity of paying their respects to Her Majesty in the person of her Representative. But *salus populi est suprema lex*. Or, is this playing at hide and seek with the poor public a dodge diplomatic for diminishing the crowd and relieving the Viceroy?

WE have so uniformly served good poetry to our readers that they are in danger of losing relish from surfeit. Accordingly, we to-day venture on laying before them a simpler dish—rudimentary verse, if so much—the genuine thoughts and aspirations of the Koles at the late visit of the Lieutenant-Governor in English metre.

A JOINT memorial against the proposed Cadastral Survey for Behar has gone up to the Viceroy from the British Indian Association, the Behar Landholders' Association, the Bhagulpore Landholders' Association, the Tirhoot Landholders' Association, the Zemindari Panchayet and the Indian Property Association. Where, we wonder, is the Indian Association, which was the first to lend its helping hand to the agitation against the Survey? No matter if it does not join the memorial. The associated Associations are strong enough by themselves to command a hearing. Each, indeed, is a power. And on this particular subject as authoritative as interest can make or unmake.

The memorial is a clever production so far as it goes. It does not content itself with travelling over beaten track but starts new opposition of its own.

The joint memorialists object to the introduction of the measure without sufficient previous intimation, to the adoption of survey, imposing heavy land taxation, without fresh legislation and without a public opportunity for discussing the measure. They contend that the entire cost ought to be a charge on the general revenues of the country. They point out that the order for survey makes no mention of its authority. Supposing it were the Bengal Tenancy Act, they argue that that Act gives not the authority, and that it would be illegal and *ultra vires* to proceed with the survey. Besides, it is carrying the Bengal Tenancy Act too far beyond its legitimate

scope, to use it for mere statistical purposes—to draw out of it a complete and accurate organ for discovery of economic facts, for prevention of famine and for definite or authoritative registration of areas and fixing of rents. A survey under that Act can deal only with the respective rights of landlord and tenant. Nor does the Survey Act empower Government to order a cadastral survey. "It is difficult" for the memorialists "to conceive any measure that would work more oppressively and inequitably than that \* \* \* an unwilling landholder should be forced to submit to be penalized over again in order merely to minister to a pedantic love of illusive administrative symmetry." Then the memorial lays stress on "the grievous proceedings and embittered feelings between landlords and tenants" as the inevitable results of the survey. The estimated cost of survey, it is advanced, does not include "the cost and harassment of the litigation to both the zemindars and the rayyets, much less of the inevitable disturbance of the amicable relations which ought to exist between a zemindar and his rayyets" and the encouragement of illegal combinations against payment of rent. The corrupt amin has a paragraph to himself. The cost of survey is next touched upon and its particular unsuitability at the present moment of scarcity. "To all zemindars and rayyets this would mean a land tax of a very severe character; to very many, it would mean absolute impoverishment, and in some cases even actual ruin." Whether "as a sort of compulsory benevolence" on both the zemindar and rayyet for their future mutual advantage, or as "a measure of relief to the rayyet," the memorialists believe, "it will be 'felt by all classes interested in land as a crushing and disastrous measure of gratuitous and wholly unnecessary penal exaction, without any countervailing advantage to the State.' The measure is 'utterly devoid of even a microscopical advantage—political or fiscal—to the State.'"

THIS is going round the globe, to show what fools Moslems are and how they would be better for being despoiled of their territories and placed under the heels of the orthodox Russians and enlightened Europeans generally:—

"There is an interesting story told as to how the Shereef came to his high position. He is said to have been the son of a previous Shereef by one of the female slaves. When this Shereef was dying he was asked whom he would nominate as his successor. He replied: 'My boy that is fond of playing with my gold-headed walking-stick.' The boy's mother, who was in the dying chamber, immediately left the room, and handing the stick to her child, told him not to give it to any one. After a short time the old man died. Search was made for the stick, when, to the amazement of the faithful, the heir was found to be a slave's child, and they were bound to accept him as their head."

The suggestion is that Christians would not have blindly acted on the letter but dived into the spirit. They would have taken evidence to identify the heir under the noncupative will. We are not so sure of all that. Such things happen in Christendom every day. The story of succession given above is a lamentable one, but it was a mere accident, and accidents, the Europeans always tell us, will occur in the best-regulated households.

The next suggestion is the absurdity of superstitious adherence to the hereditary principle! But are Mecca and Cairo and Constantinople the only places where this principle is observed? Is it unknown in the enlightened Christendom? Does not the English writer of the foregoing paragraph know that somewhere out of the pale of Islam the national recognition of greatness, goodness, and wisdom may result in the apotheosis of littleness, vileness, and folly, that the public reward of striking ability may make legislators of asses, that the success of a Heaven-born captain on land or sea may lead to the permanent ennobling of poltroons with right of interference in the state? In Mussulman polity the hereditary principle is, unfortunately, rather at a discount.

After all, we believe the whole is a yarn of the American kind.

THE Chicago Exhibition will flood the English language as used in the older hemisphere with a large accession of new words. Here in Mr. Sala's *Echoes in the Englishman* we have notice of the introductory importation of two:—

"Accommodation at Chicago would seem to be somewhat costly just now, and I read that many visitors from New York are paying ten dollars or two pounds a day for rooms 'which they would decline to reside in for nothing at home.' 'But,' says one sage journalist of the West, 'of course you couldn't have a celebration like this without a large amount of kicking.' Costly board and lodging are characterised as a kick. Then there is another kick about General Miles refusing to march a body of United States troops 18 miles a day, 'to

be yanked round the city and looked at.' I have an idea of what a Yankee is, but what is it to be 'yanked'? Other 'kickers' are people who are left out of the invitation list. There were 11,000 Press applications for tickets, but only 1,700 were issued."

AN interesting glimpse into the workshop of several eminent men of letters is afforded by the following opening paragraph of a short paper:—

"Mr. Andrew Lang remarks somewhere that he believes he has not a single dictionary in his house. Browning, on the other hand, when it was definitely decided that he was to adopt literature as his profession, 'qualified himself for it,' as Mrs. Sutherland Orr tells us, 'by reading and digesting the whole of Johnson's Dictionary.' This fact explains his mastery of all the intricacies of the English language. By the way, a legal luminary has so high an opinion of that superseded work that he refuses to accept definitions from other sources. Tennyson is said frequently to consult that odd aid to poesy, a rhyming dictionary; and Wordsworth, like Byron, constantly made use of vocabularies. 'I never compose,' he once said to a visitor, 'without having a dictionary at hand, ready to turn to when I want a word.' In that case a dictionary must have been his inseparable companion, and it is not a bad one, either, even for the hypothetical 'desert island.' Lord Chatham told one of his friends that he had twice read from beginning to end Butler's Dictionary. He was rewarded for his trouble. Fox said of his great antagonist that he always used *the* word, and that each word had its own place, and was regulated, not by chance, but by law. In later life Chatham used to have the dictionary read aloud to him once a year. He said so many noble and useful words fell out of use, which is very true. Emerson also thought the dictionary 'not a bad book to read,' though for another reason: 'there is no can't in it, no excess of explanation, and it is full of suggestion—the raw material of possible poems and histories. Nothing is wanting but a little 'shuffling,' sorting, ligature, and cartilage.' We have a singular illustration of this proposition in the practice of one of our most eminent men of letters. This gentleman affirms that there is no book like a dictionary when anybody is in search of new ideas. If he is stranded when preparing a speech, he turns over a few pages of any dictionary, and there finds ample material for the longest oration."—*Cassell's Journal*.

INDEFINITE humanity in its unit, unconditioned by sex or size, colour or creed, age or race, has just been crystallized and got a name—by an accident. The other day a pair of boots was picked up on the beach at St Leonards by somebody—no need to enquire who. On looking about, he saw the dead body of a girl floating in the sea. He arrested the drift and brought it to the shore, when he was rewarded for his pains by the receipt of a letter to himself, which was found pinned to the clothing. The following are the terms of the touching note to the rescuer of her person—after death:—"Dear Somebody, —May God forgive me for what I am doing, I am tired of my life. God love you all and dear mother. It is no one's fault but my own.—Louis Davies. Don't grieve for me. I don't deserve it." The body was identified as that of an unmarried girl who lived with her parents in the neighbourhood. For all that, we have here another repetition of the ever recurrent tragedy of the Bridge of Sighs, and that little epistle may be taken generally as a prose version of the immortal verse of Hood.

SIR Charles Elliott has afforded relief to the Orthodox learned Mahomedans of Bengal by appointing Shamsul Ulama Moulvi Ahmad, Arabic and Persian Professor of the Presidency College, to the post of Head Moulvi in the Arabic Department of the Calcutta Medressah which becomes vacant on the 1st December, by the retirement of Moulvi Abdool Hai. There was anxiety in consequence of a report that Sir Charles was for a *savant* from the North-Western Provinces. Nothing could have been more welcome to the Bengal Mahomedans than the advent of a man like Shamsul Ulama Moulvi Abdool Huck, of Khyrabad in Oudh—reputed to be the most distinguished Arabic scholar and author in the whole of India—whom the late Sir William Grey had invited and brought down in 1870. The fear was, that Sir Charles being a personal friend of the Aligarh Reformer, Sir Syud Ahmad Khan, he might bring in a *Naturist*.

Two undesirable candidates had actually appeared in the field—one of them a wellknown Wahabi, and the other a follower of the Aligarh school, who has besides adopted the English dress. The claims of both were being trumpeted in the newspapers, although the learned of Bengal were not satisfied that either of them had received a complete Arabic education, or was competent to teach the most difficult works in Arabic literature and science.

WITH Moulvi Ahmad's promotion to the head Moulviship in the Calcutta Medressah, his post in the Presidency College becomes vacant. In filling it up, the Director of Public Instruction cannot be too careful that no one is appointed who has not a thorough acquaintance with Arabic and Persian literature. A deal too much is made nowadays of a knowledge of English in the holder of this post. The result is that efficiency in Arabic learning is sacrificed to a superficial accomplishment. It is wellknown that true Arabic scholars seldom know English. And there is a good reason for this. A difficult language like Arabic can be mastered only by long and single-minded devotion. For Mahomedans the spur to that devotion is faith. Hence such devotees do not care for other languages than Persian, historically if not philologically allied to the Arabic. Accordingly as the educational authorities insist upon a knowledge of English, second-rate and third-rate men—no scholars—are frequently appointed to these chairs, to the detriment of the under-graduates, and the prestige of University education. Students who have taken up Arabic or Persian as their second language, unable to get satisfaction from their regular Arabic and Persian Professors, are driven to take lessons from private tutors possessed of genuine learning, at additional cost, in order to qualify themselves for their examinations. We do not think that a knowledge of English is a *sine qua non* in a Professor of Arabic and Persian, and we trust that the Director of Public Instruction will give due consideration to this point and thereby save the under-graduates from a troublesome necessity and superfluous burden.

THERE is no end to the exhibitions of Sir Charles Elliott. A pyrotechnist with a full stock, he is continually firing penny-crackers and bombs and throwing up rockets. As a provider of sensation, he has taken the shine out of Sir George Campbell himself. He has kept Bengal in a ferment. Many have suffered and no body is safe. There is no knowing what a day may bring forth. He is turning up every thing with his great toe. Neither men nor institutions can claim anything beyond a nominal consideration. He is certainly above superstition—perhaps above sentiment too. He gives no quarter—his sentence rarely admits of reprieve or respite. He is unquestionably an able man, an indefatigable worker, devoted to his charge and animated by the best intentions. What a proof he affords of the truth that without judgment and mercy everything is vain!

His views and methods are singular. His discoveries are no less queer. He is ever after will-o'-the-wisps. Guided by that spirit-lamp, he is continually coming upon—mares' nests.

Last week we quoted a paragraph from the Resolution on the Board's Land Revenue Administration Report for the year 1891-92, in which Sir Charles Elliott considers it objectionable that courts "award damages in rent-suits to the non-suited party at the rate of 25 per cent. on the amount of rent decreed or claimed." True, he says, that "Sections 2 and 3 of Act VI (B. C.) of 1862, and sections 90 and 91 of Act I (B.C.) of 1879 empower the court to award damages." That law, he considers, not only objectionable, but "in the course of his inspections His Honour formed the opinion that the penalty was awarded with very little consideration." And, as "there is nothing corresponding to this provision in the Bengal Tenancy Act," "the Lieutenant-Governor would like the Board of Revenue to consider whether the power, which is permissive, to award such damages should not be withdrawn by executive order."

The Resolution is under the signature of Mr. C. E. Buckland, who was himself, for many years, in the Board of Revenue.

The Board, we hope, will look before they leap, in the hurry to carry out the order of our precipitate and exacting Lieutenant-Governor. The Bengal Government Resolution on the Land Revenue Administration Report of the Board cites a later enactment to support the view taken of the objectionable character of two earlier ones. The Resolution distinctly says that the Bengal Tenancy Act does not em-

power the court to award damages. Who could suppose that such a statement in a grave document issued from the Secretariat and published by Government for general information as well as the guidance of the administration, should be open to contradiction? Yet so it is. It is not only a misleading but an absolutely wrong statement, and of course a very foolish one into the bargain. It avers the non-existence of an existent fact. Is it possible that our copy of the Bengal Tenancy Act reads differently from the one reserved for Government? It certainly does not support the Government statement. Section 68 of Act VIII of 1885 runs thus:—

"(1) If in any suit brought for the recovery of arrears of rent, it appears to the Court that the defendant has, without reasonable or probable cause, neglected or refused to pay the amount of rent due by him, the Court may award to the plaintiff, in addition to the amount decreed for rent and costs, such damages, not exceeding twenty-five per centum on the amount of rent decreed, as it thinks fit:

Provided that interest shall not be decreed when damages are awarded under this section.

(2) If, in any suit brought for the recovery of arrears of rent, it appears to the Court that the plaintiff has instituted the suit without reasonable or probable cause, the Court may award to the defendant, by way of damages, such sum, not exceeding twenty-five per centum on the whole amount claimed by the plaintiff, as it thinks fit."

The old repealed law of Landlord and Tenant,—VIII. (B.C.) of 1869—an Act to amend the procedure in suits between Landlords and Tenants, also allowed damages, thus:—

"Sec. 44. In any suit hereafter to be brought for rent under the provisions of this Act, if it shall appear to the Court that the defendant has, without reasonable or probable cause, neglected or refused to pay the amount due by him, and that he has not, before the institution of the suit, tendered such amount to the plaintiff or his duly authorised agent, or in case of the refusal of the plaintiff or such agent to receive the amount tendered, has not deposited such amount in the Court before the institution of the suit in manner hereinafter mentioned, it shall be lawful for the Court to award to the plaintiff, in addition to the amount decreed for rent and costs, such damages, not exceeding twenty-five per centum on the amount of rent decreed, as the Court may think fit. These damages, if awarded, as well as the amount of rent and costs decreed in the suit, shall carry interest at the rate of twelve per centum per annum from the date of decree until payment thereof."

We wonder what are the Courts the Lieutenant-Governor visited which, since the passing of the Bengal Tenancy Act, could award damages under Act VI (B. C.) of 1862. Certainly no court would be justified in awarding any such damage under the said Act VI, since 1st November, 1885, when the Bengal Tenancy Act came into operation. For the Bengal Tenancy Act repeals the whole of the Bengal Act VI of 1862. All that reference to the Board of Revenue is Love's Labour Lost.

Sir Charles Elliott would seem to be an Oriental Prince, less his magnificence. He would have his finger in every pie. He would be the centre of all authority and power. He would interfere with the powers of the High Court. He would not leave the Church alone. He had lately been encroaching on the authority of the Bishop. He is now on his way to deprive the subordinate courts of the power of discretion in respect of damages in rent suits. He seems to think that the discretionary power exercisable by them is entirely at the option of the Lieutenant-Governor. When the law is not positive or imperative, he thinks that he has the power to withdraw it when he believes it objectionable, because, we fancy, the appointment of magistrates rests with him. And Sir Charles Elliott is a Moulvi—a learned man—among the officials. So much for the constitutional knowledge of the great Indian Civil Service!

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, November 26, 1892.

### SOCIALISM IN ENGLAND.

THE demonstration in Trafalgar Square, on November 13, to commemorate the "Bloody Sunday" of 1887, which Reuter would have ignored if he could,

was a far more important event than the intrigues of minor royalty which he so religiously chronicles. This demonstration marks a distinct advance in democratic manners and morals. Unlike many of its predecessors, it was characterised by a total absence of violence, and may, therefore, be taken as an evidence of a more definite programme of action which the socialist party in England has adopted, guided by its past experience. Although England was the country last reached by the wave of revolutionary socialism, which had long before passed over the continent, often attended by such dreadful results of the disruption of the fundamental principles of government, it is not inconsiderably affected by the movement now that wilder visions of social transformation have been opened before the proletariat of the country. The foundation of the propaganda was practically laid in 1883, by men, many of whom had made their figures in the world, and four years later, when the movement had spread widely over the country, it was no longer mistaken as a political factor in the State. Its principal founders were Mr. William Morris, the poet; Mr. H. M. Hyndman, a journalist of standing and ability; Mr. J. Stuart Glennie, and Mr. Belfort Bax, both authors of repute; Dr. Aveling, a popular lecturer on science, and son-in-law of Karl Marx; Miss Helen Taylor, step-daughter of John Stuart Mill; and the Rev. Stewart Headlam. The programme of the Social Democratic Federation, by which name the organisation was called, demanded, among other concessions, the nationalisation of land and all means of production, direct legislation by the people, direct election of all functionaries by adult suffrage, gratuitous justice, gratuitous, compulsory, and equal education, abolition of standing armies, Home Rule for Ireland, an eight hours' day, State erection of workmen's dwellings, progressive income tax, proportional representation, abolition of the House of Lords, and separation of Church and State. At present the fortunes of English socialism depend, in a large measure, upon Mr. John Burns, whose firm determination and excellent organisation have established a new labour movement, which is likely to play a conspicuous part in the history of England in the immediate future. Various societies have, of late, sprung up, representing, in some places, a fanatic interest in socialism, but none of these revolutionary bodies has a complete organisation like those of continental countries. Nor is socialism in England gone to such an absurd length as to maintain that attitude of rank indifferentism, not to say absolute hostility, to religion, as it has done principally in Germany and Russia. Religion is exactly the rock on which many a movement of this description has stranded. "For my part," says De Tocqueville, "I doubt whether man can ever support at once complete religious independence and entire public freedom; and I am inclined to think that if faith be wanting in him he must serve, and if he be free he must believe." While the continental socialists have generally assailed the Church and religion, those in England have wisely followed the course of religious neutrality and toleration.

The "Bloody Sunday" of 1887 is memorable in the history of England as the day on which, for the first time, the law-abiding *bourgeoisie* were awakened from their supposed security by the insurrection of the unemployed mass of London. The events which happened on that day were but

sequels to those of the 8th February, 1886, when a monster meeting was held in Trafalgar Square, under the banners of the Fair Trade League and the Revolutionary Social Democrats. At the close of that meeting, the mob marched by Pall Mall, St. James's street, and Piccadilly to Hyde Park, breaking and plundering the club houses and private residences which lay on their way. The damages done were estimated at £50,000. Stringent measures as regards the holding of public meetings in Trafalgar Square were shortly afterwards passed by Sir Charles Warren, the Commissioner of Police. This, however, more excited the mob, and they proceeded to organise another attack on the city. Mr. Cunningham Graham, M.P., and Mr. Burns, the principal ringleaders of the riot, were sentenced to equal terms of six months' imprisonment. The rules about meeting in Trafalgar Square were strictly enforced, but they were subsequently relaxed on particular days of the week. What the agitators now demand is the unrestricted right of meeting in the Square, together with the control of the police by the County Council.

There are some who prophesy that we are within measurable distance of most stirring social agitation, and, in proof of their assertion, they cite the number of socialist organisations—democratic, anarchist, dilettante—which have sprung into existence in London recently. There are already four small anarchist clubs in London, and some of the principal anarchist leaders—for example, Prince Krapotkin and Victor Dave—live there. Besides, there are various amateur societies—such as the Christian Society, the Fabian Society, the societies formed under Ruskinian inspiration—which take an appreciative, if not an active, interest in socialism. The large body of men, eking out a hand-to-mouth existence—the “submerged tenth”—have found that on a well-timed rising alone they could count for the amelioration of their condition. Among the employed, also, “strikes” are but mild manifestations of the furious spirit which may break out into open violence, should occasions arise. That we are on the eve of a gigantic social revolution—a revolution, which will immensely alter the relations of society—none who has carefully watched the tide of events for the past few years, will venture to contradict. Where previous revolutions have left behind them an unquiet and turbulent spirit—a “valetudinary habit,” as Burke calls it, “of making the extreme medicine of the State its daily bread,” it is unlikely to expect a peaceful termination of the issues proceeding from that cause.

#### HINDU MUSIC AND A MAHOMEDAN POET IN BENGALI.\*

[FIRST NOTICE.]

THIS is a most respectable looking Bengali book with every mechanical and outward recommendation. Printed, carefully and well, in large type, with good ink, on good English paper (from John Dickinson) with liberality of margin, of a handy size encased in stout boards, it wants but some expenditure in gold leaf and muslin or morocco to make it an *editio de luxe*. Old eyes in especial will bless the author for his bold uncrowded typography. The whole get-up is appropriate to a work on a Fine Art. Neither the Great Master who gives name to the book, nor his imperial master himself, if either could see, would have cause for grumble.

In another external respect this publication—we use the word

\* *A Treatise on the Science of Hindu Music*. Edited by Harish Chandra Datta, Professor of Oriental Languages to the Foreigners, *Sangita Tānatana*. &c., [in Bengali] Calcutta; 1299 Bengali Era (corresponding with the Christian year 1892.)

advisedly—is somewhat unique. Indeed, in more than one respect, it is a bibliographic curiosity. In the first place, it is not one book but two books by different authors not merely bound within the same cover but linked together, almost organically. The title page which we transcribe below denominates one—the main—performance and the performer, but another book is quietly carried as a stowaway in the hold at the back, and the name of the bookwright is just mentioned, confidentially as it were, in the Preface. And thereby hangs a tale. Partnership in book-making is nothing singular. It has always existed and is now more than ever common. In these days of division of labour and specialisation of studies, we often see, more than one man of letters salaaming the public from the same title-page—nay more, sometimes the productions of half a dozen or even a dozen writers stitched together by the same thread. But there is a peculiarity in the present case. The circumstances and authorship of the book ignored in both the Oriental and the English little, supply ground for suspicion. As we have said, it is a curiosity of literature, which differentiates it from not only its greater, more prominent fellow, but from all other literary efforts. While the book is the production of a Hindu, the booklet is the production of a Mahomedan. Now it is not the writing of a book by a Mahomedan that is provocative of a stare as the writing of the particular book. Had it been a Persian or Urdu work, there would have been no question. But a Bengali book by a Mussulman—even a Bengali Mussulman—is still uncommon.

There is a dialect of the Bengali to which the lower classes of Islam in the far East are partial, called Mussulman Bengali, in which there is a small and insignificant literature. A publication in that *platois* would be no great thing, but the subsidiary book before us is not in that lingo. Under the late expansion of popular education and vernacular studies, this Cambrian anomaly has more than ever been pushed to a corner, and Hindus and Mussulmans alike are learning the same standard Bengali from the same books, and under the same system. There have recently been some attempts by Mahomedans to start vernacular newspapers under Mahomedan conduct. But as yet hardly any Mahomedans have ventured on the field of authorship. Not but what a few books have appeared with Mahomedan names on the title-pages. But they are of the books that are no books, according to Charles Lamb. We do not remember any strictly literary publication. This, we believe, is the first appearance in a durable referencable form in print of Bengali poetry in Bengali. We remember metrical contributions to some of the Mahomedan newspapers. There were Mahomedan impressarios of Kobi bands and possibly they had Mahomedan composers and song-writers to give them tunes and words to the music. But those songs have not been preserved. Strange as it may sound, we have seen Hindu hymns by Mahomedans, but except a few specimens unearthed by that excellent Bengali enquirer Baboo Koylas Chunder Singh, they are unknown and (speaking in no Hamiltonian sense) unknowable. Here, then, we have at length the first contribution to Bengali literature by a Mahomedan in the shape of the first productions of the Mussulman Muse in Bengali.

#### TRADING WITHOUT A LICENSE.

A CURIOUS AND INTERESTING CASE.

(From the Calcutta Daily Papers.)

A somewhat curious case came on before Dr. Sambhu C. Mookerjee, Honorary Presidency Magistrate, on the 25th ultimo. The Calcutta Municipality through their License Inspector charged one Juggobundhu Dass, of 82, Cross-street (Burra Bazar), for carrying on trade in Calcutta—purchasing goods in Calcutta for transport and sale beyond the limits of Calcutta—without a license under Class IV, section 87, Act II. (B.C.) of 1888. The hearing of the case lasted for two days.

The municipal pleader appeared for the prosecution, and two vakils of the High Court appeared for the defence.

The following judgment was delivered:—

This is a curious and interesting case. The defendant Juggobondhu Dass has been regularly fined year after year for trading without a license. The Corporation has put in certified copies of the judgments of this Court convicting and fining him Rs. 38 for not taking out a license for carrying on his firm in the year 1889-90, and again fining him Rs. 37-8 for the same offence in 1890-91. After that, one would have thought that the defendant would take care not to come in again before the Court on any such charge. But he has been brought up again. Familiarity seems to have rubbed all feeling of discredit out of him. Any decent-minded man would rather lose a few rupees than permit an unbroken continuity of annual fines to be recorded against him. This defendant was not of that mind. Of course, if he has any substantial legal grounds for doing business within municipal limits without the expense of a license he will have their benefit, notwithstanding the appearances against him. Unfortunately he cannot show any valid reason. The *onus* lies with him of showing very strong grounds, indeed, for exemption, and he has only the flimsiest plausible excuse. It appears that two other persons on the same premises have been summoned on the same charge; and according to the defendant they all—including himself—constitute one concern. That would make them liable to one license. But they have not taken out a single license between them. From the amount of money they have been spending during all these many years on pleaders and solicitors of the High Court, they are perfectly well able to pay—only they are determined not to give a pice if they can help. They themselves are intelligent, smart men, and they have clever advisers. They have presented a queer situation to the Municipality and the Court. Their case is this. They are cloth dealers of Maldah, where they have different shops on different accounts. They sell European piece-goods as well as country *dhotees*, buying in Calcutta. They have no business at Calcutta, but they have combined to hire a house between them for the accommodation of the agents they severally send to buy for them severally, to store the goods bought, pack them and despatch them. They keep an establishment in common for these agents or themselves, for not uncommonly each man comes to Calcutta to buy his own investments. There is no sale here—no business as they contend, there being no profit or loss here. Such is *their* story. The whole seems to me a brilliant device for carrying on business and making profit without paying one's dues. It is an original plan by which any number of persons in the inland export trade may deprive the Town Corporation of its license fees. The objection of the defendant to pay is simply technical—and technical of a very curious kind—so that he must make it out to the fullest, in every particular. It is curious that the defence now alleges a joint and again a separate business each time that any kind of status is suited to evade payment. A unit at Calcutta they are three entities at Maldah. Such a diversity of relations between the same persons is not impossible. But it requires proof. The convenient allegation of it is nothing. I must say that it has not been made out to my satisfaction, that Juggobondhu Dass or Sree Churn Dass and Co., or whatever the names of the firm are, of 82, Cross-street, is a single business at Calcutta which branches out into three separate concerns at Maldah, notwithstanding the evidence of Rajoni Kanta Dass and the Marwarce cloth-dealer, whom the defendant's jamadar brought with him, and notwithstanding the single book in which the transactions carried on on the premises are entered. The thing has been managed with great ingenuity, and we must not allow ourselves to be arrested by these appearances. To me it has all the aspect of three firms unified for the nonce to evade fiscal visitations. The plea that the several Maldah firms have no business at Calcutta is a mere pretence. It seems to me that Calcutta is the most important place of business to them. Everything depends upon buying good things, buying them cheap, and godowning them for safety, packing them carefully, and sending them properly and quickly at the least cost. All these things are the look-out of the Calcutta agency of which each of the Maldah firms has one. I think every man of the world will see, and every honorable man of business will admit, that they are three firms carrying on business at 82, Cross-street, belonging to relations and kinsmen who mess together here, and have other conveniences in common. Even on the defendant's own contention he ought to be able to show a license in any one of the names. But they have none of them taken out any, and have instead—for years—been paying fines. It is a pity that the law does not provide for any fine that might be felt by prosperous tradesmen. The whole game which the defendant and his *confidés* have for a series of years been playing is most discreditable. It is a pity that the hand of lawyers may be traced in the plan of operations. I convict the defendant under section 90 and sentence him to pay a fine of Rs. 75.

In imposing a fine of Rs. 75, the Court awarded the highest sentence open to it under the Municipal Act. Similar convictions were pronounced against the defendants in the other two cases referred to in the preceding judgment and the same penalty—the highest—imposed on them.

## THE WATER-WORKS AT BENARES.

### SIR AUCLAND COLVIN'S SPEECH.

In reply to the address of the Municipality, Sir Auckland Colvin said :—Babu Ram Kali Chaudhri and members of the Benares Municipality,—It is, as you have said in your address, a matter of no common satisfaction to me that, before leaving India, I should have been enabled to open the Benares Water-works. I have taken occasion recently, at Lucknow, to speak at such length on the objects of the administration in furthering Water-works in our great municipalities, the cost at which the end would be accomplished, and the incidence of taxation, that I need not dwell further on those matters to-day. But let me thank the members of the Benares Municipality for the aid and encouragement which they have given to the Government so far as their city is concerned, and let me especially recall the name of one who is no longer with us, but whom you will expect me to speak of to-day, now that the work in which he took so much interest is accomplished. In the late Babu Bireswar Mitra the Municipality of Benares and the Administration of these provinces, in whose Legislative Council he filled a chair, have lost a most capable adviser and a most valued colleague. It was he who mainly guided the project through the difficulties of its earlier days, and it very materially lessens the pleasure of us all that he is not here to assist at its completion. That men like Babu Bireswar Mitra and Babu Ram Kali Chaudhri should have given their adhesion to the Water-works scheme is matter of especial satisfaction. Neither of them were men who would be for a moment suspected of subservient compliance with the wishes of any authority whatever. They both entertained views which, though differing widely from one another, are not the views which are currently supposed to be those most favoured by the authorities; but while they have never scrupled firmly, loyally, and conscientiously to maintain and express their several convictions on such matters, they have always given their entire support to the Water-works and drainage projects of Benares. It has added to the strength of our enterprise, and has gone far to silence objection, that it should have received their active approval. Let me next thank Mr. Wilson, the Engineer in charge of the Works, whose energy and skill, and whose supervision of his business has been the subject of frequent mention to me by all who were administratively his masters. I am greatly indebted to him for his exemplary labours; and when recently I felt myself compelled, owing to press of time, due to my own approaching departure, to refuse him a short period of leave which he had so amply earned, I think that the regret which I felt in issuing the order must have been greater than what he himself experienced on the receipt of it. To Mr. Friend, of Messrs. Easton and Anderson, and to Messrs. Walsh Lovett, who have carried out their contract with their habitual punctuality and thoroughness, I wish to express my thanks. And as this is the last opportunity which I shall have of doing so, let me here say how great is the debt of obligation which I am under, to Mr. Hughes, the Supervising Engineer for Municipal Water-works. For the last five years his resource, his skill, his energy, and his courage—for it requires courage, gentlemen, let me tell you, to carry out these large and difficult schemes—have never failed me; and if I have been able to carry them so far forward during a period of five years' administration, it is mainly owing to Mr. Hughes. His position in the Department forbids the hope that he will much longer occupy his present post, but when the "Village Sanitation Bill," now before the Local Legislative Council has passed, so long as he remains with us I hope there will be found fresh fields of usefulness for his energies, and further scope for the experience which he has gained in all matters of Indian sanitation.

### A GANGES WATER-SUPPLY.

The Benares Water-works scheme is interesting from several points of view. In the first place it is the first occasion on which we have been able to take water from the Ganges. At Agra and at Allahabad the supply is taken from the Jumna, and at the latter place some disappointment was at one time expressed that preference should not have been given to the more favoured river. No one can take exception to the source from which your water-supply is drawn. In the next place, no works have hitherto been carried out on so large a scale as these works. Finally, they have never been introduced into a city so conservative and so devoted to the usages of ancient custom—usages confirmed by prejudice and allowed by religious sanction—as Benares. We make ourselves no illusions in this regard. We are perfectly aware that it will be long before filtered water is universally used here. It will be by slow degrees only, but by slow degrees universally used it will be. Here, as in Calcutta and elsewhere, convenience will prevail ultimately over prejudice, and the experience gained by observation of the effect of filtered water on the health of those who use it will prevail over custom hallowed by religious sanction. Meanwhile we are well aware that this will take time, and are quite prepared to find that a very considerable time must elapse before filtered water becomes really popular.

Now that the water-supply is opened, let me advise you to look to your wells. In Agra and Allahabad, when the filtered supply

was introduced, the Municipalities concerned at once commenced, and are now engaged in carrying out a systematic survey of their wells, public and private, section by section of the city, and an analysis of the water of each well. How greatly such analysis is needed may be gathered from the fact that of 66 wells of which the water has been analysed in Allahabad, twelve only were pronounced to have fair water, twenty-five were pronounced unsafe, and of 29 the water was pronounced to be unfit for human consumption and dangerous to human life. In Agra, of 16 wells analysed eight were declared unfit for human use. The water may have been bright and clear and sparkling; but the analysis detected and declared the poisonous properties contained in it. When we hear so much of constant cholera in our cities, of fever, of bowel complaints, and of a general low state of health—though I do not think that my medical advisers would say that in the presence and habitual use of such impure water we had discovered all the causes of such a state of things—I think I am not far wrong in answering that at least they would admit that we had laid our finger on one of the chief, if not the chief, among them.

#### THE DRAINAGE SCHEME.

You have spoken of the proposed drainage scheme for this city. It will be actively pushed on, there being especial reasons here why it should follow as soon as possible on the completion of the water-supply. A Committee has been appointed to meet here this cold weather and to study the question of the disposal of the sewage which has already much occupied the attention of this Government. They will have to reflect on the expediency of depositing it on a sewage farm and to explain the objections, which present themselves to such a course. Other suggestions will be examined by them with especial reference to the convenience of this city and consideration to the health of adjoining tracts of the provinces. Some funds have been, it is stated in your address, collected for the drainage of Benares by the "Ganga Prasadini Sabha."

This movement, as you will remember, was set on foot some time ago, and first Lord Dufferin, and afterwards Lord Lansdowne, was asked to be patron to the Sabha. Several leading Native noblemen and gentlemen promised large subscriptions, and the movement was headed by the late lamented Maharaja of Benares. We were all hopeful that a movement set on foot with so much enthusiasm and supported by so great and varied influences would be successful. But before much time had passed it became evident that our hopes were premature, and that my expectations were doomed to disappointment. One subscriber after another withdrew his adherence to the scheme; and the wealthiest and most prominent Hindu nobleman in the adjoining province of Behar, who had promised aid to the amount of one lakh of rupees, has declined to fulfil that engagement. I have been told that the reason why so many subscribers have withdrawn is that when it was seen that the Municipality and the Government had taken a drainage scheme in hand, Hindu benevolence and the liberality of the leaders of the Hindu community becomes superfluous. If this is so, the matter is subject of misapprehension. The Municipality and the Government have doubtless provided a water-supply, which is a preliminary to any drainage scheme, and is indispensable to flushing drains. But if the Hindus who are members of this Sabha wish to furnish the funds and to carry out the project of a drainage scheme, neither the Municipality nor the Government wish to put obstacles in their way. On the contrary, they will place at the Sabha's disposal all the skill and staff available. You are aware that of late years the Hindu community have lost no opportunity of expressing their resolve to maintain their allegiance to the requirements of ancient faith and of defending it against even the semblance of attack. But unfortunately, it has so happened that on each occasion lately on which they have felt bound to illustrate their devotion or to display the depth and the breadth of their religious zeal, they have been forced (reluctantly enough no doubt, but still they have been forced) into direct conflict with a considerable body of public opinion. When the Government of India desired to save young girls, still in the stage of childhood from the indignities of child marriage, the Hindu community, or a large section of it, felt it due to its tenets to protest. When more recently this Government, in order to avert the spread of an epidemic of cholera over its own and adjoining Provinces, found itself, to its great regret, bound to disperse, in the interests of the general community, some thousands of Hindus who had assembled at Hardwar, and to prevent their numbers being swelled by fresh arrivals—when it intervened in the interests of the public safety and the public health,—the Hindu community felt it due to its tenets to protest. I repeat that it was unfortunate that on either occasion the Hindus, for whom I entertain a deep and true regard should have been forced into a position in which they encountered much public criticism and incurred no little censure. But here in this matter of draining their holy city, and purifying the stream of the sacred Ganges within its limits, they have an opportunity of showing the depth of their devotion and the length, the breadth, and the depth of their religious zeal (an opportunity selected by themselves and forming indeed, the especial bond which has brought together the "Ganga Prasadini Sabha") which can attract no pos-

sible disapproval, and raise no considerable censure. If they wish to give practical proof of the sincerity of their desire to maintain their traditions and to resist all innovations, let them give the best practical effect possible to it by subscribing the sums which they have severally spontaneously promised to, purifying their Holy of Holies as they have declared that it is the desire of their hearts to do. The Government will most assuredly not oppose them; and after all the untoward incidents of late years, they will have the satisfaction that, while they are fulfilling the sacred and self-imposed duty which they have voluntarily taken on themselves, they are giving unanswerable proof of the sincerity of their convictions and commanding the respect and regard of all members of the Hindu community throughout India, and of the Government with whose aim they will in this instance have so completely identified themselves.

#### THE RIOTS AT BENARES.

Gentlemen, you will expect me on this occasion to say a few words in regard to the little disturbances which unhappily took place last year here in Benares. It is time that it was shown incontrovertibly that they in no way arose out of objections entertained to a water-supply project, but from mistaken apprehensions of religious alarm.

I am willing to believe that those who were principally interested in the safety of the Bhadaini Temple were really alarmed about it, though I regret that they should have given themselves over to impulse, and instead of proceeding by recognized channel (for there was no cause for haste; the apprehended danger to the Temple could not have occurred for the next four months, that is to say, till the rains) should have lent themselves to more violent methods. I gave practical proof of the indulgent view which I took of their conduct by releasing them from jail, with the knowledge and approval of the Hon'ble Chief Justice, not many months after their appeal had been rejected on its legal merits in the High Court. I did so because I felt that it was not they but he who pulled the wires which moved them who was chiefly to blame. It was the man Vigianand who was chiefly to blame, who, after leading his principals till they found themselves face to face with the tribunals of criminal law, absconded and hid himself, and is still in hiding.

Gentlemen, there is a class of men of whom he was a type, who make it their business to fish in troubled waters; they bring no qualifications to their task beyond an unparalleled assurance, a brazen insolence, and a vocabulary gathered from the gutter. Only two days ago I received a telegram from a man of this class (I will not mention his name here, but Mr. Brereton, the Magistrate, has my authority to mention his name) demanding to see me on what he described as most important matters connected with the Benares Water-works. I asked in what character he addressed me and whose authorised representative he was? Receiving no reply which I could in any way regard as definite, I informed him that if he called on my Chief Secretary, any communication which he might make to him would be duly laid before me. The answer this silly and ill-advised person sent me was, that it was the Lieutenant-Governor he wished to see, and that if I would not see him, any consequences which might hereafter ensue would be my fault. Now, gentlemen, that man is, I understand, engaged in congenial occupations here in Benares, and let me if I may, warn those whom he would make his dupes against employing him, for two very excellent reasons. In the first place no agent more certain to ruin his client's business could be engaged. No man with an ounce of fact or grain of sense or that modicum of commonsense which one expects to find even in a simpleton, would hope to advance his client's interests by endeavouring at once to intimidate or to browbeat the Government. The adoption of such tactics show the measure of his capacity for undertaking the charge of the interests confided to him. In the next place, so surely as his intemperate counsels, his appeals to your most inflammable emotions, and his reckless disregard of facts, probabilities or certainties will bring you ultimately into conflict with the Magistrate; so surely, when he has led you there will he abandon you, making off with the proceeds of his enterprise, and leaving you to meet the consequence of your acts. If you have any question in dispute with the Municipality, any question, for example, such as I am told has arisen of rating of temples to a water-rate, consult duly authorised advisers (there are many of them competent, responsible, and entirely reliable here in Benares or elsewhere) and be guided by their advice. If you think the Magistrate is not doing you justice, go to the Commissioner; if he rejects your appeal, take your case to the Local Government. If the executive authorities disregard you, and you are advised that the law has been infringed, go to the civil tribunals. You know as well as I do, that they are absolutely impartial. Carry your case if you so wish it to the highest judicial authority in the Province. But as you value your liberty, your reputation, and your safety, avoid like poison the stirrer up of grievances, the unqualified adviser, and the professional agitator.

I will detain you no longer adding only that before very long I shall hope to learn when in England that the water to-day for the first time given you has succeeded in becoming generally popular, and that the drainage works are a *fait accompli*.

### CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY. NOTICE.

HIS Excellency the Chancellor has decided to allow the Masters of Arts or holders of higher degrees in some Faculty and Bachelors of Arts who graduated before the year 1867 to fill up three vacancies in the Senate by election. Of the three Fellows to be elected, one must be a Medical Graduate of the University who is either a Bachelor in Medicine of 10 years' standing, or the holder of a higher degree in Medicine, and the other two must be Masters or holders of higher degrees in some Faculty or holders of the degree of Bachelor of Arts who took that degree before the year 1867.

The election will take place on Monday, the 2nd January, 1893.

Every candidate for election must be nominated by a graduate holding one of the above named degrees, and no graduate will be allowed to nominate more than one candidate. The written nominations of candidates must reach the Office of the Registrar not later than the 7th of December.

On and after the 15th December voting papers containing the names of all the candidates nominated will be supplied on application by the Registrar. These papers must be filled up in the presence of the Registrar at the Senate House on the 2nd of January 1893 between the hours of 10 A.M. and 5 P.M., but graduates who are not able to appear in person before the Registrar, may fill up the papers in the presence of a Magistrate, by whom the papers will be countersigned. All such voting papers must reach the Registrar by the 2nd of January 1893. Graduates who are not personally known to the officer in whose presence the voting papers are filled up must bring with them their diplomas, or other satisfactory proof of identity.

W. GRIFFITHS,  
Officiating Registrar.

Senate House,  
The 21st November, 1892.

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Vol. XI. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1892.

} No. 552

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

DE MORTUIS.

(TWO TEXTS AND A COMMENT.)

I THANK ye, O my Dead ! that in my dreams  
Ye still are present with me,—all my loved  
And lost, not unremembered 'mid the press  
And whirl of day, but ever, with the night,  
Sure visitants of slumber,—Mother, Sire,  
Brother and Sister, Friends,—mine own again,  
The old familiar faces,—linked, perchance,  
With forms and features of a younger date,  
In scenes your life's experience never knew,  
'Mid circumstance grotesque, ridiculous,  
Impossible,—but never with a frown !

I thank ye ! or—for I must speak my thought—  
I thank the love I bore ye that evokes  
Your pleasant phantoms : for ye come not thus  
Of your own will upon the wings of sleep :  
The dream is from the dreamer, not from Jove ;  
And save in dreams ye visit me no more.

What did he say who, twenty summers since,  
Twined, o'er the tomb of one too early lost,  
The saddest, sweetest posy ever culled  
By poet-hands for garland to an urn ?  
"There must be wisdom with great Death ! The Dead  
Shall look me through and through !" If honestly  
He spake (and he is one who speaks with show  
Of meaning what he speaks), I envy him  
His self-assurance, courage, confidence,  
Hope, faith,—what will you ?—But 'twas safely bold,  
A challenge whereunto no answering trump  
From the far darkness of the spirit-world  
Sounds faint acceptance. Else why come they thus  
Mere manifest puppets, flitting o'er the stage  
Of that all-shadowy theatre of Dream,  
Through scenes for ever shifting, with no plot,  
No moral in their piece, wherein ourselves  
Take part, half conscious of its hollowness  
Even while we seem to act,—perceived with dawn  
Mere stuff that waking memory not retains,  
Or but recalls to find not worth recall ?—

Death—"the great teacher !"—If the Dead be wise  
(And none than I more firmly holds them so),  
If they do see "with larger other eyes  
Than ours,"—their wisdom is for higher ends,  
Their clearer vision for a wider sphere,  
And not for us. What'er they did and said  
Of great and good remains, our heritage  
For evermore : they left us all they could  
In precept and example : more than these  
How should we look for ?—Lazarus himself  
That died, was buried, stank, and, at the call

Divine, arose, and cast corruption off,  
Came forth, and lived again,—what tale had he  
For Martha and for Mary ? None ! or none  
Recorded for our profit : 'tis most strange !  
Did he bring back no message from the pit ?  
See nothing in that travel worth report,  
Worth teaching to the sons whom he begat ?\*  
Was't not worth while to shame the scoffing sect  
That said men died and rotted and no more ?  
Were there no curious souls in Bethany  
Eager with question, hot to probe and pierce  
The awful mystery of that four days' sleep ?  
Which is more wonderful—that one who saw  
The secret of the Grave, if he had power  
To speak, to warn, to comfort, to assure,  
Should live, and die again, and hold his peace,—  
Or, if he spake, that of such utterance  
No record, no tradition keeps a word ?  
The dead will come no more as Lazarus came.  
No !—when we see them now,—(I fling aside  
The tales of Ghosts, creations of disease,  
Remorse, or superstition,—) 'tis ourselves  
Who summon them. I see ye in my dreams,  
My loved and lost, because I loved ye well ;  
Because your memory fills my waking hours ;  
Because I dwell, all lonely as I am,  
Chiefly with memories, and the night returns  
Blurred echoes of the day. Your images  
Throng round my pillow, shift, and blend, and change  
In metamorphic puzzle,—seem to be  
Yourselves, yet all the while seem something else,  
Seen without wonder, though most wonderful,  
Void of volition as the dancing spots  
That flick with gold the turfage of a grove  
Rippled by summer-breezes.

And 'tis well

For you ye come but thus,—"The happy Dead  
Gone to their rest—the Dead who are at peace !"—  
We love to phrase it thus. Could Death be rest,  
Could Death be peace, could Death be happiness,  
If they who loved us so had barren power  
To watch and weep without the gift to warn,  
To see the sin they cannot check, to read  
The shameful secret entries that defile  
The tablets of our souls ? That were a pang  
Beyond imagining !

I love to greet

Your fleeting, shifting, pleasant shapes,—my nights  
Are happy with your presence ; but I look  
On a mere empty pageant, purposeless,

\* "Jallalo'ddin mentions three persons whom Christ restored to life and who lived several years after, and had children, viz : Lazarus, the Widow's son, and the Publican's (I suppose he means the Ruler of the Synagogue's) daughter."—Note to Sale's Korân, chap. iii.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

Furnished from some dim cranny of the brain,  
 Its saner function dormant: but I know  
 That you and I have no communion more  
 Till the last trumpet-summons reunites  
 At God's right hand the souls Death sundered here,  
 All stain of Earthly vileness blotted out  
 In Heaven's great amnesty.

I trust the Dead  
 Yet love us, yearn for, hope for, pray for us,  
 Knowing what need out nature hath of prayer,  
 What perils block our path, how they themselves  
 Succumbed or conquered. But, till they can help,  
 Guide, counsel, rescue, for their own dear sake  
 I could not wish their bliss eternal vexed  
 With that sad gift, to know us as we are,  
 To "look us through and through."

It is not so!  
 Thy word was wiser, midnight moralist!  
 "Heaven's sovereign spares all beings but Himself  
 That hideous sight, a naked human heart!"

H. K.

—Blackwood.

## WEEKLYANA.

THE Government of Bengal have arranged to celebrate befittingly next All Fools' day with the inauguration of a characteristic measure of their own. From the 1st April 1893, the fee for the wholesale vend of imported liquors in Calcutta, the Suburbs, Howrah and Bally will be raised from Rs. 50 to Rs. 600 per annum.

It will be a neck-break revenue jump.

WE take the following holiday notifications from the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 7th December, 1892, Part I. page 1080. We publish them in the order in which we find them. The page commences with Notification No. 4769 Mis. The previous notification—the last in page 1079—refers to the appointment of a Deputy Collector as Deputy Collector of Income-tax in the district of Cuttack in place of another transferred.

"NOTIFICATION—No. 4769 Mis.

The 6th December 1892.—With reference to the above notification, the Lieutenant-Governor hereby notifies that on the following days during 1893, which are not declared to be 'public holidays,' the offices under the Government of Bengal and all Revenue and Magisterial Courts in Bengal, with the exception of the Offices of Collector of Customs, Shipping Master, the Registrar of Assurances, Calcutta, the Collector of Stamp Revenue, Calcutta, the Stamping Department of the Office of the Superintendent of Stamps, Calcutta, and the Salt, Rowanah and Opium Sale Departments of the Board of Revenue, shall be closed:—

## I.—Muhammadan Holidays.

Id-ul-fitr ... On the 18th April, or, if the moon be not visible on the 17th April, on the 19th April.  
 Id-uz-zuhá ... On the 25th June (Sunday), or, if the moon be not visible on the 15th June, on the 26th June.  
 Muhurram ... On July 23rd (Sunday) and 24th, or, if the moon be not visible on the 14th July, on the 24th and 25th July.  
 Fatiha-dawázdaham ... On the 23rd September, or, if the moon be not visible on the 11th September, on the 24th September (Sunday).

## II.—Hindu Holidays.

Durgá-Lakshmi Pujá ... October 15th (Sunday), 16th, 21st, 22nd (Sunday), 23rd and 26th.

## III.—Other Holidays.

The second day following Christmas Day ... 27th December.

J. A. BOURDILLON,  
*Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.*

NOTIFICATION—No. 4758 Mis.

The 6th December 1892.—Under section 25 of Act XXVI of 1881, entitled 'The Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881,' the Lieutenant-Governor hereby declares the following days to be public holidays during the year 1893:—

All Sundays.  
 January 1st (Sunday) ... New Year's Day.  
 " 2nd ... The day following New Year's Day.  
 " 22nd (Sunday) and 23rd ... Sri Panchami.  
 March 2nd ... Doljatra.  
 " 31st ... Good Friday.

April 1st ... Easter Saturday.  
 " 12th ... Chaitra Sankranti.  
 May 24th ... Empress' Birthday.  
 " 25th ... Dasahar.  
 September 3rd (Sunday) ... Janmáshami.  
 October 9th ... Mahalaya.  
 October 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 24th and 25th ... Durgá-Lakshmi Pujá.  
 November 7th and 8th ... Káli Pujá.  
 " 18th, and 19th (Sunday) ... Jagadhátri Pujá.  
 December 23rd, and 24th (Sunday) Christmas Eve and the day preceding.  
 " 25th ... Christmas Day.  
 " 26th ... The day following Christmas Day.

J. A. BOURDILLON,  
*Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.*

It is hard to discover what the collection of income tax in Cuttack has to do with the fixing of the public holidays in the whole of Bengal or the opening of the excepted offices.

It has been decided at the India Office that

'the furlough pay and pensions of all Civil and Military officers, and of members of the Ecclesiastical, Marine, and Pilot establishments, will henceforth be issued at the Home Treasury, monthly in arrear.

The quarterly dates to which Military (including that of military officers in civil employ), Medical (including annuities), Ecclesiastical, and Marine pay, pension, etc., will be made up, will, for the future, be 15th February, 15th May, 15th August, and 15th November; whilst the quarterly dates to which civil pay, annuities, and pensions will be made up will be 15th January, 15th April, 15th July and 15th October, respectively. Payment will in each case be made on or after the day following.

Advances (omitting shillings and pence) of one-third, approximately of the net quarterly amount will be payable on the 16th of the 1st and 2nd month of each quarter, and the balance of the three months, less income-tax and other deductions (if any) on the quarterly dates on which the pay will in future be payable as specified above."

THE Inspector of Schools, Presidency Circle, gives notice that

"The Syndicate of the Calcutta University having published a regulation to the effect that 'no private candidate will be admitted to a test examination unless accompanied for the purpose of identification by some person known to the officer conducting the examination,' it is hereby notified that the test examination of private candidates, which was to have been held on the 1st and 2nd December 1892, has been postponed, and will be held on the 13th and 14th December 1892. A candidate, who has already paid the fee for the test examination, will now be required to fulfil the condition above laid down, failing which he will not be admitted to the examination."

Will he be entitled to the return of fee paid by him before the publication of the regulation by the University?

THE antiquated zemindari dák cess in the 24-Parganas for the year 1893-94 has been fixed at 8 annas per cent. per annum on the Sadar Jama of estates paying revenue at Rs. 50 and upwards, to be paid in two instalments on the 1st June and 16th December 1893.

THE Government of Bengal is willing to allow to the Patna Municipality, for drainage works, a loan of Rs. 3,18,000, repayable in 30 years at 4½ per cent. interest.

THE little Railway, yclept the Bengal Provincial, has progressed so far that, of the capital of 8 lacs, Rs. 7,10,000 has been taken up, that three-fourths of the earthwork has been completed and a retired State Railway Agent secured, in Rai Bahadar Ramgotty Mookerjee, as its Managing Director, on a pay of Rs. 250. The shareholders, finding themselves fortunate in that cheap bargain, grudge to enhance the pay of the Secretary from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200—forgetting that he has hitherto been the soul of the enterprise. Baboo Amirtalal Roy has generously offered to forego the addition, in the interest of the undertaking for the regeneration of his countrymen.

THE Secretary to the Government of India, in the Home Department, has addressed the following letter to the several Local Governments and Administrations:—

"It has been represented to the Government of India that the Indian Legislature has not made any distinction, so far as regards the treatment of prisoners in jails, between persons convicted of crimes necessarily involving moral turpitude and those sentenced to imprisonment for acts declared to be offences on grounds to which a moral stigma does not always necessarily attach. It has accordingly been suggested that some means should be devised, based on the principle of section 67 of the Statute 28 and 29 Vict., Cap. 126, for the differential treatment in Indian jails of prisoners who would under the English Act be regarded,

not as criminal prisoners, but as misdemeanants of the first division. I am to request an expression of opinion of \* \* \* whether the discipline of simple imprisonment as at present carried out in the jails of the

\* \* \* does not sufficiently meet the case of the class of prisoners referred to, and at the same time to enquire what the regulations in force in providing for simple imprisonment are, and whether, in the case of respectable persons sentenced to that form of punishment, some arrangements could not be made by rule (if none already exist) which would permit of their being accommodated separately, if they desire it, from other prisoners.

2. In this connection I am to refer to the recommendation, contained on page 51 of their Report, of the Indian Jail Conference of 1877 regarding the conditions which should be prescribed for Division A—persons sentenced to simple imprisonment—which is extracted below: 'Division A.—To be subjected to a minimum of severity; to wear their own clothing unless insufficiently provided, in which case Superintendent may issue jail clothing at discretion; not to be shaved as a part of prison discipline, or undergo any penal treatment; to be allowed books and any other indulgences consistent with jail discipline; to be allowed to work if they wish it, and to select the kind of work and to receive the corresponding diet, but not to be entitled to any remuneration for their labour; may receive visits from friends once in three months or oftener at discretion of Superintendent; may not buy their own food; should they elect to work, may come under the mark system. Nothing in the above is to be held to exempt this class of prisoners from the observance of general jail rules regarding order, cleanliness or sanitation.'

In paragraph 7 of the orders of the Government of India on the Report (No. 534, dated 30th April 1878) these recommendations were accepted, and I am to enquire how far they represent the existing practice in

3. The question of amending the Prisons Act is now in contemplation, and it would be convenient, in the event of any modification being deemed necessary in connection with the question herein referred to, that it should be considered before the Act is amended. The Government of India therefore hope that a reply to this reference may be despatched within one month from the date of its receipt."

It is a pleasure to see such manifestations of tenderness in the bureaucracy. Between the Draconian Penal Code and the democratic jail system, the people of India, specially the respectable classes who are more numerous here than in any other part of the globe, are in a perpetual purgatory of mild anxiety. In the more important and advanced countries of Bengal proper the virtual abolition of Trial by Jury, as the people are learning to understand it, is turning that anxiety to alarm.

On the morning of Nov. 9, the Duke of Marlborough was found dead in bed at his Blenheim Palace, near Woodstock. An inquest was held on the 11th November at which the valet of the deceased deposed to his master having enjoyed good health and spirits up to the day preceding his death. Joseph Camp, the valet, continued:—

"I went to his room at five minutes passed eight on Wednesday morning, as it was my practice to do every morning, taking a small tray with chocolate and milk. I left the tray with the chocolate by the bedside as usual. At half-past eight I went in again. I do not know whether the Duke was asleep when I placed the chocolate there, as the room was in darkness. When I went in the second time I thought that his Grace's appearance was strange. There was no one else in the room and the chocolate did not appear to have been touched. The Duke was lying on his back in bed and his eyes were closed. I did not do any thing to ascertain whether all was right, but I went out of the room into the sitting-room and waited. In about five minutes I returned to his Grace's bedroom for the third time, and I found him still in the same position. I was not quite sure whether he was asleep, so I made a noise with the door by banging it to see if I could wake him. But it had no effect whatever. I then went out of the room and told the maid Maclean, and she went into the Duchess's bedroom. The Duchess then went into his Grace's bedroom and found that he was dead by touching him. Dr. Caldwell was sent for and came very quickly. When I used to take the chocolate up I never woke the Duke or disturbed him. He was generally awake early in the morning. The following verdict was then returned: 'That the said George Charles Spencer Churchill, Duke of Marlborough, did die very suddenly at Blenheim Palace on Nov. 9, 1892, from sudden failure of the action of the heart arising from calcareous degeneration of the aorta and the Duke was a Peer of Parliament of the age of forty-years.'"

THE Presidency Commissioner's office seems to be a rolling stone. It seems singularly devoid of local attachment. Formerly it was located in Theatre Road, then it was removed to Alipore, then brought back to 14 Hare Street and now is housed at 24½, Dalhousie Square, West.

THERE have been largely attended indignant public meetings in the Jury Districts condemning the Jury Notification of Sir Charles Elliott. The last—of the 24-Perganas—has been postponed to allow of an unhindered reconsideration by Government of the order which has

been promised. We hope there will be no "concordat" against the people.

WE take the following from the *Liverpool Review* of Nov. 5:—

"Among the passengers who left Liverpool by the *Anubis* were three lady members of the local Moslem Association, who, we understand, are *en route* to visit various Eastern Moslem cities. The ladies are Mrs. Fatima E. Cates, Mrs. Amina Mokaiesh, and Miss L. Zulieka Bankes, and, no doubt, on their return they will have many interesting reminiscences to relate.

On Wednesday evening last, Mr. W. H. Quilliam, at the invitation of the Manchester Geographical Society, delivered a lecture in the Memorial Hall, Albert-square, Manchester, on 'Moslem Constantinople.' The Rev. S. Steinhall, (Unitarian minister), presided, and there was a large audience, who listened most attentively for two hours, while the lecturer, with the aid of an oxy-hydrogen lantern and some sixty slides, gave illustrations of the principal buildings and scenery in Constantinople."

## NOTES & LEADERETTES

with  
OUR OWN NEWS.

THE Viceregal Levée is said to have passed off well. There was no accident. The barricades were closer and more numerous and the pressure of crowd less felt than in previous years. The list is not out yet, and there is no knowing whether the attendance was larger.

The most noticeable fact in connection with the Levée is that the usual advertisements were withheld. We commented on it week before last and, as we feared, the omission caused many loyal citizens to miss the last day for sending in their cards. The Levée is an occasion for every admissible subject of Her Majesty to make his bow to Her Representative, and the failure of those who were kept out of their duty by any action on the part of Government, must not be construed as an intentional disrespect on their part. On the contrary, they may well feel aggrieved that they were not properly apprised of the how and when Her Representative would receive their loyal salutations.

The hour, again, for holding the Levée at 10 of a chill December evening is another bar to a multitudinous loyal demonstration. It is at once an inconvenience and infliction. To old men and those who live far in the suburbs or at Dum-Dum, it is prohibitive. It is time that the former practice of holding the Levée in day-time should be reverted to. At any rate, the exposure of the attending gentlemen on the open grand-stair-case awaiting their carriages, must be prevented. It is a scandal in December mid-night to discharge devoted loyalty of all ages, from eighteen to eighty, burdened with many of the illnesses that flesh is heir to, into the open air, to the keen night-dew, to wait under those conditions on the chance of getting one's carriage and the certainty afterwards of walking home the following morning.

ON the nomination of the Chief Justice, the Governor-General in Council has appointed Mr. R. D. Mehta Sheriff for the next year. The shrievalty is still a position of honor—with its responsibility though without its poundage, and Mr. Mehta has well earned the distinction. He is the second Parsi selected for the post. The first appointment was made when the holder had almost worked out his career. The present is exactly in time. Mr. Mehta is young and in full swing of activity. Our cordial congratulations to him.

THE public have grown weary of the Hyderabad defamation proceedings, and the *Indian Daily News* cries truce! The parties to the trial, however, seem not yet exhausted. The most damaging evidence for the defence was reserved for the last. James Lauchlin has been followed by Yusuf Uzzeman, Zamindar and Honorary Magistrate, Banda, who had known Mrs. Hassan when she was within her teens, both in her house and in his at Lucknow. He had lent her Byron, of which she, of course, liked Don Juan the best, and her sister (the Mrs. Hodges of this drama)—with more prudence avowing a less outrageous preference—Lalla Rookh.

THE personation case in the Serampore Magistracy has fallen through. The contending parties seem to have made up their differences and the Deputy Magistrate finds nothing wrong in the whole course of the transaction. The court is of opinion that Benode Lal Roy had actually advanced the Rs. 35,000 to a pretender in the honest belief that he

was the real and not false Protap Chunder Bose, he being introduced to him by Baboo Bhoobun Mohun Dass, an attorney of the High Court; that Baboo Ashutosh Dhur, the attorney, who had acted as such in the transaction, and his clerk Peary Lal Haldar who had identified the false executant of the mortgage at the Sub-Registration office, had no other motive than the best interests of their client, the money lender. There is therefore not the slightest doubt as to the *bona fides* of the accused. The judgment is said to be a long and elaborate one. It ought to be published with all the proceedings in court as a warning to the public.

THE American Railway Jay Gould died on Saturday last, unhonored and unsung. He was the Shylock of the stock exchange. He insinuated himself into the direction of affairs of new lines, encouraged wastefulness, till the concern wanted, urgently and immediately, funds, which he was prepared to lend on suitable terms on short time notes, which, periodically renewed, involved the Company more and more, while the management and shareholders thought they were getting on swimmingly without a hitch. At length, the opportune hour arrived for the final *coup*. So far from paying the heavy accumulations of his dues, the Company could not pay its way without constantly borrowing from him. So, as he was careful of the law of his transactions, the line came into his hands—to be economically and profitably worked by him. Thus, one after another line fell in the tempter's snare, until the remorseless financier owned or controlled ten per cent. of the railway mileage of the United States. He died worth £30 millions or over 40 crores of rupees.

A DUPLICATE tragedy of a dramatic kind is reported from Eastern Europe. While Senator Bonachi, of Jassy, was absent at Vienna, his son, twenty years old, passed his examination with distinction. In honour of the joyful event, he invited a party of fellow-students to celebrate it. The people of those parts are fond of music, and the young men got up a small concert for the occasion. Bonachi himself was a good musician and played the violin. Indeed, at this his last party as he knew—because he had determined—it to be, he played with great spirit and much expression. Before reaching the end of his solo, when the effect was highest, he dashed the bow and, drawing a revolver, fired it into his mouth and fell down dead. His father followed him from Vienna, falling dead on the spot as he heard, at the same moment, of his son's brilliant examination and the young fellow's cruel death.

WE notice with very great regret that the honoured Mathuswami Iyer has at length bowed to the evil spirit of the age. This distinguished Tamil Brahman had preserved the integrity of his national costume. While his Hindu brethren about were slowly but surely anglicising on the sly, in the most ridiculously anomalous ways, he alone was among the faithless faithful found, carrying his characteristic *angostrum* and *dhoti* even to the bench of the High Court and leaving his slippers without the "Sublime Porte" of Justice, unttempted by the allurements of European or Europeanish inexpressibles or expressibles, coat or cuff. It was a most interesting sight, and one creditable to all sides concerned, to see the brave Brahman *dharma-dhikar*, loaded with the lore of East and West, and drawing his diction from the pure well of English undefiled, dispensing justice under laws, Indian and English, from the bench of one of the highest courts of Her Britannic Majesty who is also Empress of India, in the simple uniform of his race. Such was Mathuswami Iyer, and such we would fain have seen him to the last—an example of manliness and sincerity to the last. But it was not to be. But yesterday as it were, when he visited Malabar on the Marriage Commission, as the local *Spectator* records, he was in his Hindu robes—his *dhoti* and *chapkan*, as we would say. It is no longer so. At any rate, on the occasion of the late viceregal visit there was a distinct departure. It is said that our Holiness the Brahman Dharmadhikar stooped to appear before the Sovereign's Representative in trousers and coat of English cut and a pair of boots. It must have been under extreme pressure that our illustrious compatriot touched leather and adopted articles of European costume. The friends, official and officious, who applied it were not entitled to be heard on such a difficult and delicate point. It is a pity that the Judge did not remand the case to his own adjudication. How hideous natives look in European costume goes without saying. An accepted object of public respect like Mr. Justice Iyer, whose figure and drapery

and every surrounding are well-known, forming a part and parcel of the mental fund of the people, is necessarily lost under a new disguise, and Pandit Iyer was exceptionally ridiculous in that disguise. But the moral objection to the departure is much greater than the æsthetic.

THE *Saturday Review* did not shine in its article on the death of the late Poet Laureate. And no wonder. That is an occasion of sentiment, and gush does not well become the Great Reviler, as John Bright nicknamed the Review. The writers on our London contemporary's staff are more familiar with the language of sarcasm and reproach than the vocabulary of admiration and sorrow. Expert in all the practices of cutting, quattering, hacking, and the rest, they are accomplished literary butchers for sacrificing authors instead of priests learned in the mysteries for the canonization of genius and apotheosis of Poets. It would be unjust to suppose, as it is popularly supposed, that the secret motto of the paper is *Nil admirari*. It admires, and admires well, when a clear and unquestionable opportunity occurs. But, then, it spares not trash or pretension and is unrelenting to "humbug." And its very appreciation is not of the agitating kind, either to itself, to the object, or to the public at large. Indeed, it regards enthusiasm a weakness. The truth is, the *Saturday Review* is too judicial to be satisfactory. Standing as it were over the unclosed grave of the greatest genius of the age, the public could not but regret the inadequacy of the measured terms of tribute of one of the leading organs of English thought and criticism.

There is no room for any such complaint in respect of the same journal's treatment of the questions about the office of the Poet Laureate which the death of Lord Tennyson has raised. Here the *Saturday Review* is at home in its element. It has written an exquisite little article of equal wisdom and wit. Whether the office of a court poet or national bard (just as it may be regarded) should be maintained as an interesting and even useful institution, or abolished as a relic of the monarchy of the Middle Ages, and, above all, if it is to be kept up, who is the man for it, are questions interesting to not the literary caste only but the whole civilized world. Accordingly, the whole world is ringing with them, and answers are being attempted not only by the organs of public opinion throughout the globe but in private society, by every educated man of the least pretensions. They are difficult questions, of course, specially the second. For British critics at home it is peculiarly delicate too, being personal. How deftly, in the space of a column, the *Saturday Review* disposes of it! We have not space to quote it entire and content ourselves with extracting the cream, in the following:—

"The post does not seem very enviable, because, among other reasons, it provokes comparisons. But, like the title of R.A., or like membership of the French Academy, the laureateship, we presume, has a certain value. Innocent people, because poets have been laureates, will infer that a laureate must be a poet. And it would certainly be most absurd to abolish the position because there is a difficulty in getting the right man to fill it at a given moment, or because certain persons have wit enough to be ashamed of their own candidate. The best laureate, alas! must die; the worst, thank Heaven! will. Nor could there be anything more childish than to throw the wreath of Johnson, of Dryden, of Wordsworth, and of Tennyson into the dustbin, instead of letting even some new Pye serve as a big block to keep it ready for a happier day."

THE next or Eighth Indian Congress will be held at Allahabad. The session will commence on Wednesday the 28th December. It was previously fixed for Monday the 26th, but that chronological arrangement has had to be abandoned, we believe, in deference to the convenience of the more distant supporters. The Congress has from the first been timed with an eye to the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays, that the members might avail themselves of the pretty long vacation to attend from any distances and return without any sacrifice of business. But to open the sittings on the 26th would have involved an injustice to the more distant members. It would have been a slur on the zeal of the patriots of Madras and the extreme South who, with a score or so of Bombay, constitute the backbone of the great movement. They could not conveniently start before the 24th, and travelling as Hindus they could not well reach Allahabad in time for the meeting of the 26th. That day would be more convenient to the busy men of the North and it was to suit them that it was fixed. But a gathering from far and near necessarily causes waste to some and trouble and expense to others, and the Hindostanis and Bengalis must make sacrifice to suit their compatriots of the Western and Southern Presidencies.

The political Congress will be held for three days—Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday—from the 26th to the 28th December. The Social Congress may be held on the 29th, unless that too is postponed in deference to the great Southern heroes of the social movement, in which case it will come off on the 31st.

As yet no President has been found. Dadabhai Naoroji would have made a president of ideal perfection for this year. His countrymen would have rejoiced to see him back among them with his new honour and to hail in triumph first Member of Parliament. He would have been received with an enthusiasm such as no other man ever evoked. The demonstration would have gladdened the heart of the old patriot and been some compensation for a life of struggle in the service of his country. He would have talked Finsbury of course, but he would have interpolated in his "shop" some useful results of his long experience. Unfortunately, Mr. Naoroji was not free to come. He was arrested by an ugly monster in the shape of a petition against his pretensions to membership of the House of Commons. Captain Penton, his rival candidate for the suffrages of Central Finsbury, challenged the validity of the election which returned the Black Man. In a moment, all of a sudden, poor Naoroji was prohibited from enjoying his great and unprecedented success and called to a life and death struggle in defence of his membership. At this very moment he is absorbed in his own trouble.

THE bloody Indian Penal Code has bloodier magistrates to execute it. Once a man was convicted of theft of shadow—by removal of a tree. Only recently the Sub-divisional Magistrate of Hajipur found another guilty of criminal misappropriation of a tree. The High Court on appeal set aside the conviction and sentence, by the following judgment of Mr. Justice Prinsep:—

"The petitioner has been convicted by the Magistrate, and this conviction had been affirmed by the Sessions Judge on appeal, of criminal misappropriation under section 403 of the Indian Penal Code. He being a tenant of the land in which the tree grew cut down that tree and used it for fuel, the right in the tree being found with the landlord. Now the offence clearly does not amount to criminal misappropriation, as the property appropriated, the tree, was not removable property. We have had under consideration whether on the facts found in this case the petitioner could properly have been convicted of any such offence. But it seems to us, however, that having regard to the facts found, that the tree actually grew on land let to the tenant, this is not a case which is properly cognizable by a Criminal Court, and under no circumstances could we approve of so severe a sentence for such an act which the Magistrate considered to be punishable by a fine of Rs. 200 and the Sessions Judge of Rs. 100. The conviction and sentence must accordingly be set aside, and the fine, if paid, must be refunded."

MR. R. C. Sterndale has succeeded Mr. Kilby as Collector of Income Tax in Calcutta. Mr. Sterndale had officiated as full Collector of Calcutta before the Collector of Calcutta had ceased to be the Collector of Income Tax.

CAPTAIN Hayes, the wellknown Anglo-Indian sporting *litterateur*, is on a lecturing tour through the globe. He lately appeared at Aldershot before the local Military Society and delivered a discourse on his favorite theme of Horse-flesh in connection with the cavalry, under the presidency of Sir F. Fitz Wygram. It was at once an opportune and a wise deliverance. It was also an authoritative one into the bargain. Captain Hayes is evidently a favorite on both Continents. The leading professional organ—the *Army and Navy Gazette*—makes of its notice of the Lecture the opening "leader" of the week. In this our English contemporary gives the lecturer a most enviable character. It speaks of him as "wellknown," "a most interesting and instructive writer on horses," adding that "his education and experience have thoroughly qualified him to lead in horse matters."

His subject was the selection, training, and management of cavalry horse.

IN the middle of last month, there died at Moorsheadabad, an old lady of rank in the Nizamut Family—Sultan Gaitee Ara Begum Sahibah, the only sister of His Highness the late Nawab Nazim of Bengal. Her husband died about seventeen years ago rather suddenly at Benares. She was in receipt of a large pension, which probably reverts to Government, as we are not aware of her having left any children.

ABOUT the same time the Nizamut Family suffered another and a much severer loss, in the death of Nawab Syed Ata Hosain, the well-known Zemindar of Khagrah, in Zillah Purneah, who had married the second daughter of the late Nawab Nazim by his first wife. Nawab Shams Jahan Begum, otherwise known as Firdous Mahal Sahibah. He was comparatively a young man and the title of Nawab was conferred upon him by the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava on the occasion of the Jubilee of Her Majesty's Reign. He belonged to a most ancient, historical and wealthy Family, and was the owner of a large Zemindary in the District of Purneah. At the Durbar held by Sir Stuart Bayley at Patna on the 26th August 1887, for the presentation of sanads, the Lieutenant-Governor addressed Syed Ata Hosain thus:—

"As the representative of a distinguished family of the Purneah District, where your ancestors enjoyed seats under the Moghul Government, of distinguished notability, and for your public spirit and loyalty—you have been selected by my predecessor, Sir Rivers Thompson, and recommended to His Excellency the Viceroy, to enjoy the title of 'Nawab,' which I have much pleasure in now conferring upon you."

The Nawab established an annual agricultural mela at the head-quarters of his Zemindary, at his own expense. He has left a couple of young sons, and his estate passes, as a matter of course, to the Court of Wards during the minority of his heirs.

DURING the short time he has been in the country, the Law Member, Sir Alexander Miller, has, on more than one occasion, shown that he is not only a liberal-minded servant of the Crown disposed to do good to the people, but also one who has strength of character and the courage of his opinion. Luckily, he has no ties in India, and he avoids cliques. He was free from all taint of the *Bangabasi* prosecution, and he has, we believe, not touched the pitch of the infamous Jury business. In fact, he still remains thoroughly English, and maintains with peculiar dignity that independence for which the profession of Law is renowned. He has not many opportunities of making his personality felt. But wherever we discern it we find it amiable. Last year, when a native barrister was appointed on the staff of the Indian Law Reports, we offered the thanks of the native community to the authorities for recognition of the claims of the Indian section of the Bar in the distribution of patronage in the High Court. We are glad that the same gentleman has again been appointed to officiate as a Reporter this year. It is a little matter, good only as a symptom. It has pleased the Government to admit natives to the Bench of the High Court, to the benches of the Presidency Small Cause Court, and the Presidency Magistrates' Court and to other high public offices, and it is time that a native Barrister should be permanently attached to the staff of the Indian Law Reports.

THE wise and virtuous men who rule the land are shocked at the turpitude and truculence of the people in general and the Bengalis above all. Alarmed at the signs of the times, they are essaying their might and main to check the waxing spirit of evil. It was in this righteous spirit that the Police Committee was appointed to enquire and that the most revolutionary proposals of that conclave have been given effect to. It is expected that the virtual abolition of jury trial in the best part of Bengal will have the effect of repressing every aspiration, criminal or other, of the Bengali soul. If it do not succeed, we may expect a notification under the signature of Mr. H. J. S. Cotton—which can easily be got passed by the portable Government legislature—giving the control of the courts to the Secretariat. If after that an occasional cry of "stop thief!" or a hue and cry against a highway man or murderer still disturb the ruling ear, we must be prepared for a Notification requiring us to report ourselves every midnight at the nearest Police station. A pretty pass to come to, for the Illeges of Her Majesty, one hundred and thirty-five years after the battle of Plassy!

It is a cruel mockery to talk of the viciousness and criminal propensities of the mild Hindu and the sober and polished Indo-Muslim. The Bengali alas! is simply incapable of crime. Otherwise, even Sir Charles Elliott himself, reckless as he is, would not insult the whole people as he has done by his sudden withdrawal of a prescriptive right.

Sir Charles Elliott and his brethren, the seniors of the Civil Service, do not know what is criminal propensity in a population and progress.

of crime. They have been too long in this land of mildness and respectability. We will give him a glimpse of life in a civilized and Christian country. Here is a Western hero :—

"One of the most remarkable escapes known in the annals of Auburn Goal, New York State, has just been effected by the notorious railway robber named Oliver Perry, who, after shooting a conductor and rifling the express car, attempted to get away on an engine, and was only captured after an exciting chase. Perry made a determined attempt some months ago to murder a fellow-convict, after which he was confined in a screen cell. On October 22nd the keeper was absent for about an hour. On his return he found the cell empty, and on entering the room discovered that a hole had been dug in the wall, thus establishing communication with another cell. The instrument used by the convict was a small tin spoon which had been left in the cell, and with this feeble implement Perry had dug through a foot of mortar and a wooden partition an inch thick. But the prisoner did not get far. When he endeavoured to pass one of the outer doors of the prison he was stretched unconscious by a guard's club."

And here is a taste of life in the great Moffussil of the United States :—

"A band of masked men, 150 in number, surrounded Dalton (Georgia) on October 25th and took entire possession of it. They captured and locked up the small force of police without resistance. Then they proceeded to shoot one negro and fatally flog two others. Other negroes were driven from the town and notified that they would be shot if they returned. The rising is due to the high-handed way in which the negroes have been acting of late, and the invincible determination of the whites not to submit to their domination however they may outnumber their former masters, in voting power. Among the mob were many respectable citizens according to report."

Such is the state of things in America, under the great Republic of the German race in which the liberal institutions of England have received their utmost development ! And what of the jury system there ? Has the Secretary of State quietly telegraphed to the Viceroy that the right of trial by jury has been abrogated in not Georgia only but also New York ? It would be news indeed, for which the *Englishman* and the *Pioneer* would pay their best prices.

We too have our criminals and even our criminal classes, but they are to their Western prototypes as the Neva to the Amazon. There is scarcely stuff left in the people by British administration for such feats of dare-devilry as those of Oliver Perry and the raiders on Dalton. The Kookees are up to that kind of thing. Even the Tipperahs might do it yet ; but no thorough British Indians.

More than thirty years ago there was here a burglar of Perry's order who disdained to attack the houses in Black Town and robbed in Chowringhee and lifted the great jewellery shops and deposited his loot on board. He was sent to jail but he challenged the authorities to keep him. He was as good as his word, notwithstanding the utmost vigilance. In fact, he repeatedly came out, we believe, working out his way much the same way as Perry. But then he was no Indian of any description, nor any subject of Her Majesty. He was a black man, and no mistake, his was no Indian black, however, nor Japan, but African. He hailed from Perry's country and bore, doubtless among many aliases, the name of Douglas.

Some of brave Douglas' remarks may be remembered with advantage even at this day. They are more wise and valuable than many a Government Resolution. He had tested many towns and he declared Calcutta to be the most defenceless of Great Cities. About the natives, he said that they were so good and so ready to give up their all to any bold man who might demand, that it were a shame to molest them. Need we point to our good rulers the moral of this reference ?

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, December 10, 1892.

### GOVERNMENT BY PERCENTAGE AND THE VICTIMIZATION OF THE SUB- EXECUTIVE SERVICE.

FOR different reasons, Sir Charles Elliott's Resolutions are very anxiously looked for both by the general public and the officials. They often afford amusement to the former and cause shame and disgrace to the latter, who are held up to public contempt. Thus the most sensational official literature is having a larger circulation among all classes who never cared before for this sort of cut and dried Secretariat essays. For every little fault or irregularity and particularly for adjourning cases, the poor Deputy Ma-

gistrates are not only publicly censured but also threatened in different ways in these manifestoes of the Bengal office. Copies of the remarks against their character are forwarded to them for their gratification, and district officers are repeatedly pressed and sufficiently warned to keep a tight hand upon this unfortunate lot of bad old boys, some of whom are too old and unfit to be worked in this new mill-hand fashion. In the Resolution on the Administration Report of the Rajshahi Division, Sir Charles agrees with the Commissioner in condemning the Deputies for their weakness in posing as judges instead of converting themselves into investigating Police officers. He evidently wants that his deputy should be a many barrelled magazine gun combining the functions of a Judge, a Magistrate, a detective, and a hangman too if possible, and all because such a combination of multifarious functions means economy and centralization of work. But economy is not necessarily efficiency, and centralization may be obtained at too high a price. Something may no doubt be said in favour of such a concentration of authority. But the world is growing distrustful, and it is well for men that they are not made too formidable. Be that as it may, what we especially object to, in this connection, is the unjust and hasty manner in which a class of officers is condemned. It may be quite true that the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division found some cases tried by the unfortunate Deputies in which the enquiry was incomplete and some links of evidence were wanting, resulting in acquittals. This is no new discovery which this Commissioner only has made. This must now be the case all over the country, and there is no help for it. The deputies are not a set of fools who do not understand the law or their work, but all these flaws in their proceedings are wholly and solely due to the recent measures of the Lieutenant-Governor who is restless and impatient to see that his orders, however impractical, may be strictly carried out at any cost. If the returns are all right and the percentage of conviction and average time of disposal satisfactory, the Magistrate is declared officially most efficient and successful, and if they are bad in those respects, he is condemned and publicly censured. The only points which all the trying Magistrates now keep in view are these, and they care little for the thoroughness of their enquiry or the soundness of their judgment. They are simply murdering their conscience in order to save their bread. Each officer is under terror of suspension or stoppage of promotion lest he fail to dispose of his cases as quickly as the Lieutenant-Governor wants. He is neither a prophet nor an investigating Police officer that, as soon as a case is placed before him, he should know all the evidence that might be required to obtain a conviction. This is possible sometimes after perusal of the Police papers ; otherwise it requires time. Ordinarily, as the enquiry proceeds and evidence is recorded new light is gradually thrown on the case, and the court is then in a position to find out what link or links of evidence are wanting. It may find out the omission of one link on the second day of hearing or some time on the third day. Each witness's evidence may suggest new points and different links, and accordingly the enquiry should be continued and fresh evidence taken. Now on the face of the existing orders can a Deputy dare adjourn a case on his own responsibility and call new witnesses from day to day, if he thinks it necessary for a conviction ? Besides those orders, he is on one

side pressed by the Magistrate to dispose of the case quickly, and on the other tormented by the District Superintendent—who also has now become his superior officer in every practical sense. Thorough careful enquiry requires time and peace of mind, and without them it is mad to expect good results. Nor is that all. In the Elliottic hurry and overwork, these native magistrates have in most cases ruined their health and endangered their lives in their fear and anxiety to carry out the orders of Government. And although they work till 9 or 10 P.M. at the risk of their lives, they cannot, strictly speaking, finish their work. And what is the result? All these poor officers cannot satisfactorily perform their duties, and their work is declared careless and perfunctory, and a large number of them have become incapacitated for active work. Witness the number of applications for leave! From one district alone in the very Rajshahi Division, four officers have gone on leave within the last four or five months, three with entirely broken health and one declared quite unfit for further service, indeed it is believed by medical men that he will soon die. We have reason to think that a large number of applications has also been rejected, but when strengthened by medical certificates Government could not reject them so summarily. Under such circumstances, to complain of want of thoroughness and care in their work, is the greatest injustice that could be done to a class of hard-working and deserving officers with such bright traditions as the Sub-Executive Service boasts.

Sir Charles Elliott wants to override even the law laid down by nature. Let him consult his medical officers as to the hours an officer can work under such stringent rules and perform this sort of duty, and then see what is the state of their health. Before these orders came into existence, officers of the Judicial and Executive Services were already groaning under the weight of work, with the deplorable result that dozens of them were subjects of gout, dyspepsia, diabetes and heart disease. We can cite instances of valuable and comparatively young officers succumbing under the pressure of unusually heavy work which they were obliged to undertake, and their number will soon multiply if the present state of things continues.

Sir Charles Elliott has distinguished himself by two notable charities. He can never do a more urgent or more timely act of real benevolence than just now to found a general hospital at Calcutta for the native victims of his high pressure administration.

The effects of these revolutionizing orders are far reaching and not confined to native judiciary. The Lieutenant-Governor's own young and energetic Secretaries are taking leave of him, one after another, and there are reports that some of them have injured their health by hard work.

Government by percentage is ruining the administration of justice. We find Magistrates grumbling and making themselves miserable in the absence of a sufficiently large number of nuisance and municipal cases in order to show a large number of convictions, and repeated as it is at the end of each quarter, the thing becomes not a little scandalous. They have also to depend upon the favor of the legal practitioners in order to dispose of cases according to the wishes of the Lieutenant-Governor. Instances have happened in which Magistrates asked the mukhtears to prevail upon the accused to plead guilty in simple cases of assault and nuisance on condition that his

ing out that their postponement for defence would be far more expensive! Legal practitioners are always accommodating, and between them and a funk-stricken magistracy, what scenes are enacted in some mofussil courts, on the last day of the month! Some Magistrates disregard the evidence for the defence and do not at all give an opportunity to the accused for calling rebutting evidence. Everybody has not the means to move the appellate Judge's Court, to say nothing of the High Court.

Government is responsible for the proper administration of justice, but, according to the present rules and orders, justice and repression of crime means filling up the jails and increasing the criminal population. The larger the number of convictions, the more satisfactory the return. No one takes the trouble to see or to enquire if these convictions are all correct or justified. Conviction's the thing, no matter how obtained. Acquittals are visited on the judge. If their number is more by one than that of convictions, then there is a hue and cry all over the official world, and every superior officer comes down upon the Subordinate Magistrate, and until he submits a full and satisfactory explanation there is no rest for him. We may ask in the name of fairness if the Government's only function in connection with the administration of justice is to obtain conviction by demoralising the whole judiciary of the province? Is the supervising agency's work only to punish the Deputy Magistrates for acquittals? Explanations for acquittals are called for without any reference to the records. Who cares to go through them? The order-sheet and the returns are the best criterion of the merit of judicial work and upon them officers are condemned and rewarded.

Old officers have been forced to vacate their posts, and within the next two years we would hardly find the old class of men left. The most experienced and best officers—the back-bone and pride of the service—are being virtually hooted out.

The present is a Government by percentages and statistics. Why not then publish the number of deaths in the Subordinate Executive Service and the number of applications for leave as the result of the activity of the present rule in Bengal?

## THE JURY SYSTEM.

### A GLIMPSE OF ITS HISTORY.

FROM every point of view, the raid on the Trial by Jury is condemned. An essentially vicious idea has been carried without the most ordinary care. It is no small reproach to the Bengal Government, that in his important Jury Notification Sir Charles Elliott left untouched abetments of and attempts to commit the offences withdrawn from trial by jury. But he is not without defence. The practice of the former heroes of the Service keeps him in countenance. The history of the Jury System in Bengal is a record of the perfunctory way in which the Indian Bureaucracy is wont to work. The first notification regarding the grant of jury trial was issued by Sir John Peter Grant. It is dated the 7th January 1862, and runs as follows:—

"Notification.—The 7th January 1862.—It is hereby notified, that, in conformity with Section CCCXXII of the Code of Criminal Procedure, (Act XXV of 1861) the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to order that in the Districts of the 24-Pergunnahs, Hooghly, Burdwan, Moorshedabad, Nuddea, Patna and Dacca, the trial by any Court of Session of all offences defined in chapters VIII, XI, XVI and XVII of the Penal Code shall be by jury.

E. H. LASHINGTON,  
Secy., Govt. of Bengal."

On the 24th April Sir John laid down his office. About 5 months after the above Notification, another Chapter of the Penal Code was added to the offences triable by jury, by order of Sir Cecil Beadon, thus:—

"Notification.—The 27th May 1862.—It is hereby notified, in conti-

uation of the Notification of the 7th of January last, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 8th idem, that, in conformity with Section CCCXXII of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to order that in the districts of the 24-Pergunnahs, Hooghly, Burdwan, Moorshedabad, Nuddea, Patna and Dacca, the trial by any Court of Session of the offences defined in chapter XVIII of the Penal Code shall be by jury.

E. H. LUSHINGTON,  
Secy. Govt. of Bengal."

It was not till after another four months, that abetments of and attempts to commit the offences triable by jury were thought of! The next publication runs in the subjoined strain:—

"Notification.—The 13th October 1862.—It is hereby notified, in continuation of the Notification, dated the 7th January and 27th May, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 8th January and 28th May last, that, in conformity with the provisions of Section CCCXXII of Act XXV of 1861, the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to order that in the Districts (the 24-Pergunnahs, Hooghly, Burdwan, Moorshedabad, Nuddea, Patna, Dacca) therein named, abetments of and attempts to commit any of the offences defined in chapters VIII, XI, XVI, XVII, and XVIII of the Penal Code shall be tried by jury.

A. EDEN,  
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal."

So there need be no despair about the completeness of the order of Sir Charles Elliott. His fraternal predecessors have left his path smooth. He may yet take it into his head, and may yet be allowed to issue another notification about abetments and attempts. He is yet in time, according to precedent. Sir Charles Elliott has, however, been already anticipated by a Sessions Judge:—

"Bhonda and Birsha Dhangor were yesterday tried before the Additional Sessions Judge of Alipur on a charge of having committed murder by stabbing one Buddhu Dhangore with a knife at Barrackpur. The 2nd accused was charged with abetment, and Babu Hem Chandra Rai, who appeared for the defence, claimed a Jury trial on his behalf, as the recent Government Notification had not included abetments of and attempts to commit offences in the list. The Judge remarked that although that was not the case yet the intention was quite clear.

Pleader.—This objection has been allowed at Moorshedabad.

Judge.—With deference to Mr. Beveridge, I must follow my own intuition. I make a note that the second claims to be tried by a jury. Of course, it would have considerably lightened my responsibility if I could have allowed your prayer.

The evidence being unsatisfactory, both the accused were pronounced 'Not Guilty' by the assessors. The Judge, agreeing, acquitted them."

THE first appeal arising out of the Jury Notification has come up to the High Court. It was admitted by the Hon'ble Justices Prinsep and Ghose:—

"Empress vs. I. C. Laha and others.—Baboo N. R. Chatterji, on behalf of the accused, applied for the admission of an appeal from the decision of the Sessions Judge of Burdwan, for the reason that the Judge had disagreed with the assessors, and had convicted accused, sentencing him to five years' rigorous imprisonment.

His Lordship, Justice Prinsep, asked what was the offence, and on learning that it was forgery, said that it was a jury case, and further asked why they were not tried by a jury.

The pleader stated that by the recent notification of the Government of Bengal on the jury system, they had been tried by assessors and not by jury, and that this order had been issued early in November.

The appeal was granted by their lordships."

Mr. Justice Prinsep would have perhaps spoken differently to Government, if he could know that his opinion on the reference would be construed into an approval of Sir Charles Elliott's policy. The learned Judge seems to be much in the position of Sir Alexander Arbuthnot, the member of the Viceregal Council in charge of the Vernacular Press Bill during the Lytton régime. But will he, like the other, at length speak out freely? He has given more than one indication that he could not believe that the Jury Notification would take the present shape.

THE introduction of jury trial was thorough in the Assam Division. Witness the following:—

"Notification.—The 28th March 1862.—It is hereby notified that, in conformity with Section CCCXXXVII of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to order that in all the Districts comprising the Assam Division the trial of all offences by the Court of Sessions shall be by jury.

E. H. LUSHINGTON,  
Secy. Govt. of Bengal."

But it is not to remain so. The following notification appeared in the *Assam Gazette* of the 15th October, 1892:—

"No. 4662].—In exercise of the power conferred by section 269 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Act X of 1882) and in supersession of the Notifications dated the 28th March 1862 and the 17th September 1868, published at pages 1286 and 1614 of the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 5th April 1862 and 23rd September 1868, respectively, the Chief Commissioner directs that the system of trial by jury before the Court of Sessions in the districts of Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang, Nowgong, Sibsagar, and Lakhimpur, which constitute the Judgeship

of the Assam Valley Districts, shall, from the 1st January 1893, be limited to the following offences under the Penal Code:—

Sections 363—369, 372, & 373 (kidnapping and abduction).

Section 376 (rape)

Sections 379—382. (theft).

" 392—395, 397—399, & 401 (robbery and dacoity).

" 403 and 404 (criminal misappropriation).

" 411—414 (receiving or possessing stolen property).

" 426—432, 434—436, and 440 (mischief).

" 448 and 450—462 (house trespass, &c).

" 493—498 (offences against marriage)."

In Assam, the raid against Jury trial does not begin till 1st January 1893. In Bengal, it has already commenced. Mr. Ward does not put into execution as soon as he conceives an idea. Our Governor is differently constituted. He allows himself no rest and his body and brain are always on the move.

Mr. J. Tweedie, Judge of Patna, has no end of objections to the continuance of jury trial in that district. Hear now what a well-known Sessions Judge of the same District spoke of that trial in 1862. Here is the celebrated Mr. Lautour's mature opinion:—

"No. 159 dated the 1st August 1862.

From—E. F. Lautour, Esq., Officiating Sessions Judge of Patna,  
To—E. H. Lushington, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Adverting to my letter No. 94, dated the 16th May 1862, remarking on the system of trial by Jury, I have now the honor to report, for the information of the Lieutenant Governor, that I have reason to modify my previously expressed opinion as regards the working of that system.

2. It is not necessary for me to enter into a discussion on the political bearing of the question, but I will narrow the issue as much as possible.

3. I find, after trial of a certain number of cases, that the evidence of witnesses to the fact is given in a very straightforward manner and is perfectly free from exaggerations, whereas the evidence recorded by tutored witnesses is given in such a faulty manner and the demeanour of the witness in the box is such as enables the Judge and Jury to discern at once the worthlessness of the deposition recorded. I have found that tutored evidence invariably breaks down.

4. I have tried many cases with the aid of the Law officer, but the difficulty under the old system was to pick out the truth from the statements recorded by witnesses, who were always, more or less, prone to exaggerate facts, of the truth of which there could be no doubt. Such is not the case in cases tried by a Jury, as I find the witness to the fact sticking to the part and not deviating from the truth in any way, the witness manifestly knowing that exaggerations would be immediately detected by his countrymen. I am also of opinion that dishonest verdict will be rarer in the Mofussil than in Calcutta, as we have no antagonism of race in the Mofussil, but at the same time we cannot expect every verdict to be in accordance with the opinion of the Judge.

5. When the system becomes better understood, and jurymen know they are required to judge of facts only, and not to interpret the law applicable to the case, I doubt not the system will become more popular; but I think a small remuneration should be paid to jurymen for their travelling expenses, as a payment of this kind would do away with the assertion that the Government treated jurymen as so many beggars, and therefore it would lessen much of the unpopularity of the system among the natives of respectability.

6. I was opposed to the system when I addressed the Government in May last, but I now find I can get at the truth minus exaggerations and I find that false evidence breaks down; and observing how infinitely superior the present system is to the old system in the matter of evidence, I have no hesitation in expressing my opinion in its favor, and I should like to see it extended to all the Districts within the Province of Behar."

## THE PERSECUTION OF THE PRESS.

TO THE EDITOR OF *Reis and Rayyet*.

SIR,—Permit me to invoke your aid on behalf of the compositors working in the office of the Superintendent of Government Printing, India. Since the departure of Mr. Dean, the late Superintendent, this office is being managed in a way that is simply astounding. The present Superintendent, Mr. Ross, was formerly Superintendent of the Alipore Jail Press. Both he and his young Deputy,—a boy of 21 or 22 years,—are conducting themselves towards the compositors, impositors, examiners, and pressmen, as

arbitrarily that it is a wonder that the Financial Department of the Government of India abstains from interfering even when put in possession of all the facts. Oh, for an hour of Mr. Chapman! is the universal cry of more than a thousand men over whom the Superintendent and his Deputy are now playing such pranks before high Heaven and the deities of the Financial Department.

Goaded to distraction, the men have appealed to the Government of India. The petition of the impositors has been rejected. That of the compositors is still before the Financial Secretary. When the question, however, is about the trampled rights of poor men, what frequently occurs is that perfect impunity is offered to those powerful men that trample upon them.

In consequence of more work of an urgent character having been done during the last financial year, it would seem that Budget estimates under the head of Printing were exceeded. There was nothing extraordinary in this. Estimates are frequently exceeded in other departments. But then the present Superintendent, Mr. W. Ross, is a man of genius. He has invented a new method of recouping the excess. That invention consists in withholding from the hands working under him their just dues! He has calculated the excess and dividing it into portions has apportioned a share to each department or section, directing that the amount so apportioned should be made up by a system of regular or rather the most irregular mulcts. Accordingly, if a compositor works for 7 hours, he is credited with having worked for only 3 or 4 hours. If he works overtime, overtime allowance is not to be paid to him. Have the days of *Bagar* (impressment), everybody asks, returned?

Most of the compositors are old hands, serving for periods varying from 15 to 25 years. It is impossible to suppose that the efficiency of every man has, all on a sudden, deteriorated. Then again what other explanation need be sought on the face of the Superintendent's order directing the recoupment of the excess of last year by these mulcts? In rejecting the petition of the impositors who daily see themselves credited with only half-a-day's work after working with unflagging diligence for the whole day, the deities of Olympus do not know what mischief and wrong they have committed. That petition, it is said, has been rejected by the Hon'ble Sir David Barbour, because it was represented to him that these men frequently loiter away their time in hopes of getting overtime work with overtime allowance. The Hon'ble Member does not know that every hand in the Superintendent's office has to work under the immediate eye of persons called Section-holders who would promptly report every loiterer if loitering away from the "case." Alas! was the Hon'ble Member imposed upon by the specious reasoning of the Superintendent? Did he, while disposing of the petition, call for the order apportioning the excess and directing its recoupment in the strange way already adverted to? In the face of that order how could he believe in the theory of loitering away? Or, did he act upon the consideration that hands employed in a printing office are really all "devils" that must be kept down under iron heels, refusing them simple justice even when justice is their due? On any other theory, the rejection of the petition is inexplicable. The petition stated nothing but facts, incontestable and undeniable facts, supported by evidence of the strongest kind. It was an irksome business to attend to. The truth was ugly in the extreme. The Superintendent's beseeching and besiging could not be got rid of. The easiest course, therefore, was a good *Dhankao* (threat), telling the "devils" that they should think twice before disturbing the peace of the gods.

Meanwhile, will the Hon'ble Member learn what the result has been of the rejection of the petition? The Superintendent has been emboldened beyond all limits. Formerly, he used to credit 3 or 4 hours for a full day's work of 7 hours. Since the order of rejection, the mulcts are made more heavily still. After working for full 7 hours a man finds that he is to be credited with only 2 hours. If he ventures to complain, there is the order, the *Dhankao*, that has come down from Olympus. The Superintendent tells the murmurer, with cutting irony,--Man, you have the Financial Department to appeal to. Go there, you will have your remedy.---Sir, it is intolerable that he should be allowed to thus lord it over more than a thousand poor men upon the fruits of whose hard labour some more thousands of Her Majesty's subjects depend for bread. The lot of the Indian compositor is very hard. If the Hon'ble Sir David Barbour had himself to work for a full day and receive his pay for only half a day, and if when he appealed in agony of heart to the Secretary of State, a good *Dhankao* were wafted to him from England, he would then know what the distress is that has overtaken the compositors and other hands working in the Government of India's Press. Yours truly,

A SUFFERER.

Calcutta, December 2, 1892.

### CAPTAIN HEARSEY AND SIR AUCKLAND COLVIN.

When Captain Hearsey presented his application on the 29th November to the Magistrate of Benares, Mr. R. H. Brereton, for

the arrest of Sir Auckland Colvin for libel, the Magistrate said: You ought to get the sanction of the Secretary of State before you can prosecute the Lieutenant-Governor.

Captain Hearsey: Will your Honor kindly give me permission to say a few words in support of this petition?

The Magistrate: Certainly.

Captain Hearsey: Your Honor will be pleased to remember that Sir Auckland Colvin having given over charge is no longer Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces and is no more in the service, and is, therefore, only a private individual like myself, and that your Court has every right to issue a warrant without applying to higher authority. I, as an Englishman, would urge your Honor as an Englishman to uphold that keystone of an Englishman's liberties, the Magna Charter, which states *Nulli negibamus nulli differemus justitiam*. I gave Sir Auckland Colvin no provocation whatsoever that he should defame me in the gross and malicious manner that he has done. His defamation was infinitely worse than that of the *Pioneer*, and there is a rule regarding that case ordering the arrest of Messrs. Dare and Chesney on record in the High Court of Calcutta. In simple justice, I believe, I am entitled to a warrant, especially as the accused is still in the country and about to leave it.

The Magistrate passed the following order:---This is a petition by Captain Hearsey charging Sir Auckland Colvin with defamation on the ground of a speech made by him at the opening of the water-works on November 18th in which remarks were made concerning a certain individual whose name was not mentioned. To begin with a Lieutenant-Governor cannot be prosecuted without the sanction of higher authority. Captain Hearsey should have procured such authority before presenting the petition instead of waiting till Sir Auckland Colvin had left for England, if he wished to make a charge against him. I see no reason whatever to take action in this complaint. Ordered that the petition be filed.

### APPLICATION TO THE HIGH COURT.

At the Allahabad High Court, Criminal Revisional Jurisdiction, on Friday (Dec. 2.) the following petition of Captain Andrew William Hearsey in the matter of the complaint of the said Captain Andrew William Hearsey against Sir Auckland Colvin in the Court of Mr. R. H. Brereton, Esq., C. S., Magistrate of Benares, was presented to the Hon. the Chief Justice and the Hon. Mr. Justice Tyrrell:---

Humbly sheweth,---That your petitioner on the 29th day of November applied to R. H. Brereton, Esq., C. S., Magistrate of Benares, for a warrant for the arrest of Sir Auckland Colvin on account of criminal offences committed by him under Section 499 and 504 as accompanying document marked A. will show.

2.---That the said R. H. Brereton, Esq., C. S., Magistrate of Benares, refused to take any action on this petition by your petitioner as is shown by the certified copy of his order on the application herewith appended.

3.---That the said R. H. Brereton, Esq., C. S., Magistrate of Benares, is wrong in the reasons assigned by him in the order he passed on the 29th of November as follows:---

I.---That R. H. Brereton, Esq., C. S., Magistrate of Benares, states in his order "remarks were made concerning an individual whose name was not mentioned"---facts go to show that Sir Auckland Colvin the accused did mention the name of the individual (your petitioner) to the said Mr. Brereton as in his the accused's speech of the 18th November he says "I will not mention his name here, but Mr. Brereton, the Magistrate, has my authority to mention his name."

II.---That R. H. Brereton Esq., C. S., Magistrate of Benares, states in his order---"To begin with a Lieutenant-Governor cannot be prosecuted without the sanction of higher authority." That at the time your petitioner made his application to prosecute the accused in the Court of the Magistrate of Benares, that is on the 29th of November, Sir Auckland Colvin the accused was not the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, he having assigned or surrendered his official appointment and offices on the 28th, the day before, and was therefore on the date in question only a private individual like myself, your petitioner, and this contention of the Magistrate either in fact or principle was no valid reason for refusing to issue the warrant applied for.

III.---That R. H. Brereton, Esq., C. S., Magistrate of Benares, is incorrect when he states in his order (for reasons assigned in foregoing paragraph) that Captain Hearsey should have procured such authority before presenting the petition instead of waiting till Sir Auckland Colvin had left for England. That at the time and date your petitioner made his application to the Magistrate of Benares, Sir Auckland Colvin, the accused, was still in this country and a warrant could have been issued for his arrest, that considering the emergency of the case and the impossibility of communicating with His Excellency the Viceroy in time to obtain his sanction if such sanction to prosecute was necessary, which your petitioner as explained in para. II denies, the Magistrate of Benares was wrong in not issuing the warrant applied for and by so doing permitting a criminal to evade the action of the law.

IV.—That no unnecessary delay on the part of your petitioner as implied by the order of the Magistrate of Benares, occurred in your petitioner's filing his charges and applying for a warrant for the accused's arrest from that official's court. Your petitioner only heard of the speech on arriving at Benares on the afternoon of the 26th November and only obtained the copy of that paper containing the speech on the 27th, the writing of the plaint and the printing of that document took up the whole of the 28th, so that it was impossible to file the application till after 2 P. M. on the 29th as it was at that hour the Magistrate of Benares received the petition.

V.—That under all these circumstances which conclusively prove that R. H. Brereton, Esq., Magistrate of Benares, is wrong in all his facts as stated in his order,

Your petitioner most humbly and respectfully prays your lordship to grant a rule and issue a warrant that may be despatched by telegraph after Sir Auckland Colvin so as to enforce his return to India for the purpose of appearing before the courts of this province for trial on the charges made against him under sections 499 and 504 of the Indian Penal Code.

Mr. Reid, Barrister-at-law, objected to Captain Hearsey's application being received until after all the applications had been filed by members of the bar.

The Chief Justice: You must wait till the members of the bar have filed their petitions.

Captain Hearsey: I was unaware my lord that there was any law on this subject.

After all other petitions had been filed, Captain Hearsey presented his petition and commenced to address the Court as follows:—My lords, this is an application in Criminal Revisional Jurisdiction against the order of Mr. R. H. Brereton, C. S., Magistrate of Benares, refusing to issue a warrant for the arrest of Sir Auckland Colvin. My lords, the original application was against the accused on account of a defamatory speech made by him at the opening of the water-works at Benares on the 18th November. In this speech Sir Auckland Colvin describes me as an insolent scoundrel, an uneducated, vulgar boor, a cheat and a coward, and also of being disloyal. My lords, before Sir Auckland Colvin arrived in India I had shed my blood in defence of my country whilst serving under Havelock in his cavalry which people have done us the honour of terming Havelock's Ironsides.

The Chief Justice: Are you Captain Hearsey?

Captain Hearsey: Yes, my lord, I am.

The Chief Justice: I will read the documents. On reading para. 4 of the original complaint in the Benares Magistrate's Court, Sir John Edge said: I see you describe the word dupe as a common cheat.

Captain Hearsey: Yes, my lord. The word in the dictionary bears the construction of cheat.

The Chief Justice spoke to Mr. Justice Tyrrell who seemed to coincide with that reading of the word.

The Chief Justice: I see that you state that Sir Auckland Colvin's speech would be liable to cause a breach of the peace. Surely you would not think of assaulting a Lieutenant-Governor.

\*Captain Hearsey did not reply to this question but, says the reporter, there was a very expressive smile on his face.

On completing the perusal of the documents, the Chief Justice said: Captain Hearsey, what proof have you got that Sir Auckland Colvin alluded to you?

Captain Hearsey: My lord, it was the common report when I returned to Benares on the 25th of November, that the individual indicated in the speech of Sir Auckland Colvin was myself. I had no option for the purpose of clearing my character but to file a criminal charge and endeavour to prevent Sir Auckland Colvin from leaving the country till he answered the charge made against him, and this could only be done by obtaining a warrant for his detention.

The Chief Justice: But you have not shown anywhere in the evidence that Sir Auckland Colvin alluded to you. Many others from Benares might take it upon themselves to say that Sir Auckland Colvin alluded to them and ask for a warrant.

Captain Hearsey: My lord, Sir Auckland Colvin in his speech of the 18th says, "Only two days ago I received a telegram from a man of this class." I telegraphed to Sir Auckland Colvin only two days before and asked for an interview. It was on a matter important to the State. I would ask your lordship to peruse the lines in this letter. It is a matter I do not dare to utter publicly as it might be the cause of danger to the Empire itself.

The Chief Justice: I cannot read the letter. Up to the present you have given no proof that Sir Auckland Colvin alluded to you, as he might have received telegrams from many others.

Captain Hearsey: My lord, it was well-known by a considerable number of people that he did allude to me. In fact a gentleman gave me a copy of the *Morning Post* and said, "See what Sir

Auckland Colvin has said of you." It was also known in Benares, Allahabad, and Calcutta to whom Sir Auckland Colvin alluded.

The Chief Justice: That may be, but we have no proof that it was you to whom he alluded.

Captain Hearsey: I see the mistake I made, my lord. I ought to have got a letter from Mr. Brereton in which the name of the person alluded to was mentioned. I cannot call evidence to the fact, nor can I, as Mr. Brereton never took my evidence on oath.

The Chief Justice: You do not have that fact down as one of your objections to the proceedings of the lower Court and this is a court of revision not original jurisdiction, and therefore cannot admit of any fresh evidence, but is there anything else in the speech that showed that it was intended for you? Where does the cap fit? Are you a professional agitator?

Captain Hearsey: No, my lord, but when I hear of injustice either to my countrymen or to the poor natives of India, and there are many cases in India, I cannot help feeling for them as I have suffered much from official injustice myself. I will concede to no one the loyalty of myself and the members of my family towards my Queen and country.

The Chief Justice: I am very glad to hear you say so; but anyhow Sir Auckland Colvin has left the country and I don't see how our warrant could run on the high seas.

Captain Hearsey: My lord, that is why I wanted a warrant for his arrest, a *Ne exeat regnum*; yet I think if your lordship was to grant one now, it would bring him back, for if any one quits the country who has been guilty of theft, embezzlement, or forgery a warrant would bring him back. Sir Auckland Colvin has been guilty of a criminal action, and a warrant would stop him although he had got as far as Suez. Sir Auckland Colvin's conduct in this matter puts one in mind of the disreputable little boy who writes a naughty word on a wall and then runs away.

The Chief Justice: Captain Hearsey, you must not employ this Court to make use of abusive language.

Captain Hearsey: I beg your pardon, my lord; it was only an absurd simile that rose up in my mind at the cowardly Parthian shot Sir Auckland Colvin took advantage of his official position to aim at me as he was leaving the country.

The Chief Justice: I'm afraid under the circumstances that our warrant, even if it were issued, could not touch Sir Auckland Colvin as he is on board one of the Austrian Lloyd's steamers, and therefore to all intents and purposes on foreign territory and under foreign jurisdiction.

Captain Hearsey: I was unaware of that fact, your lordship. I believed that he was on the English mail steamer. I quite understand the point your lordship has raised, but my lord, I simply came into these courts as Sir Auckland Colvin would wish the world to believe that I was *Nulla virtute redemptum*, therefore, your lordship, I as an Englishman come to you as an English Judge to uphold that glorious Charter the keystone of an Englishman's liberties, the Magna Charter, which lays down *Nulli negibamus, nulli differemus justitiam*.

The Chief Justice:—You come to me in Revision, and as a Court of Revisional Jurisdiction, I can only deal with the records of the court below. This is an application for revision against an order of the Magistrate of Benares, refusing a warrant for the arrest of Sir Auckland Colvin, under sections 499 and 504, Indian Penal Code. Before a warrant can be issued in this case there would be many questions of law to be considered. But the fundamental primary answer to this application is that the words complained of are not shown to have been applied to Captain Hearsey. According to the words set out, the applicant states that the Magistrate of Benares had authority to mention the name of the person of whom Sir Auckland Colvin was speaking. There is in the application before me nothing to show that any application was made to the Magistrate of Benares for the information. It is stated in the application that many persons present at the time were able to arrive at a knowledge that Sir Auckland Colvin was alluding to Captain Hearsey. If that be so, the statement on affidavit of those persons should have been forthcoming. Reading the words which have been set out, and which were alleged to have been spoken by Sir Auckland Colvin, I feel unable to form an opinion as to whom these words were intended to apply. Under such circumstances, even if there were no other questions of law to consider in the matter, it would be my duty, as it was the duty of the Magistrate of Benares, who had no more information than I have, to refuse to put the criminal law into motion. A person is not entitled to put the criminal law into motion under sections 499 and 504, Indian Penal Code, on a mere bare suspicion that the applicant may be the person referred to. Before the Magistrate could issue a warrant on charges as framed, it would be necessary for him, on evidence furnished by affidavit or otherwise, to be reasonably satisfied that the words complained of not only came within the sections, but were words spoken of the complainant. Whether these words were spoken of the complainant or not, is a matter as to which I can form no judgment. I accordingly reject the application.—*The Morning Post*.

\* We should very much like to know what Captain Hearsey really thought on this point.—Ed.

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OFFICE: 1, Uchoor Dutt's Lane, Wallington Street, Calcutta.

DROIT ET AVANT.

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI. }

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1892.

} No. 553

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### CUPID SCHOOLED.

I.

WHEN she was as gay as a linnet,  
And I was as fresh as a lark,  
Never a day but some minute  
We met betwixt dawning and dark.

II.

"Katie, and when shall we marry?"  
"Marry?" she said, with a sigh,—  
"That's cake and ribbons on Monday,  
And sorrow ere Saturday's by.

III.

"You are as lean as a lizard,  
I am as poor as a mouse;  
Nothing per annum, paid quarterly,  
Hardly finds rent for a house.

IV.

"'Love and a crust in a cottage,'  
Capital! just for a pair:  
What if the hut should grow populous?  
How would the populace fare?

V.

"Oh, ay! the uncle you reckon on,—  
Gouty, and rich, and unwed,—  
Dick! they wait ill, says the adage, who  
Wait for the shoes of the dead.

VI.

"Ah! if I loved you, I'd risk it!  
That's what you're thinking, I guess:—  
Why, I would risk it to-morrow,  
Dick, if I cared for you less!

VII.

"Love's apt to fly out at window  
When Poverty looks in at door:  
Rather I'd die than help banish him,  
Dick, just by keeping you poor.

VIII.

"Kiss me! you'll look in on Sunday?  
Won't my new bonnet be brave?  
Jene at its longest and leafiest—  
My! what a ramble we'll have!

IX.

"Bye-bye! There's grandmother waiting  
Patient at home for her tea:

Dick, if you wouldn't wed both of us,  
You must be patient for me!"

X.

Showers, if they ruffle its foliage,  
Freshen the green of the grove:  
True lovers' tiffs, said old Terence, are  
Only fresh fuel to Love.

XI.

If I flung off in a passion—  
If she crept in for a cry—  
Sunday came smiling and settled it,  
Katie was wiser than I.

XII.

Love's but a baby that, passionate,  
Cries to be mated at birth:  
Time isn't lost if it teaches you  
What a good woman is worth.

XIII.

What if the waiting was wearisome?  
What if the work-days were drear?  
Time, the old thief, could not rob us of  
Fifty-two Sundays a-year.

XIV.

How long was Liberty coming?  
Long enough—ever her way:  
Lustrum, or Decad, or Century,—  
What does it matter to-day?

XV.

Nunky died single at sixty,  
Granny at eighty or so:  
Well, if we didn't weep long for 'em—  
'Twasn't in nature, you know.

XVI.

Grannies and uncles are liable  
All to die some day, that's clear:  
Sorrow finds wonderful comfort in  
Five or six hundred a-year.

XVII.

And lovers may marry at forty,  
Ay, and live happy to boot,  
Though Phillis be grey as a badger,  
And Corydon bald as a coot.

H. K.

—Blackwood.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

## WEEKLYANA.

THE Black Man has triumphed. Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji's trouble is over. The scrutiny of the voting papers of the Central Finsbury elections so cantankerously started and pertinaciously pursued by Captain Penton, his defeated rival for the honor of representing the constituency, has been closed. On Tuesday, the Captain came to terms with Mr. Naoroji and withdrew his petition, each party, by mutual agreement, paying his own costs. The result is a great relief to us in India. Mr. Naoroji's seat is now safe. There will be a native Indian Member of the British House of Commons all through this Parliament.

THREE days after the ceremony, on Monday last, the *Englishman* published the Levée List. The next day, the *Statesman* gave another said to be complete. Here is our analysis of the List :—

|                       |                  |                |     |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|-----|
| Private Entrée        | ... 110—Asiatics | 20, Europeans  | 90  |
| Public Entrée         | ... 797—Asiatics | 197, Europeans | 600 |
| New Presentations     | ... 138—Asiatics | 29, Europeans  | 109 |
| Unavoidably Absent... | 361—Asiatics     | 130, Europeans | 231 |

The total number of gentlemen who answered the Levée notification by sending in their cards, was therefore 1406, 1030 being Europeans and 376 Asiatics, the former outnumbering the latter by about 2¾ times. The actually present were 1045, Europeans 799 and Asiatics 246, or 3¼ to 1. The unavoidably absent numbered 361, Europeans 231 and Asiatics 130, or in the proportion of over 1 4/5 to 1. The presenters were 92 Europeans and 18 Asiatics or 5 to 1.

Since last year, it has been ruled that, as in the Drawing-Room for ladies, gentlemen presenting others at the Levée must themselves be present, but we find in the present list several presenters absenting themselves. So many as 10 Europeans and 4 Asiatics are guilty of this breach of court discipline. The list published is necessarily semi-official, but there ought to be a full official publication for general information and guidance and future reference.

No care seems to have been taken to eliminate the List of objectionable "gentlemen."

Our apprehensions have proved true. Except in the Private Entrée, the numbers have fallen off both of the Public Entrée and the New Presentations as compared with the last year. The quotations of 1891 are :—

|                    |        |     |
|--------------------|--------|-----|
| Private Entrée     | ... .. | 101 |
| Public Entrée      | ... .. | 856 |
| New Presentations  | ... .. | 175 |
| Unavoidably Absent | ... .. | 386 |

THE Drawing Room analysis is :—

|                                      |        |     |
|--------------------------------------|--------|-----|
| Private Entrée                       | ... .. | 51  |
| Public Entrée                        | ... .. | 148 |
| New Presentations                    | ... .. | 104 |
| Total number who sent in their cards | ... .. | 319 |
| Actually present                     | ... .. | 203 |
| Unavoidably absent                   | ... .. | 116 |
| Presentresses...                     | ... .. | 66  |
| Presentress absent                   | ... .. | 4   |

HERE is a brief notice of the past Russian Famines :—

"The British Consul at St. Petersburg, in his report on the trade in Russia for the past year, says of last year's famine that it was only remarkable for the magnitude of the area of the country over which it spread. Famines are no strangers to Russia. The first considerable one in the present century occurred in 1833, and it is said to have cost the Government and people £10,000,000, many thousands of the population becoming hopelessly involved in debt, and numerous landed proprietors being ruined. A disease broke out in the southern parts of the country closely resembling scurvy, produced by the consumption of acorns, chaff, and the insufficiency of sour cabbage and kvass, which are anti-scorbutics, and constitute regular articles of diet of the Russian population. Beggars and vagrants spread over the country, and theft of grain attained serious proportions. In the provinces of the Taurida, Ekaterinoslav, and in some of the districts of the province of Saratoff, as also in the country of the Don Cossacks, from two-thirds to nine-tenths of the cattle died from want of fodder. The area of the winter crops was reduced to one-third of its previous proportions, owing to a scarcity of seed, which the Government only supplied in the course of the following spring. This famine was succeeded after an interval of only seven years by a similar calamity which affected as large an extent of the country. The famine of 1843 spread over twelve provinces, the chief sufferers being the provinces of Tamboff, Riazan, Tula, and Kaluga. Its origin was again attributable to a drought of long duration. In the previous year the crops had been bad ones in the same localities, so that assist-

ance was required on a large scale. The Government was more active on this occasion in affording relief in the shape of food and seed. The four provinces which had suffered most, the population of which amounted to more than 2,000,000, received a sum in all of £1,700,000. The other provinces, Orel, Smolensk, Moscow, Poltava, Penza, Valadimir, Kursk and Kharkoff, received in the shape of loans about £2,178,615. The price of grain rose from 6r. 50c. per sack to 3fr. 37c. and even 50c. A serious famine visited the provinces of Vitebsk, Mughilev, Minsk, Pskov, Vilna, Kovno, Smolensk, and Petersburg in the years 1844 and 1846. The measures taken for relief were the same as those adopted in previous famines, and the cost to the Government was £1,000,000. During the last thirty years more or less considerable famines took place in 1867-68 and 1872-73. On the former occasion a failure of the crops took place in the southern Steppe provinces, and in the latter on the lower Volga and Trans-Volga provinces. The zemstvos during both these periods were charged with the sustenance of the distressed districts, the Government limiting its activity to making advances out of the general sustenance fund of the Empire. Since the establishment of the zemstvos, or territorial bodies, these have in time of want aided the peasantry to the extent of £1,145,021. A more serious famine than the last two took place in 1890 in some of the Trans-Volga provinces when the Government advanced money to the peasantry out of the general sustenance fund, and expended large sums in works of irrigation and on the construction of the Baskuchinsk Railway. The comparatively frequent occurrence of famines in Russia is now engaging the serious attention of the Government. The question of these famines has been discussed at length in the Russian press, and the general conclusion is that they are not so much due to droughts and other natural phenomena as to the general backward state of agriculture in Russia, the unmerciful deforestation of the country, and last, but not least, to the ignorant condition of the peasantry."

THE Maha-aja of Tippearah is on a visit to Calcutta. He arrived early this week. The Burra Thakur had preceded him by three weeks.

MR. H. J. Mc. Intosh has been confirmed as Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Financial and Municipal Departments, and Mr. H. C. Sreatfeild transferred in the same capacity to the Judicial, Political and Appointment Departments.

MR. H. Holmwood having been allowed one month's leave, Mr. H. B. Bames, Officiating First Inspector of Registration Offices, will, in addition to his own, perform the ordinary duties of the Inspector-General of Registration to the dismay of the Department. The other duties have been entrusted to the Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the General, Revenue, and Statistical Department. Mr. J. W. Richardson will have the tedium of his regular work diversified, though for a month, with the sweets of the offices of Senior Marriage Registrar of Calcutta and Registrar of Parsee Marriages beyond the local limits of the ordinary civil jurisdiction of the High Court, and Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

BABOO Behari Lal Chandra, Sub-Registrar of Calcutta, goes on three months' leave from 1st January 1893. Kumar Ramendralala Mitra, Special Sub-Registrar of Alipore, 24-Parganas, comes in his place and Baboo Hem Chunder Kerr from Sealdah goes to Alipore.

FROM the 1st January 1893, no shipping-bills or bills-of-entry will be received at the Calcutta Custom House unless they bear on them a stamp or signature showing that the toll payable to the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta has been paid in full.

"UNLESS good reasons are shown to the contrary, within one month" from the 14th December 1892, the Lieutenant-Governor intends to include, for the purposes of the Calcutta Hackney Carriage Act II of 1891, the Howrah, Bally, South Suburban, Maniktola, Cassipore, Chitpore, Baranagore, North Dum-Dum, and South Dum-Dum, Municipalities within Calcutta.

WE read :—

"On September 9, about 6 P. M., the sailing cutter of the *Swallow*, while cruising off the south end of the Zanzibar Islands, anchored off Uzi Island, when half the men landed, leaving Mr. M'Dermott, John Sadler, H. Payne, Charles Lawford, and W. Rendle (able bodied seaman) in the boat. Lawford and Payne jumped overboard and were bathing when a large shark was seen making towards Lawford. The fish was only 4 ft. or 5 ft. off when, without any hesitation and not divesting himself of any of his clothes, M'Dermott plunged into the sea 'right on top of the shark,' and with the plash he made frightened it away for a short time, while the men were quickly drawn into the boat. M'Dermott suffered nothing from the immersion, and but for his prompt action Lawford must have lost his life."

The Admiralty have brought M'Dermott's heroism to the notice of the Royal Humane Society which will award its silver medal to him.

### A TROJAN SONG.

#### I.

O MEN of Troy ! Will you still cry  
Like children that are hurt ?  
Danger ahead ! Will you not ply  
The oar, and make a spurt  
To save the bark ? Will sighs and tears  
In peril's hour avail ?  
Fling off unmanly doubts and fears,  
And boldly face the gale !

#### II.

Cowards will fail, but not the brave,  
Who to themselves are true ;  
Stout hearts will rule the wind and wave,  
But ne'er a dastard crew.  
The guerdon ever is the due—  
Jove still the labour crowns—  
Of earnest souls that dare and do,  
In spite of Fortune's frowns.

#### III.

Ho, warders, to the ramparts swift !  
The foe is at the gate !  
See, the Palladium's seized, the gift  
Of pow'r's benign and great !  
If ye are men, from ruthless hand  
Oh ! strive the boon to save ;  
A bold front, yet a manly stand,  
May rescue what they gave.

#### IV.

Treat not for truce, sue not for grace,—  
The time for that is past ;  
The honor, manhood of your race,  
Now bids you dare the blast !  
Shoulder to shoulder move ye on,—  
A phalanx close and bold ;  
Flinch not, shrink not, till you have won !  
Press on, both young and old !

#### V.

Flinch not, shrink not, till you have won !  
The gods your cause befriend ;  
And all the world from sun to sun,  
Approves your noble end.  
Fling down false Hope's Circean cup !  
'Twere fatal to delay ;  
Up, up, all resolutely up !  
Speed to your posts away !

#### VI.

Within the fortress' well-marked round—  
Before a strong-soul'd band,  
No foeman's footstep should be found,  
Nor foeman's rifling hand.  
Quick, Trojans, to yon wall repair !  
The foe a breach has made !  
Gather your strength, O gallants, there !  
Stay there his fatal raid !

#### VII.

One step backward, and Ilion's lost !  
Relentless is the foe ;  
Defend your own at any cost ;  
No time for parley now !  
Up, Trojans, up ! go, man the wall,—  
A brave, devoted train ;—  
Victory, or the shroud and pall !  
But ne'er as slaves remain !

RAM SHARMA.

### NOTES & LEADERETTES

with

### OUR OWN NEWS.

"NOTHING aggravates tyranny so much as contumely," says Burke. And there is this aggravating element in Sir Charles Elliott's action in the Jury business.

The notorious Notification is a bad measure badly determined upon and worse introduced. It wrested from the people one of their most valuable safe-guards in the most provoking manner. By this sudden swoop the present administration have unmistakably proclaimed their utter contempt for the people. The country was taken by surprise. It was at first difficult to believe that Government could be serious. Then there burst a chorus of indignation from all sides. All parties were united and individual rivalries sunk in general consternation. Meetings in protest were held in the country, at every important centre. The crowning demonstration of the metropolis will come on on Tuesday, the 20th, at 4-30 in the afternoon.

THIS meeting would have, as it ought to have, been held much sooner. But hopes—idle hopes as they have proved—were entertained in influential and honourable circles of the native community, and it was resolved that, before committal to agitation, an opportunity should be given to the Lieutenant-Governor and the Viceroy to reconsider the subject with a view to the withdrawal of the obnoxious Notification. Accordingly, while meeting after meeting was held in the Districts, commencing with the great meeting at Krishnaghur, followed by no less important ones at Hooghly, Midnapore, Moorshedabad, and other towns, there was no sign of activity in Calcutta, although public opinion here, as expressed in the press, showed an unanimity such as was never observed on any previous question within the last forty years. In due course, both the Governor and the Governor-General came to the metropolis and Maharaja Jotindro Mohan Tagore and Maharaja Doorga Charan Law together waited upon them one after another. Smiling they went—to return with long faces. Only valuable time has been lost in this waiting game for nothing, giving the officials opportunities for better and more careful preparation for their justification. It is strange that experienced men of the world could imagine for a moment that high functionaries of state could discredit themselves irretrievably by such fickleness as was expected of them.

WAS it seriously expected that Sir Charles Elliott would eat his own famous Notification, with H. J. S. Cotton—we mean the Chief Secretarial signature, and all ?

As for the Viceroy, it was not necessary to wait for him, specially after his declaration in the South.

In their address of welcome to the Viceroy when he was at Madras, the local Mahajan Sabha thus alluded to the Jury Notification in Bengal :—

"The Sabha has noticed with grave apprehension the retrograde step taken by the Government of Bengal in regard to the system of trial by Jury, and, if it be a fact, as is given out in public prints, that the Government of India has accorded its sanction to such a step, the matter assumes a general importance and justifies the Sabha in inviting Your Excellency's attention to it."

Lord Lansdowne only replied :—

"The whole of the correspondence has lately been published, and I venture to think that, when you have read it, you will be of opinion that the step was amply justified by the facts and need not be regarded with the apprehensions which you have expressed."

And he still sees no reason to interfere.

As will be found in another column, the outgoing Sheriff has called a public meeting on Tuesday next, the 20th December, at the Town Hall, at 4-30 P.M., to express the community's dissatisfaction and alarm at the Jury Notification. The new Sheriff will open the meeting. That is like Mr. Mehta. Not only has Fortune lifted him to the Shrievalty but she accompanies him there and enables him to celebrate his accession to office in the forenoon of Tuesday with a triumph as it were in the afternoon by opening a great historic demonstration at the head of all his fellow-citizens of all races and classes. In his new elevation we hope Mr. Mehta will not desert the other citizens in their hour of danger. The meeting has not been called early enough for the out-

rage committed in the dark, but we hope there will be a grand show and vigorous protest to make up past lapses. Every citizen is bound to attend. It is as much the duty of the promoters to see that the front seats are not occupied by mere early comers.

LAST week we quoted the opinion of a former Sessions Judge of Patna on the Jury Trial in that district, recommending its extension within the Province of Behar. We this week give the opinion of another famous Sessions Judge as to the satisfactory working of the system in the 24-Pergannahs and his preference of Jury Trial to Trial by Assessors:—

"No. 161, dated the 19th April, 1862.

From—E. Lautour, Esq., Sessions Judge of the 24-Pergannahs,  
To—E. H. Lushington, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

The Government of Bengal was pleased to direct (Notification, dated 7th January 1862, published at page 87 of the *Calcutta Gazette*), that trials under certain Chapters of the Penal Code should be by jury.

2. An inconvenience arises from the restrictions which will be best explained by an illustration.

3. During the present Sessions a prisoner was committed for the theft of a bank note, and was triable by a jury. Another count charged him with forgery, he having endorsed the note in the name of the real owner. This was not triable by a jury under the present rules.

4. I consider that this inconvenience requires to be met; and I would suggest that trial by jury be extended to all the sections of the Penal Code, powers reserved to the Sessions Judge to hold any trial with assessors. I am of opinion, however, that trial by jury should be extended to all cases without reserve.

The system is working very well, and I would much rather work with a jury than with assessors."

THE late lamented statesman Sir Henry Durand had an important conversation with the eminent Hindu minister Raja Dinkur Rao, which he took care to record in his Journal, under date the 12th January, 1866, thus:—

"Dinkur Rao called and had a long talk. He told me of Lawrence having asked him what was the real cause of the mutiny, and that he told Lawrence it was only a pretence, the greased cartridges, &c., and that the real cause was discontent of the people, reflected only by the army as alone able to show and give force to its feelings; that our 'kanoon' and laws and regulations were the true cause. He told me roundly that in all quarters our rule was hated and unpopular, though the people never had had, and never would have, such a government. He blames our police as the source of much evil, and of filling the jails."—*Life of Sir H. M. Durand*, vol. I., p. 346.

Those remarks of the great Hindu are not without application to the present occasion. The Police is the source of much evil, and of filling the jails, and it is the Police at whose instance Trial by Jury, deliberately granted to the people, has been unceremoniously withdrawn, the better to fill the jails.

MR. Justice Banerjee has resigned the Vice-Chancellorship of the Calcutta University. Dr. Guitadas Banerjee has had three years in continuation—three years of active uninterrupted usefulness—and now gracefully retires of his own instance, before the second term is complete.

AND now we trust the Hon'ble Mahendra Lal Sircar will be appointed to the office. We are not given, either in private life or journalistically, to recommend men to offices or titles because, for one reason, such recommendations have often a contrary effect. Dr. Sircar in especial is our doctor and our friend from a long time, and we would certainly not have named him if we thought the least possible rational objection might be started against him.

The sum total of distinctions open to a pure Indian is but small, and it were a pity to withhold any one or part of one. Dr. Sircar is not only our most distinguished man of science but one of our principal public men and a gifted orator. As founder-Secretary of the Science Association his services to the cause of education go without saying. He would be the right man in the right place.

Of late his health has been bad. We hope there are yet many years of work in him. There is now no margin for waste. We natives in this climate do not live so long, with our faculties in full force, as Europeans at home. Opportunities are apt to come to us too late. We only trust the call upon Dr. Sircar to fill the chief place in our University—under the Chancellor—will come in time.

A SUIT has just been filed in the ordinary original civil jurisdiction of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, which, if allowed to go on, is calculated to rake up the buried history of a Calcutta millionaire, of half a century back. The Mullicks of Andul and Ramkrishnapore on the opposite side of the Hooghly, owned valuable properties which have passed out of their hands. That passage from them to the present owners is the subject of the plaint. We shall try to obtain and give hereafter a *résumé* of the plaint.

THE Maharaja of Travancore is resolved to maintain the reputation of his kingdom as the model state of native India. He has taken the shine out of other Princes by a large measure of enlightened liberality. He has sanctioned a general increase of pay to the servants of the State. By one stroke of his pen His Highness has endeared himself to his people. We say his people, for though it is the officials who are directly interested, the whole country will be benefited. Adequate and good pay to Government *employés* means less oppression to the public. The incurably bad may still continue to fleece the people, but the motive being distinctly abated, corruption will be necessarily reduced to a minimum.

The new order imposes on the ministry a difficult and delicate responsibility. The new Dewan will find it no easy task to hit upon a scheme to satisfy the large expectations necessarily raised. We can advise him only generally. He should avoid nice distinctions.

We hope the other Chiefs will not be slow to profit by such good example.

THE Commission consisting of Mr. H. M. Winterbotham, C.S., acting Collector of Tanjore, and Mr. Srinivasa Charlu, Sub-Judge of Kumbakonam, to investigate the charges against Mr. Ram Chendra Row, C.S., commenced their proceedings at Tanjore in the Municipal office, on the 9th December. Mr. Willie Grant prosecuted and V. Bashyam Aiyangar defended the accused who was also present. The charges are:—

"That you being a Public Servant as aforesaid did, on or about the 6th November, 1889, accept for yourself from or on behalf of Bom-machi Naicker, the Zamindar of Ammayanaickanur, a present, to wit, a silk umbrella, contrary to the provisions of Section 24 of the Statute 13, George III, Chapter 63.

That you being a Public Servant as aforesaid did, during enquiry carried on by Mr. Turner, the officer appointed by Government to inquire into certain charges, made against you as such Public Servant, and on or about the 24th of March, 1892, use as true, or genuine evidence, which you knew to be fabricated, to wit, a private account-book, such use amounting to misbehaviour and being matter of inquiry under the provisions of said Act XXXVII of 1850.

That you being a Public Servant as aforesaid, did during the said enquiry so carried on by the said Mr. Turner, the officer appointed as aforesaid, to inquire into certain charges made against you as such Public Servant did on or about the said 24th March, 1892, fraudulently and dishonestly use as genuine a document, to wit, your said private account book in the second charge mentioned, which account book you knew or had reason to believe to be a forged document, such behaviour being matter of inquiry under the provisions of the aforesaid Act XXXVII of 1850."

From a telegraphic report, it appears that

"At the conclusion of the proceedings on the 14th the Commissioners said that on the evidence already recorded there was no *prima facie* case made out against the defendant. In regard to the charge of having received a silk umbrella the Crown prosecutor applied for summons for the recall of one of the chief witnesses, the tailor who made the umbrella. Application was granted, and the case adjourned to the 21st."

THE Commissioner of the Presidency Division, Mr. Beames, has found a remedy for the want of good drinking water in the country:—

"The question of securing a good supply of drinking-water is undoubtedly a very serious one. The task is beyond the power of any Government to accomplish, but it is by no means beyond the power of the people themselves. Unfortunately the people of India are very slow to help themselves; their only idea is to cry to Government to help them. Educated Bengalis profess great attachment to the principle of Local Self-Government, so long as it is confined to spending money supplied to them by Government. It is time that they should be taught that Local Self-Government means local efforts to help themselves. District Officers should direct their Engineers to impress upon the people how much they may effect by local subscriptions and personal exertions. If the owners of tanks would throw them open for public use, and the labouring classes, who sit idle for a large part of the year, would give a certain number of days of gratuitous labour, much might be done. But so long as zamindars will not allow their tanks to be touched, and the peasant, though suffering from want of water, will not dig, unless he is paid for it, progress must necessarily be slow. Both these difficulties might in time be overcome if Collectors and Sub-divisional Officers would devote themselves to the task of persuasion and organising local effort."

The Government Resolution on the Commissioner's report for the year 1891-92, quotes the above passage with the remark "The crying want of the division is good drinking water. The Commissioner writes": Has Sir Charles Elliott given up his idea of the remedy by legislation for which he held a conference at Belvedere?

COLONEL Dr. Mahomed Shakir Bey Effendi, a medical officer in the Turkish Army, who had been travelling for some time in the North Western Provinces and the Punjab, in search of information regarding the causes of cholera, has just arrived in Calcutta. He has been deputed by the Sublime Porte to make a thorough enquiry into the subject, on the spot, *viz.*, in India, which has been declared by the entire medical authorities of Europe to be the home of cholera. He intends to pay a visit to Jessore, from which place, as the Doctor learned from a medical work in the French language, cholera originated in the first instance.

THE Native Chiefs who are expected in the metropolis sooner or later in this season, are their Highnesses the Maharajas of Mysore, Gwalior, Patiala, and the Prime Minister of Nepal. His Highness of Tipperah has already arrived.

THE vacancy caused in the post of Persian and Arabci Professor in the Presidency College, by the promotion of Shamsul Ulma Moulvi Ahmad to the head Moulviship of the Calcutta Medressah, has just been filled by the appointment of Moulvi Mirza Ashraff Ali, Head Persian teacher in the Anglo Persian Department of the Calcutta Medressah—to the satisfaction of the Mahomedan community.

THOSE who grieved the most the death of the late Pandit Iswara Chandra Vidyasagar, and were the loudest in his praise, had evidently exhausted themselves on the melancholy occasion. At any rate, they had no sympathy left for the son or the monumental educational establishment left by the deceased. Soon after the anniversary of the demise, they have begun dispraising the institution in consequence of some changes found necessary, and have even gone so far as to abolish it altogether. A rumour has been started that the Metropolitan Institution is to be sold. A purchaser too has been selected in the owner of a rival college, and the consideration money fixed. The whole is a neat little romance, not very creditable to those concerned, or the newspapers which have lent themselves to its dissemination.

HAS the Gaekwad during his visit to Europe been straying to Liverpool? Was he there tackled by that dangerous man Mr. Quilliam and operated upon, to the loss of his integrity as a creature and devotee of Brahmá? Has he, wild young fellow, established a haram and filled it with Mahomedan *Peris*? Such, at any rate, is the suggestion in an English journal—not darkly hinted at, but openly and unmistakably expressed, without the least periphrasis. In an elaborate account of the last Lord Mayor's Show in London, occurs the following:—

"Just as I arrived Lady Salisbury drove by in an open carriage, going westward: and then up drove the Gaekwad of Baroda. Turbanned and superbly attired, blazing with jewels, his Highness alighted and stood until her Highness the Maharani Chinnabai Gaekwad and two little princelings preceded him. I had the opportunity of seeing a sight which is, I believe, rare—the unveiled features of a Mahomedan Maharani, and beautiful features they were, with black lustrous eyes which fascinate with a passing glance."

That is unimpeachable testimony—the report of an eye-witness who has no interest to misrepresent and who wrote as he saw. So, Maharaja Siyaji Rao has been inatrimonialising on the sly *en route* and populating his household. He left home and his country accompanied by his consort—a regular Hindu princess. He did not take with him any Mussulman Rani, having none in stock. This Mahomedan Maharani the writer on the London *Star* assigns him, is altogether a new departure—an addition as well as a curiosity—which has to be explained as well as accepted—which has not only to be enrolled but also understood.

The London correspondent of the *Indian Spectator* seizes on that passage in the *Star* newspaper and dances in delight at the opportunity for merriment at the expense of the English writer. After quoting it, "There's for you!" cries he,

"There's for you! Imperial pride and chivalry in the humble breast of a patriotic descriptive reporter! It was, indeed, 'a rare sight' that of 'a Mahomedan Maharani—' and, 'unveiled' too! Who shall say, after this, that your Indian dignitaries are unknown to our popular scribes?"

But is the case of the *Star* scribe so bad? It is by no means hopeless. Is the *Indian Spectator's* Correspondent sure that, in making fun with another, he is not tempting others to make fun with himself? We are afraid that, in citing the blunder of another, he has incurred the risk of exposure himself. Certainly, his own knowledge is not so extensive and deep that he can afford to jest at his neighbour's ignorance. A "Mahomedan Maharani" is not the *rara avis* that he thinks. Perhaps he has heard of the Sultan of Johore. That Chief is a brand new Sultan, his proper title being Raja or Maharaja, which in an hour of weakness—of himself, of his Hindu neighbours and the Hindu world in general, and of the British—he abandoned in favour of the present Moslem distinction. We wonder how he calls his Maharani now. She cannot be called Sultana. Has she become the Begum of Johore like our Indian Nawab Shah Jehan? Or, does she retain her old designation? The people, we suspect, specially in the country, still speak of the Raja and Rani of Johore. All that is in the Archipelago, our contemporary's London correspondent will contend, demurring to the instance, all the more because it is, after all, obsolete. But there are plenty of analogues on the continent. Several of the Hill Chiefs, specially on the frontiers of Cashmere, bear the title of Raja, though Mahomedan. So in the plains. The writer may have heard of Raja Ameer Hasan Khan, and he is not the only Mahomedan baron of Oudh with the Hindu title. Nor is Oudh the only province in which the anomaly exists. There are Mahomedan Rajas and Ranis in Bengal and the Panjab, and in the Central Provinces Ranis specially abound. Nor is this a monster birth of to-day, unknown to literature or politics. Raja Mewaram, brother of Maharaja Balkishen, the Finance Minister of Oudh when Oudh was a kingdom, retired to Mecca where he died. Even more historical was the celebrated Raja Kamgar Khan of Behar who invited Shah Allam to Bengal.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, December 17, 1892.

### THE HARDWAR FAIR AND KUMBH MELA.

BASE and luckless as is this Iron Age—the Kali Yug of the Hindus, it is not throughout a cycle of despair. There are oases in the worst desert, and there are occasionally bright spots even in the accursed Kali Yug. There are in this final age before the destruction of the world, seasons well-known, though few and far between, when poor humanity can easily lay in stores of merit for the day of Judgment. Pilgrimage is one of the cheap methods of salvation in this Age, and the merit of it is enhanced by the time at which it is undertaken. The most popular form of pilgrimage is bathing and worship at particular spots on the banks of sacred streams or at holy pools. These ablutions are timed to particular conjunctures of the heavenly bodies, the merit being in proportion to the rarity of such conjunctures. The most important is the bathing in the Ganges of Hindu theological geography on the Ardhadaya Yoga, which occurs once in a generation, perhaps two. The last such Yoga occurred after thirty years in 1890, when several millions of Hindus washed their sins in the great river from Hardwar to Saugar Island. The next in importance is the Kumbha Yoga which takes place every twelve years, when the merit is restricted to ablution in the Ganges or the Jumna at one of three places on the entrance of Jupiter in the constellation of Aquarius. On these occasions, immense is the concourse of people at the particular shrine, and the gathering is utilized for traffic on a large scale. Such is the famous Kumbh Mela or Fair. It is held at different places in differ-

ent months, according as the great planet enters into Aquarius. In February it is at Allahabad, in March at Brindaban, and in April at Hardwar. The Hardwar Kumbh Mela takes place when the Jupiter being in Aquarius the sun is in Aries. This period has been sanctified from time immemorial and the Brahma ghat otherwise called *Har-ki-Paari* ghat has ever been the chosen spot for bathing on the occasion. In a stone slab near the ghat, Hari's holy foot is imprinted and a similar mark is found in a stone in an adjoining wall. The present ghat was constructed in the year 1820 by Captain D. Beud, after a disaster in the previous year when many lives were lost on account of the rush for bathing. This ghat has sixty steps and a width of about one hundred feet. Within an adjacent temple is the famous well called *Bramha-Kunda*. About half a mile from Hardwar is a small tank called *Bhim-gada*, where the pilgrims present offerings, the water of which is used for bathing and drinking purposes. At the suggestion of Dr. Hutcheson, the present Sanitary Commissioner, N.-W. P., this tank was deepened and paved. A syphon was placed to bring a supply of fresh water from the Ganges. All these improvements cost about rupees five hundred and thirty three. Had not this been done, this tank alone would have been the sufficient cause for the origin and the spread of cholera.

The name Hardwar is comparatively a recent one. It was anciently called *Gangadwar*, *Kapila Bat*, &c. There are other places of religious importance near Hardwar, as *Máyápur* and *Kankhal*. *Mayápur* was one of the recognized great cities of ancient India, and embraced at one time *Kankhal* and *Hardwar*. It was the capital of *Daksha*, father of *Uma* or *Doorga*, consort of *Siva*. Near the present *Máyápur* are the remains of a fortress and some old buildings, temples, and so on. The fortress, which is almost in ruins, is said to have been erected by an ancient potentate, called *Vena Raja*. The temples are in better preservation, and are dedicated to *Narayan Sila*, *Máyá Debi*, and *Bhairab*. A little beyond them, is the more modern temple of *Sarvanath*, with the image of Buddha. The Government Archaeological Surveyor General *Cunningham* found in the remains of all these buildings distinct Buddhist traces. Indeed, it is pretty certain that many of the gods and goddesses of Hindu worship found their ingress into these temples at a period subsequent to that when Buddhism was at its height. *Kankhal* is celebrated as the site where dropped the waist (*Kankha*) of the quartered body of *Uma* after the destruction of the royal ceremony—*Jajna*—by the diabolical followers of the insulted *Siva*.

The controversies of the present year lend a special interest to the N.-W. P. Sanitary Commissioner's report of 1891. By itself, too, it is an interesting account of the steps taken for the prevention of the origin and spread of cholera, steps which were very successfully carried out. Only three suspected cases of cholera and two of small-pox were reported during the fair. The credit of all these sanitary precautions is principally due to Dr. Hutcheson, the Sanitary Commissioner of Upper India, and Mr. Patterson, the Magistrate of *Saharanpur*. Mr. King, the Executive Engineer of the Ganges Canal, was in charge of the minor arrangements, the most important of which was the letting in of a current of fresh water into the sacred pool so as to carry away the decaying flowers offered by pilgrims and other matters of an

offensive character. The principal sanitary reforms undertaken for the fair were the division of the whole area into eight subsections, erection of a hospital in each of them, and employment of sufficient men to carry out the following details: (1) Prevention of over-crowding, (2) Attention to surface cleanliness, (3) Removal of nuisances after notice, (4) Reporting offenders, (5) Prompt and careful removal of sufferers from infectious diseases, (6) Proper location of baggage and beasts. The other measures of importance were (1) the construction of eight bridges to facilitate communication between the islands of *Rori*, *Laljiwala* and the mainland so as to make easy way for approaching the sacred pool, (2) the employment of a sufficient number of permanent sweepers and mehtars from municipalities within reasonable distances and (3) the removal of the horse fair from behind the *Mayapur Dak Bungalow* to the well-shaded and well-watered spot close to the *Jawalapur* railway station. So the whole area of the fair included the town of *Hardwar* and the villages of *Kankhal* and *Jawalapur*.

The great bathing day was the first of *Bysack* 1298 or the 13th of January 1891, when the sun entered Aries. About seven hundred thousand people assembled. The gathering was not excessive till towards the end of the fair. During the last six days, however, every available space was occupied. Luckily, the greater portion of the people slept in open spaces allowing sufficient ventilation. Under the circumstances, the rule of six hundred cubic feet of air space allotted for each individual or double the quantity for lodging houses in England, was not enforced. At *Calcutta*, eight hundred cubic feet are allowed for each person in lodging houses. But nothing like the open air.

Much of the scenic effect of the fair is due to the attendance in great force of the sturdy beggars. They are not by any means a homogeneous lot, belonging as they do to various sects between whom mutually no love is lost. To prevent confusion they are marshalled and led in separate groups, under their respective chiefs.

On the great bathing day the procession of the *sadhus* and *fakirs* by *akharas*, that is, the religious mendicants according to their convents, lasted from 9 A.M., to 6 P.M., in the following order of precedence: (1) the *Jhunas* and the *Airanjanis*, (2) the *Nirbanis*, (3) the *Bairágis*, (4) the *Bará Akhára Udásis*, (5) the *Chotá Akhára Udásis*, (6) the *Nirmallas*. Though different and often conflicting among themselves, there was one cry with all, *Jay Ganga mayi ki jay*. The reason for observing this strict precedence arose from a desperate battle between the *Goswamis* and *Bairagis* in 1760, fought on holy ground on this question of precedence. Altogether, the arrangements were excellent. There was not only no complaint but there was positive general satisfaction. It was common to hear the pilgrims of the various orders remark "what a good *bandobust* the *Sirkar* has made!"

The record of the previous Kumbh fairs of 1867 and 1879 tells a tale of disease and death. In 1879 the epidemic of cholera carried off many hill people returning to their homes in *Kumaun* and *Garhwal*. One cause assigned for this epidemic spread is that the majority of the pilgrims, after bathing at *Hardwar*, go on to worship at the temples of *Kedarnath* and *Baidyanath* at *Garhwal*. With regard to the gathering under notice, that of 1891, the Commissioner of *Kumaun* timely dissuaded the hill people from at-

tending the fair, and successfully. Of the three suspected cases of cholera, the first was with an *ndasi* living alone at Chota Lalji, who was attacked on the 6th April and died the next day. He had come from ~~Chondi~~ near Nabha, in the cis-Sutledge states, and been at Hardwar for eight days. The second, a fakir from Raipur, Patiala, was living near Kankhal in an exhausted state. He was sick on the 8th April and died on the 11th. He had stayed at Hardwar from the 20th March. The third, an aged woman from Multan, was ill on the 10th and died on the 14th. She had been at this place only two days before. Dr. Simpson, the Health Officer of Calcutta, was present at this fair. In the first case he failed to detect the presence of *comma bacillus* in the excreta and in the intestinal secretions, considered by some as pathognomonic of cholera. Of others he writes:—

"The history of the two last cases gives one the impression that the symptoms of vomiting and purging had been caused rather by indigestible food and bathing in snow water in the early morning rather than by any specific cause such as obtains in Asiatic cholera."

In that opinion Dr. Simpson is followed by Dr. Hutcheson. For ourselves, we confess we do not know as yet any specific cause of cholera. As for the pathognomonic sign of the presence of *comma bacillus* in cholera evacuations, there are many difficulties in the way of the acceptance of this theory. There are *bacilli* and *bacilli*. The injection or inhalation of *tubercular bacillus* produces tubercle in the lungs, but it is not so with cholera. In most of the cases, the injection of *comma bacillus* produced other effects than cholera.

The occurrence of all these cases of cholera clearly points to the fact of their origin *de novo* at Hardwar instead of their importation from any other place. It is noteworthy that during the whole of the cold weather the outbreak of this disease occurred in the North-West, with special severity in the Kumaun hills along the pilgrim routes. It was so severe that the Civil Surgeon of Saharanpur recommended that the fair should be stopped. The Local Government, after consultation with the Sanitary Commissioner, declined to interfere. Even during the fair, cases were reported from the pilgrim centres at Benares, Fyzabad, Ajodhya, Allahabad and Brindaban. Other cases of cholera, though very few, were in the eastern districts of the N.-W. Provinces during the month of April. Not a single case was reported from the western districts on or after the dispersion of the crowd during this month.

Here, then, is at least one satisfactory experience—a particular instance of sanitary success, which makes for a cheerful view of the matter. It tends to show that cholera is a preventable epidemic. This was insisted upon by Dr. Hutcheson in 1887. There must be a suitable soil for the reception of the germ, and if the germination and growth can be prevented, cholera loses much of its horror. Most diseases are epidemic in some sense or other, under certain conditions, and cholera has no particular epidemicity not shared by the rest. Sporadic cases generally take their rise at first, and if proper precautions are taken the germs are aborted then and there. It has no particular home, being a citizen of the world, and it is most unfortunate that, by the consensus of the faculty, India has been fixed as the habitat of the fell disease. China, Egypt and a few other countries also, have the same tale to tell: sporadic cases of cholera having a suitable medium for propagation spread the disease in all directions. Everywhere the origin of epidemic is the same.

The observation of sanitary rules prevented the

spread of cholera, though the danger of an epidemic was apprehended by many persons of repute. Dr. Jackson, with reference to the fair of 1879, pointed out that cholera does not owe its rise to the vast concourse of people but depends on a prevailing epidemic influence.

This epidemic is always preceded by cases of cholera in the commencement of the preceding cold season. Such was the case in 1867, 1879 and also in 1891. It was for this reason that both the Civil Surgeon and the District authorities of Saharanpur were alarmed and wanted to stop the gathering altogether.

After the outbreak of 1879, the Government of India, in a Resolution dated the 7th February 1880, stated that the advisability of the prohibition of the fair in future would be considered on the approach of another such occasion. On the 4th November 1890, the Lieutenant-Governor called for a report to be furnished before the end of February and it was accordingly submitted by Dr. Hutcheson. In this he advised the use of every endeavour to dissuade the general public from proceeding to Hardwar, inasmuch as cholera had appeared among the pilgrims at Allahabad during the *Mag mela* and it was on the move towards Hardwar itself. A Government order was issued, on the 5th of February, on all Magistrates and Deputy Commissioners to use their influence to dissuade the public from visiting the sacred shrine. On the 28th of the same month, in another report, Dr. Hutcheson advised the Government that

"it would be highly inexpedient for many reasons to prohibit the assemblage, a gathering which, while it is attended with great risk and danger, is, and had always been a religious function of great importance to almost every section of the Hindu community."

The Lieutenant-Governor was also of opinion that only on extreme emergency such a step would be justifiable. Such opinions, no doubt, reflect great credit on men whose slight hint on the contrary could put an end to this religious gathering, considered so essential by the Hindus and held from time immemorial. That such a suggestion should have been under serious consideration of Government, is most disheartening and exposes the frail tenure of our rights and institutions.

This suggestion was due to the Constantinople Congress of 1864. The object was not to save India, but to prevent the spread of cholera from this country to Europe, the Indian shrines being taken for granted as the producers and promulgators as well, of cholera. The Congress recommended the regulation of Indian pilgrimages by sanitary cordons, in addition to the steps to be taken by the Sanitary Commissioners, but a subsequent commission appointed by the Government to consider the recommendations, would not advise its adoption. The measure was abandoned not only for the hardship that must be entailed by it but also for its inefficacy. It was a dangerous game to follow even for safety. Simply the obstruction to traffic which must have been caused, would have increased the price of food, and this itself would have been a sufficient cause to generate cholera from the people being compelled to a bad diet, with the consequent increase of mortality. To save somewhat the honour of the Congress, some rules and regulations were published in the direction which already existed. They consisted of precepts for the improvement of the

"sanitary condition of the town near which the fair is held, and of the lodging houses in the town especially as regards overcrowding and in some instances in improvement in the shrine itself; warning issued to the people of the danger they incurred, systematic preparation of the sites to be occupied before the people arrive, the provision of temporary latrines and urinals, and of sweepers and carts for

cleansing, and the enforcement of cleanliness; protection of the water sources, supervision of the food for sale, the orderly arrangement of cattle, medical subordinates with the necessary medicines at different points, and the establishment of temporary hospitals; a watch over pilgrims arriving, not only at the locality itself, but at various distant branch roads and railways, with the view of detecting at once any contagious disorder."

The Congress of Rome in 1885, which leaned more in this direction, declared land quarantine useless. For sea quarantine, it was determined that no vessel was to be detained for more than five days unless cholera had actually occurred or there was a great suspicion of it. The period during which the cholera germ may remain latent was ascertained to be not more than two or three days. So of a ship proceeding to the Hedjas, this period is not to be taken in account, as the vessel takes longer time to reach its destination. Therefore, the fear of transmitting cholera to Europe from the Haj pilgrimage is entirely without any foundation. It was not so with the Indian pilgrimages. Some of the medical dictators without any hesitation urged the Indian Government to put a stop to such trifles, lest cholera may be conveyed to Europe from Indian shrines. They were so blind-folded as not to see the obvious. If cholera could not be transported to Europe by persons proceeding to Mecca, how was it possible for the same disease to be transported to Europe, when it was confining itself to India alone? The Indian pilgrimages are resorted to by the Hindus who have practically no shrines outside the limits of the Indian territories. To make their proposition more absurd they found out a clue for such transmission. The route for the travels of the cholera germs to Europe is now said to lie through land and not by sea.

The recent spread of the cholera epidemic in Europe, has been asserted by many of the doctors to have proceeded through Cashmere, Turkistan, the Transcaspian provinces and thence to Europe. This bold assertion was made as if with the full knowledge of the broad and easy means of communication from India to Russia, without reflecting that the vast tract of country north of Cashmere, the greater portion of which yet remains unexplored, and the mountainous roads, are not easy of access.

We are glad to find that this view of ours is in consonance with Sir W. Moore's written in the October number of the *Asiatic Quarterly Review*. He says,

"that cholera occurs in Persia, or on the Caspian, or in some country west of India, is no reason that it must have been imported from India. While experience shows that cholera may be imported, there is equal reason for the statement that it may occur irrespective of importation. It often breaks out in localities and villages, where communication with infected places could not possibly have taken place. Notwithstanding the many theories, the precise cause of cholera, as of various other diseases, is yet unknown."

The suddenness of the attack of cholera without any ascertained cause, is also described by Sir Joseph Fayrer in his book on "The Natural History and Epidemiology of Cholera." In the case of a ship of the late East India Company while proceeding up the China Sea, men fell on deck as if struck by lightning, and the attack suddenly ceased three days after. The water for drinking purpose was quite safe from contamination and was used for three months just after leaving England. The outbreak on board H. M. S. *Undaunted* occurred also when it was passing down the China Sea. The number of cases were gradually increasing, and at the end of three days it suddenly ceased as soon as the course of the vessel was changed. All these facts clearly illustrate that there is something in the outbreak of an epidemic

which is yet ill understood, and still there are many who are so prejudiced that they pretend clearly to see the cholera germs travelling from one place to another. With their prejudged opinion they do not hesitate to lay the fault on another's shoulder. Anyhow they must trace the mischief home to India, without thinking that there are worse places in Asia, and even in Europe, in point of cleanliness. They do not hold to the air-borne theory of cholera as it is now, out of fashion, and except human intercourse nothing is left for them to ascertain its communicability. As yet there are no preventive measures against its spread excepting local sanitary arrangements.

The land quarantine has been pronounced to be useless by Sanitary Congresses. Still there is the supposed danger from Indian shrines, so pilgrimages must be put a stop to. This kind of dogmatic assertion ill comports with men who profess to be scientific and to keep their conscience clear from surrounding influences. Freedom of thought in science is in name only. It is unfortunate enough that India is the scape-goat in matters political, but now, it appears, she must submit to suffer in all others, not excepting measures of sanitary reforms. They dread to put a stop to the Haj pilgrimage, but Hindu is weak, and to stop the Hindu pilgrims visiting Indian shrines, is easily decided upon.

So far so with the Kumbh Mela of 1891. It remains to be seen why there was the epidemic spread in the Maha Baruni Mela of the 26th March 1892. This fair took place twenty seven years after and it did not occur after any regular interval, and no particular care was taken by the sanitary authorities beforehand. As a consequence, cholera broke out and resulted in the dispersion of the crowd. We are not entering into the alleged arbitrary proceedings and high-handed oppressions that followed, but it is to be pointed out that, notwithstanding this act of segregation, the prevention of the spread of the epidemic proved a failure. No doubt, it would sound very well that for the sake of India, the adoption of such a step was necessary, if the principle of isolation could be effective. By the dispersion of such a large gathering we only prevent the outbreak in a particular locality, but thereby spread the source of contagion in different directions. Persons who are already attacked with cholera will each form a focus of its outspread towards all sides. Segregation is very good indeed when we can sufficiently take care of men who have already got the disease, so as to prevent its dissemination, otherwise it is useless. It is only possible when the number is limited. Everything has its proper sphere of action, and the principle of segregation ought to have its limit.

#### A TURKISH DIGNITARY IN LIVERPOOL.

##### MOSLEMS IN CONGRESS.

Liverpool has just been visited by Ibrahim Hakki Bey, Imperial Commissioner from the Ottoman Empire to the Chicago Exposition. His Excellency, who arrived in Liverpool on Thursday evening by the Teutonic, is an accomplished linguist. On Friday morning he visited the local law courts, and was much interested in the English forms of legal procedure, differing so much as they do from the mode adopted in continental nations and in the Ottoman dominions. Subsequently at the invitation of Mr. Baron L. Benas he visited the Athenæum Library and Newsroom, and in the evening had a private box at the Circus, West Derby-road, where Professor Norton B. Smith is giving an exhibition of horse taming. On Friday morning he visited the Moslem School College, and was introduced to the masters and chief pupils. He also attended the Zuhar Nimuz, at which service Mr. H. H. Yayhar, late of the Imperial Naval College, Constantinople, officiated as Imaum. The afternoon was devoted to visiting the Underground Railway, Birk-

enhead Docks, New Brighton, and driving through Prince's, Sefton, and Newsham Parks. In the evening his Excellency attended the Jumma service at the Mosque, where he was received by a large number of Mahomedans, both natives of Liverpool and visitors. After the Isha Nimaz, at which Hadji Said Adam officiated as Muezzin and Mr. Ali Mokiash, of Damascus, as Imaum, a meeting was held in one of the rooms of the institution.---Mr. W. H. Quilliam, who presided, said, on behalf of the local Moslem fraternity, that he had great pleasure in welcoming a gentleman so thoroughly possessed of the confidence of his Sovereign as Hakki Bey did to Liverpool. Islam was a deep bond of brotherhood, and they had only to look round the room that night to see followers of God and His prophet from countries most remote, from nations and races most dissimilar, speaking different languages, but one in Islam. They had all just knelt together in prayer, the Turk, Russian, Syrian, Arabian, Moor, Indian, Egyptian, and members of every nationality in the British Isles, and had uttered the words and followed the ceremonies taught 13 centuries ago by the Son of the Desert, the last and greatest of the prophets. (Applause.)

Mr. Mustapha Karsa, the president of the institute, moved the following resolution:---"That this meeting of Mussulmans welcomes our distinguished brother, Hakki Bey, to Liverpool, and wishes him a safe return to Constantinople." He (the speaker) was a Syrian Arab, but had long dwelt in England, and had become acclimatised, but though he had got used to the climate, manners, customs, and dress of the English people, he had never forgotten or changed the faith in which he was born. In Liverpool now they had over 80 Moslems, and in Manchester nearly 50. Through the labours of their president they had become united for work and usefulness, and he believed even a greater success would come in the future. Liverpool and Manchester combined had given the first railway system and had thus benefited the whole of Great Britain, and Liverpool and Manchester were the pioneers in the English Moslem movement, which would be of equal benefit to the country. (Applause.)

Mr. Yeliya M'Quinn seconded the motion. He had been brought up as a Scotch Presbyterian, and what had first disgusted him with Christianity was the alcoholic drink question. Islam denounced intemperance and gambling, and taught men a practical religion, and that was what was required nowadays.

Mr. G. Mitchell moved "That this meeting desires to express to his Imperial Majesty the Sultan of Turkey and Caliph of the Faithful and Defender of the True Faith their best wishes for his long life and prosperity."

Mr. G. Khalid Smith, in seconding the resolution, said, as one of the first converts, he was astounded at the progress they had made. He remembered when Mr. Quilliam could not get an audience of even a dozen to listen to a discourse on Islam, and now inquiries were made right and left as to what Islam was, and their explanatory pamphlets were distributed by hundreds.

Mr. L. R. Nabakoff (who spoke in Russian) said it would appear strange that a Russian and an old Crimean soldier, who had fought against the English and Turks at Sebastopol, should support a resolution like this, but Islam knew no distinction between nations. The Czar was his political Sovereign, but the Sultan was the Caliph of the Faithful and a worthy successor of Abu Bekr and Omar. Islam was spreading rapidly even in Russia, and they had mosques in St. Petersburg and other large cities.

Mr. Thomas Omar Byrne said he was an Irishman, but could not speak Irish like the last speaker could Russian, but, however, wished their visitor a "Cead mille failthe."

Mr. Syed Hasan, of Hyderabad, then delivered an address in Urdu. The Moslems of India held the Sultan in the highest respect, and were much interested in the welfare of the Turkish empire. They were loyal to the Queen as Empress of India, but to the Sultan as Caliph of the Faithful.

Hadji Said Adam (who spoke in Arabic) said that as a native of Mecca, the birthplace of the Prophet, he could assure Hakki Bey, the representative of his Imperial Majesty, that the whole of Arabia cried "Wara-a-Sultan" (long live the Sultan).

Other speeches were delivered in support of the motions (which were carried) by Mr. H. H. Johnson, in classical Greek; Hadji Ibrahim, of Cairo, in the Egyptian dialect of the Arabic; Mr. Hedley Wilde, on behalf of the school; Mr. L. A. E. Thomas, in Welsh; Mr. H. H. Yehya, in Turkish; Mr. H. E. Gnesus, in Moorish; and Mr. N. Actophobus, in modern Greek.

His Excellency Hakki Bey, in replying, said that he thanked them for their kind wishes, and would take care that their second resolution was duly forwarded to his Imperial Majesty through his chamberlain. It would be out of place for him to eulogise the Sovereign he served, and who was a worthy successor of the mighty Othman, the great Mahommed the conqueror, and the gracious Suliman. His Majesty, and in fact all Turks, were interested not only in the movement in England but throughout the world. As Caliph His Majesty's heart beat in unison with all true Mussulmans wherever they dwelt. In Liverpool they saw history repeating itself. Every incident of the propaganda here was simply a repetition of what had occurred in Mecca centuries

ago. The scoffs and jeers, the violence of the bigoted mob and the veiled hostility of others---all this had been endured by the first Moslems in the time of the Prophet. If he were to draw a parallel between these events he could easily do so. Their president (Mr. Quilliam) they regarded in Turkey as the Omar of England---the man who had dared to stand alone and to lead where others had feared to tread. (Applause.) Another happy augury, he thought, was the appointment of a negro as one of their muezzins. The first muezzin of the Prophet was a negro, and at the taking of Jerusalem by Omar the same negro gave the Azan. Perhaps the time was not far off when Abdullah Quilliam could open a mosque in the metropolis of England, and his black muezzin give the Azan. (Laughter and applause.) He (the speaker) had been most pleased with their institution, and more especially with their school. That was, perhaps, the most important step they had yet taken. Let their children be brought up as Moslems, give them a good all-round education, and the future of Islam in England was assured. (Loud applause.)

His Excellency left Liverpool for London by the early morning train on Saturday.---The *Liverpool Mercury*, Nov. 14.

## TRIAL BY JURY IN BENGAL.

At the same time it remains to be proved that any alteration was required in criminal procedure. On the face of it there are strong objections to anything of the kind. It has been truly said that in a country like India, a country despotically governed, frequent tampering with the law, whether the institution interfered with be good or evil, is a sign to the people of the sickle temper of the despot. It is true, no doubt, that Sir Charles Elliott, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, regards trial by jury as most unsuitable to Indian conditions. It appears, moreover, that a majority of the officials serving under him are more or less of the same opinion. The Lieutenant-Governor declares that if the result of thirty years' experience could have been foreseen, no advocate would have been found for introducing this Western institution into the country. Yet more solid reasons than this must be adduced to justify the policy of tinkering; and it is not easy to discover such reasons. Juries will at times administer doubtful justice in England; it is hardly wonderful if they are occasionally at fault in Bengal. A reference to official returns elicits the fact that in the course of one year the sessions judges approved of the verdict of the Bengal jury in 230 out of 285 trials. In twenty cases a reference to the High Court was deemed advisable, and in thirteen out of these cases the verdict of the jury was reversed. There would not seem to have been any alarming miscarriage of justice. Where the verdict of a jury is patently wrong or perverse, the High Court can set it aside. We need not disguise the fact that of late years there has been rather an alarming increase of crime in Bengal. The number of murders in a twelvemonth rose from 319 to 360. There has been what the official report calls a remarkable recrudescence of dacoity, or gang robbery. Some people may be surprised to learn, too, that Lynch law is frequently resorted to in certain parts of Bengal. A housebreaker caught in the act has but a faint chance of escaping with his life. A pilfering rustic was slowly beaten to death by his fellow-villagers. A local bully who, for some offence or other, had been sent to prison by a sessions judge, and released on appeal by the High Court, was waylaid while coming home and murdered. The murderers set up a skilful *alibi* and got off scot-free. But there is nothing to show that either these particular cases or the increase of crime generally can be connected in any way with the alleged failure of the jury system. Adequate proofs of this failure are awaited with some interest.

What will perhaps strike the English reader as the oddest feature of the situation is the off-hand manner in which alterations can be made in criminal procedure in India---alterations which, though not to be regarded as revolutionary or extensive, are nevertheless sufficiently striking to arouse opposition in the country and more than a faint interest in England. Surely there were ways of preparing public opinion, if not of conciliating it. The measures now resolved on have been contemplated by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and his advisers for the past two years and more; yet the public hears nothing till the orders are actually in the *Gazette*. There are often, in a country like India, measures of State which need to be carried out with promptitude and decision, and without even a pretence of deferring to the popular voice. Nor is it always easy to ascertain beforehand what will be thought and said of a new departure till the reform is in operation. It may be added that the Bengal Government should be very careful just now to avoid any needless irritation of public opinion. Sir Charles Elliott is committed to a policy which will provoke, and is already provoking, the hottest opposition in Bengal. The revenue survey of Behar is regarded with angry suspicion and dislike by an influential class of the community; and it will tax the strength and resources of his Government to the utmost to conduct it to a successful issue.---*St. James's Gazette*.

### CAPTAIN HEARSEY AND SIR AUCKLAND COLVIN.

Captain Hearsey applied on Monday for a warrant for the arrest of Sir Auckland Colvin for libel in the court of the Joint Magistrate of Benares, Mr. C. L. Porter.

On the Magistrate taking his seat and calling for applications Captain Hearsey said he had an application to make, and handed it in.

The Magistrate after glancing over it said: Have you any affidavits in support of this application?

Captain Hearsey: No, but I have sufficient other evidence by which I am in a position to make out a *prima facie* case. I claim under section 200 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to have my evidence taken on oath, and as the accused, Sir Auckland Colvin, has absconded and left the country that my witnesses should be heard under section 512 in corroboration of my statement.

The Magistrate: You presented this petition formerly to Mr. Brereton.

Captain Hearsey: I did; but as he did not comply with the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code and examine me on oath, whatever orders he passed are null and void.

The Magistrate: On what date did you file this application before Mr. Brereton?

Captain Hearsey: On the 29th of November, I believe.

The Magistrate: As the Honorable the Chief Justice has refused your application I also refuse it.

Captain Hearsey: This court will be pleased to remember that the Chief Justice refused to grant the warrant as there was no evidence before him. I now come with evidence sufficient to make out a *prima facie* case against the accused. This is a perfectly fresh application and as Mr. Brereton took no evidence in the first instance, whatever was done in his court is null and void, and I am quite within my rights in asking to be examined on oath under section 200, which says: "A magistrate taking cognizance of an offence or complaint shall at once examine the complainant upon oath and the substance of the examination reduced to writing."

This was not done in the District Magistrate's court, and, therefore, the proceedings are invalid, and I call upon the court to do so now with regard to the witnesses. I have a right also to have them heard, as the accused has absconded and left the country, although he was aware that an application had been made for a warrant for his arrest. Vide section 512:—"If it be proved that an accused person has absconded and that there is no immediate prospect of arresting him, the Court competent to try or commit for trial such person for the offences complained of may in his absence examine the witnesses (if any) produced on behalf of the prosecution." The Chief Justice's order was that there was no evidence. I have now sufficient evidence to go on with, and I claim a hearing and a compliance with sections 200 and 512 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The Magistrate: I will read my order:—"Order passed on the application of A. W. Hearsey, Captain, dated 12th December, 1892. This is an application identical with that presented to Mr. Brereton on November 29th last. That application was rejected. An application for revision of this order presented to the Honorable High Court was also rejected. Captain Hearsey now applies to be examined on oath. He informs me that he has no affidavits to support the allegations contained in his petition. That being the case, I do not see how I can be expected to take any further steps. The application is rejected."

On Tuesday Captain Hearsey made an application on the Criminal Revision side of the Judge's Court at Benares against the order of the Joint-Magistrate refusing to record complainant's evidence under section 200 and the testimony of witnesses under section 512. The Judge pointed out that section 197 required superior authority. Captain Hearsey replied that under paragraph four of the same section superior authority was not required. The defamation was against a private individual, and no one would be safe from defamation by a public servant if the law was not complied with. It would be a scandal to common justice if a warrant were not granted for Sir Auckland Colvin's arrest. The Judge, having taken the documents to peruse them, said he would pass orders to-morrow morning.—The Morning Post.

### TO THE SHERIFF OF CALCUTTA.

SIR,—We, the undersigned residents of Calcutta and the Suburbs, beg to request that you will be so good as to convene a public meeting at the Town Hall on an early date to protest against the recent Notification of the Government of Bengal with reference to trial by jury in the Mafassil.

We have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your obedient servants,

Jotendra Mohun Tagore,  
Norendra Krishna,  
Durga Churn Law,  
H. B. H. Turner,  
W. O. Bell Irving,  
Rajendra Narain Deb,  
Peary Mohun Mukerji,  
Ramesh Chunder Mitter,  
W. B. Gladstone,  
Jas. Stevenson,  
Mir Mahomed Ali,  
L. P. Pugh,  
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C. P. Hill,  
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Debendro Mullick,  
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Surajmull Jhunjunwala,  
Rajkumar Sarvadhikari,  
Janaki Nath Roy,  
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Jyogobind Law,  
Romanath Ghose,  
Nanda Lal Bose,  
Kunjo Lal Banerji,  
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Kumud Kissen Mitter,  
J. Ghosal,  
William Graham,  
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N. H. T. Becker,  
J. E. D. Ezra,  
Sambhu C. Mookerjee,  
Jogesh Chunder Dutt,  
Serajul Islam,  
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Calcutta, the 15th December, 1892.

In compliance with the above requisition, I hereby convene a public meeting of the residents of Calcutta and the Suburbs to be held at the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 20th day of December, 1892, at the hour of 4.30 P.M.

WILLIAM CURRIE,  
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AND

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# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND  
REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER, 24, 1892.

No. 554

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### LIVE IT DOWN.

'There is a future for all who have the virtue to repent and the energy to atone.'—BULWER-LYTTON.

YES, your fault has blighted your name;  
Such disgrace is hard to bear;  
Yet for you there is still a dim,  
Which should be your constant care—  
You must learn to live it down.

True, the cloud is like a pall;  
Error ever weaves such things;  
But the sky is over all;  
Morn has light upon its wings,  
If you only live it down.

Yes, I know men look askance,  
Dreading any stain to touch;  
Women, with a wondering glance,  
Fear to pity overmuch;  
Still, I tell you—live it down.

Patient be; with spirit meek,  
Bear rebuffs a little while,  
Till true friends shall kindly speak,  
Meeting you with sunny smile,  
Saying you can live it down.

Lab'ring Oh, the worth of work,  
Chasing bitter thoughts away!  
Never any duty shirk  
Which arises day by day;  
That is how to live it down.

Ask forgiveness—and forgive,  
Yet indulge not memories dark;  
For you still may nobly live,  
Though for once you missed the mark—  
If you strive to live it down.

'Tis not easy? That I own;  
'What is easy that has worth?  
'Life is struggle, hid or known,  
Even from the hour of birth;  
Yours the task to live it down.

I have cheered you? That is well;  
You will ponder on my words—  
So you say; and I can tell  
They have reached some answering chords.  
Yes, I know you'll live it down.

Till the wrong may be forgot,  
Or remembered only be  
Like a half-erased blot,  
Which men do not care to see—  
When indeed you've lived it down!

CAMILLA CROSLAND.

### IT IS WELL.

'Is it well with thee, and with thy husband, and with the child?'  
And she said, 'It is well.'—2 Kings, iv. 26.

YES; it is well! The evening shadows lengthen;  
Home's golden gates shine on our ravished sight;  
And though the tender ties we strove to strengthen  
Break one by one—at evening-time 'tis light.

'Tis well! The way was often dark and weary;  
The night times oft beneath its load;  
No sunshine came from skies all grey and dreary,  
And yet our feet were bound to tread that road.

'Tis well that not again our hearts shall shiver  
Beneath old sorrows, once so hard to bear;  
That not again beside Death's darksome river  
Shall we deplore the good, the loved, the fair.

No more with tears, wrought from deep, inner anguish,  
Shall we bewail the dear Hopes crushed and gone;  
No more need we in doubt or fear to languish;  
So far the Day is past, the journey done!

As voyagers, by fierce winds beat and broken,  
Come into port, beneath a calmer sky,  
So we, still bearing on our brows the token  
Of tempest past, draw to our Haven nigh.

A sweet air cometh from the Shore immortal,  
Inviting Homeward at the day's decline;  
Almost we see where from the open portal  
Fair forms stand beckoning with their smiles divine.

'Tis well! The Earth with all her myriad voices  
Has lost the power our senses to enthrall;  
We hear, above the tumult and the noises,  
Soft tones of music, like an angel's call.

'Tis well, O friends! We would not turn—retracing  
The long vain years, nor call our lost youth back;  
Gladly, with spirits braced, the future facing,  
We leave behind the dusty, foot-worn track.

Subscribers to the *Reis and Rayyet* are requested to send by parcel money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly if it involves international remittance through the Department. No other receipt will be given, and other forms being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

## WEEKLYANA.

A MERRY Christmas to our Christian readers—one and all.  
The Peace of the Season to our rulers.

THE Currency agitation has added to the costliness of the Christmas this year. A Bombay confectioner writes to a Quetta customer: "I regret that I have been compelled to raise the price of Xmas cakes this year owing to the rate of exchange. The price of ingredients has risen very high."

THE grand metropolitan demonstration on the Jury Notification, came off on Tuesday the 20th December, at the Town-Hall. Maharaja Doorga Churn Law, the President of the British Indian Association, presided, and the meeting adopted the following Resolutions:—

## RESOLUTION I.

That this Meeting desires to enter its respectful but firm protest against the Notification of Government, dated the 20th October, 1892, by which the right of trial of the most serious offences by jury has been withdrawn in those districts of Bengal to which that system of trial was extended thirty years ago, this withdrawal being contrary to the principles which guide the administration of criminal justice wherever British Law is introduced, and tending to disturb the trust of the people in the good faith and intentions of the Government.

Proposed by The Hon'ble Dr. Mahendralal Sircar, C.I.E.  
Seconded by Mr. L. P. Pugh.

## RESOLUTION II.

That this Meeting also desires to enter its emphatic protest against the manner in which a valued right, that has been possessed for more than a generation, has been withdrawn from the people by an executive order of the Local Government taking effect after an interval of only five clear days, and to express its profound regret that no opportunity was afforded the public to consider a matter of such grave importance to them, and of submitting their views thereon to Government.

Proposed by Babu Jadu Lal Mullick.  
Seconded by Mr. H. B. H. Turner.

## RESOLUTION III.

That this Meeting is of opinion that Section 269 of the Code of Criminal Procedure should be so amended that Local Governments may not be able in future, in times of tranquillity and peace, to take away by an executive order one of the greatest safeguards of the liberty of the subject.

Proposed by Mr. Lal Mohun Ghosh.  
Seconded by Mr. Wm. Jackson.

## RESOLUTION IV.

That the Memorial now before the Meeting be adopted and forwarded under the signature of the Chairman of the Meeting to the Local Government with the request that it be submitted through the proper channel to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India in Council, for consideration by Her Majesty's Government; and, that a Committee consisting of the following gentlemen, with power to add to their number, be formed to take such action as may be deemed necessary for the purpose of bringing about the ultimate withdrawal of the Notification.

Proposed by Moulvi Sirajul Islam, Khan Bahadur.  
Seconded by Mr. Abu Reza.

We have no space for the Committee (which is a very large one, consisting of 165 Europeans and Indians,) or the Memorial (which is scarcely worth the honor).

At Sialkot, a goldsmith has been arrested on a charge of manufacturing and offering for sale old coins of the Muhamadan dynasty. A rather extensive manufacture of old coins goes on throughout the country.

FOR beating a prisoner in the jail to death, the Sessions Judge of Quetta sentenced a Pathan to transportation for life. He managed however to be admitted into the Civil Hospital for treatment of a self-inflicted wound on the neck. While there he effected his escape through a drain for escape of water.

THE Lieutenant-Governor has permitted the opening, in the Midnapore District, of separate accounts of cesses payable by registered holders of revenue-free estates.

AFTER a service of over quarter of a century, Mr. C. H. Tawney retires from the Educational Department from the 26th December. He came out as a Professor and ends as Principal of the Presidency College and officiating Director of Public Instruction. Dr. C. A. Martin, Inspector of Schools, Bihar Circle, will now officiate as Director of Public Instruction.

MESSRS. J. Gardner and Sons, surgical instrument makers, Edinburgh, have made a new Trephine to the order, and from the design, of a Singalese student prosecuting his medical studies at Aberdeen. This is Mr. A. Rujasingham, a son of Mr. A. S. Nicholas, Chief Clerk of the Chamma Kacheri. He has described the Improved Trephine and asserted its advantages in the *British Medical Journal*. Where are our continental inventors?

WE take the following from the last annual Report on small-pox of the Local Government Board for Ireland presented to the both Houses of Parliament:—

"In the month of January a young sailor R. M. came through Liverpool to Belfast from Newport (Monmouth) where his ship had been paid off on the 10th. This ship on her homeward voyage from Calcutta had touched at Genoa, and had remained for some days at Marseilles, where her crew spent much time ashore. R. M., on or immediately after, his arrival in Belfast on the 13th of January, was in the vesicular stage of the eruption attending an attack of modified small-pox, and in that condition he secured lodgings in Whitla-street. The house in which he took up abode was kept by three young women, sisters, and they were admitted into the Work-house Hospital on the 4th February, suffering from small-pox. From that date to the 31st March, 22 cases of small-pox occurred in Belfast. On the 17th January, R. M., who appears never to have been so ill as to keep his bed, paid a visit to Ballymena and remained there until the 22nd. His visit to Ballymena was followed by 6 cases of small-pox. On the 20th of January, he went from Ballymena to Castledawson in Magherafelt Union and slept there for that night. This visit was followed by 9 cases of small-pox, of which two proved fatal.

"In the interests of the public health we desire to draw attention to the insufficiency of the protection afforded by the primary vaccination performed upon those who took the disease. From the report of Dr. Stafford (Inspector, Medical Board for Belfast, Ballymena and Magherafelt) submitted to the Local Board, it will be observed that amongst the 37 cases of small-pox recorded, the marks of primary vaccination did not in any single instance come up to Masson's standard of good vaccination. The recent outbreak of small-pox in Ulster shows that R. M. moved about amongst a population inadequately protected against small-pox. The protective influence of vaccination in infancy declines as years elapse, and adult members of the community presenting only two marks of primary vaccination can not with impunity (unless they have been re-vaccinated) come in contact with a person suffering from even the mildest form of modified small-pox. Masson's researches respecting post-vaccinal small-pox clearly prove that it is the duty of all vaccinators to perform the operation in such a manner as to produce four or five typical cicatrices and thus to afford to every infant the maximum degree of protection against the danger of contracting small-pox in adult life."

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WE read the following in an Anglo-Indian journal, contributed by its London staff:—

"Those who know the member for Cardiff only as a vigorous, and perhaps somewhat expostulatory debater, will probably not be prepared to hear that he is a poet with a true poet's sensitiveness to metre. The other day Sir Edward Reed penned some stanzas upon the late Lord Tennyson, but in the published version the honourable knight was made to rhyme 'divine' with 'time.' Sir Edward seeing this promptly set the telegraph to work wiring 'For mercy's sake, relieve me of the opprobrium of having rhymed 'divine' with 'time.' The former word should have been 'sublime.' Pray correct—Sir Edward Reed." This manifests an alertness as to rhythmic accuracy which is quite commendable."

In commending the alertness to rhythmic accuracy of the Member for Cardiff, the writer himself shows his own failure in alertness in philologic accuracy. Indeed, there was no question of rhythmic accuracy in this matter. Sir E. Reed has a good ear, no doubt, and he was anxious not to pass a faulty rhyme. It was a matter of rhythmic accuracy, not rhythmic.

..

ANOTHER terrible engine of destruction has been invented—a gun whose firing and, of course, killing capacity transcends the record. The inventor is no other than the same Herr Ferdinand Ritter von Mannlicher whose celebrated repeating rifle is the pride of the

Austrian Army. Reuter's literary representative at Vienna after describing the mechanism, says :—

"A touch of the trigger of the automatic repeater, and the breech-bolt flies back into its closed position. Then followed five piercingly sharp explosions, and the empty clip dropped ringing from the magazine on the floor. The explosions seemed instantaneous. Barely one and-a-half seconds to come down from the 'present' to the 'ready' position, to insert another clip; and then five more shots banged forth in the same limit of time. There is no more recoil than in the case of a rook rifle. The mechanism seems to absorb the 'kick.' The breech-bolt flies backwards and forwards at every discharge, ejecting the used-up smokeless powder cartridge, and pushing home a fresh one from the magazine. The eye cannot follow the movement, so instantaneous does it seem. And there is no escape of gas. In the hands of its inventor the rifle can discharge about 120 rounds per minute. The barrel becomes hot, but not so hot as to render the rifle useless for a time. According to Herr von Mannlicher, his automatic rifle is not at the present time suited for general use by the infantry, on account of the difficulties still encountered in supplying ammunition to the rank and file in the field in sufficient quantities. On shipboard, however, the rifle would be extremely serviceable."

To end the criminal prosecutions, arising out of the late general municipal elections, against Sheikh Bachu and himself, Baboo Preonath Mullick resigned his seat in the Calcutta Corporation. His resignation was followed by the death of Pandit Prannath Saraswati, another municipal Commissioner. At the bye-election for the two vacancies thus caused, Baboo Preonath offered himself a candidate and was elected at the head of the poll. This roused the indignation of those who wanted to keep, and thought they had succeeded in keeping, him out of the Board, at least till the next general elections. They looked about and decided upon revival of the old prosecution, if possible. But that being withdrawn, a newcomer was available to renew the old proceedings. An application was therefore made on behalf of Aukhoy Coomar Dutt, a rate-payer, to the District Judge of Alipore for fresh sanction to prosecute the Baboo and the Sheikh on the old charges of perjury and abetment of personation. The Judge refused the application saying it was too late. He at the same time thought that Baboo Preonath was not well advised in seeking re-election. We are afraid his pursuers will allow him no rest till he again submits to terms. We shall not wonder if the present applicant goes up to the High Court.

HAVING a pressing engagement at Plymouth, the Duke of Edinburgh came for the ordinary train at Port Eliot, but missed it. He then got into the next fish train, and was accommodated in the guard's van where he was quite at ease, "charming the railway man with his affability."

To secure to himself the fortune that was his daughter's, a rich landowner in Vienna, by name Foster, gave out, in 1860, that she was dead, while in fact she was confined in a dark cave on his estate. The Police has just come upon the place where the avaricious father had secreted his daughter and rescued her.

At Tonnerre, in August, Coulinge, a youth of nineteen, conceived a passion for his mistress, Madame Héralut, the wife of a nurseryman. One evening, in the absence of the master, the youthful servant opened his heart to the mistress which was not reciprocated. Incensed at the repulse, Coulinge took up a hatchet and hacked Madame Héralut to death. Next morning he gave himself up to the gendarmes. He was tried before the Assizes of the Department of the Yonne and sentenced to penal servitude for life.

MISS Eva Frear, of Poughkeepsie, New York, has sued the New York Central and Hudson River Railway Company for 50,000 dollars by way of damages for breach of marriage—by causing the death of one Bagnall who had promised to marry her. On that promise she was entitled to have him as her husband and supporter. Now that husband is no more, the company must find her the means of support.

RUSSIA manufactures annually 30,000,000 wooden spoons.

THE wealth of the world has been calculated at 60,000 million pounds sterling. The wealthiest country on the list is the United States with 12,000 millions. Next comes the United Kingdom with 10,000, France following with 8,000.

JUST before his death, the late Duke of Marlborough wrote an article for the *Fortnightly Review*, "On The Art of Living." "The Art of Dying" would have been a more appropriate subject for him who was such an exemplar of it.

## NOTES & LEADERETTES

### with OUR OWN NEWS.

THE question of the hour in France is the Panama Scandal. The most eminent citizens, including members of Parliament of both Houses, are more or less openly charged with corruption in connection with the Panama Canal Company. A Committee of Enquiry was appointed which brought to light systematic bribery in high places. It was then proposed to confer judicial powers on the Committee. At the end of a stormy debate, the bill was by the utmost efforts of the ministry thrown out by a majority of six, after the Government promised to prosecute the Directors and others criminally. Young Lesseps and Fontane, Directors of the Company, are under arrest. Cottu, another Director, has fled. Old Lesseps has been left untouched out of humanity for his great age and low health. They are all charged with corrupting Deputies, one of whom Sensleroy has fled.

The telegram from Paris dated 20th December is as follows :—

"M. Cottu has surrendered himself here. Government has asked leave of both Houses to prosecute Senators Renault, Grévy, and Berul, ex-Ministers Thevenet and Deves, Deputies Proust, Arene, and Dugue, and ex-Ministers Rouvier, Rochi, and Proust.

A furious debate took place in the Chamber upon the Committee's report favouring the prosecution. M. Rouvier denied receiving bribes, but said that he took money from personal friends to supply a deficiency in the secret service funds, which were inadequate.

The Boulangists, M.M. Deroulede and Millevoys, vehemently attacked M. Clemenceau, accusing him of receiving money from the Panama Canal Company. M. Clemenceau denied the charge, and the epithets 'liars' and 'slanders' were exchanged. The meeting was adjourned without passing a vote."

The Chamber of Deputies have since agreed to the prosecution of the Senators and Deputies. Arrests are being made. M. Floquet was implicated, but he denied before the Committee receipt of anything from the Canal Company.

For the attack on himself, M. Clemenceau challenged M. Deroulede to a duel, which was accepted but proved abortive. Three shots were exchanged at twenty-five paces, neither of the combatants being hit or hurt. Thus honour was saved without a scratch, and conscience is—nowhere.

MESSRS. Limpman & Co., jute merchants of Dundee, have failed with a liability of £250,000.

THIS week, after the Town Hall demonstration, the Government of India mailed its first formal despatch on the jury business.

THE *Englishman* reports the result of what it calls the preliminary enquiry into the Magura schoolboys' case which was brought to public notice three months back :—

"A small steamer, it appears, plies on alternate days of the week from Nowapara, a station on the Jessore-Khulna Railway, to Magura, where it arrives late at night, mooring close to a boarding house for pupils attending the Magura Higher English School. The schoolboys seem to have been in the habit of going on board the steamer, and on one occasion a dispute occurred between them and the serang. At the next visit they appear to have stolen down to the bank and set the steamer adrift. The vessel was carried down stream for some distance, coming into collision with a country boat, which it sank; and although the khalasis were eventually able to secure the vessel, it had a narrow escape of being wrecked on the bank. On returning to its moorings, the steamer was attacked by the schoolboys with a shower of brickbats and clods."

Several of the boys have been rusticated. Another enquiry is going on. They are taking a scandalously long time about it.

MESSRS. T. T. Allen and A. H. Wallis have been re-appointed, and Moulvi Syed Fazl Imam, Khan Bahadur, appointed, Members of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations in the Bengal Division of the Presidency of Fort William. The new appointment is a surprise. The new member, though the Vice-Chairman of the Patna Municipality and the bearer of a good name, is fitted neither by social position, education nor experience for the post to which he has been called. He will neither add dignity to the Council nor be in any way useful. The

choice of such a man is in keeping with the policy to keep out the best men, and is besides a humiliation to the Mahomedan community. There are far better Mahomedans in and out of the service, not only in these Provinces but in Patna itself.

THE Government of the N.-W. P. and Oudh has followed up its resolution on the Hurdwar Enquiry by another, which shews that it is not dead to the feelings of the Hindus. It is anxious to avoid any future dispersion of the fair, if possible.

"Considering the sacred character which attaches to the fair at Hurdwar in the eyes of the Hindoos, and the distress and annoyance which a sudden and premature dispersal of the pilgrims cannot fail to cause, the Government of these Provinces feels bound to take every possible precaution against such outbreaks of disease as occurred last March, and rendered it necessary to break up the fair. It has, therefore, been determined to appoint a committee who will meet at Hurdwar on 3rd January 1893, and whose duty it will be to advise Government on the remedies to be applied to the three evils above noted, and to make any other suggestions for the health, comfort, and convenience of the pilgrims at future fairs. Possibly, some special regulations are necessary to ensure that the food sold at the fair shall be wholesome.

The Sanitary Commissioner to this Government will be the President of the Committee. Associated with him will be the Magistrate of Saharunpore, an Engineer officer of experience, and the following Hindoo gentlemen, who have been requested to aid Government with their advice :—

1. Baboo Pramoda Dass Mitra, of Benares.
2. Kuwar Ram Singh, of Bara, Allahabad.
3. Lala Nihal Chand, of Mozuffernugger.
4. Baboo Durga Pershad, of Furruckabad.
5. Pundit Het Ram, C.E., of Bareilly.

The Committee are empowered to add to their number, from time to time, one or two of the principal residents of Hurdwar who have special knowledge of the subject immediately under discussion."

The late Hurdwar business will be carried to the House of Commons, after the Congress has had its say.

THE law for the acquisition of land for public purposes does not define what a public purpose is, but leaves to the Local Governments to determine if the land is so to be acquired. The bare signature of a Secretary is enough to give validity to a notification under the Act. But the Government has hitherto been better than the law and always announced the specific purpose when issuing such a declaration. That good old custom seems no longer to bind the Local Government. Witness the following declaration in the last *Calcutta Gazette* of the 21st December :—

"Whereas it appears to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal that land is required to be acquired by Government at the public expense for a public purpose, *viz.*, for improving the sanitary condition of the locality and conferring other public benefits in the village of Bally, pargana Boro, district Hooghly, it is hereby declared that for the purpose two plots of land measuring, more or less, 19 bighas 11 cottahs and 2 chitaks and 15 cottahs respectively of standard measurement, bounded as below, are required within the aforesaid village of Bally."

Sir Charles Elliott has improved the jury system in Bengal by abolishing it in many serious offences. He is now prepared to improve a locality by annexing it.

WE are not surprised to read in the *Indian Daily News* of the 13th December that

"A marriage procession from Burrall's Bustee recently passed through College Street. The bridegroom and bride were seated in a barouche drawn by four horses. The spectators who thronged the quarter, were quite taken by surprise to learn that the bridegroom and bride were of an humble Mahomedan family, living in a tiled hut!"

That is significant of the times and of the dead level policy of British administration. Everybody, whatever his position in society, thinks himself free, when able, to ape the high and the great, and is permitted even to affect royalty without opposition or even disapproval. The wonder rather is that the truly high do not change their ways but allow themselves to be mixed up with the audacious vulgar.

THE great French civil engineer, Alexander Brisse, has just died at Rome, at the age of seventy-two years. He was Prince Torlonia's engineer in the colossal no less than costly work of draining Lake Fucino in Italy. The great enterprise was pushed through to a satisfactory conclusion, at a cost of about 2 crores of rupees (30 million francs.) It was a financial as well as an engineering success.

THEY order the matter better in Russia, if the following account of a regiment quartered at Okhta, a suburb of St. Petersburg, is to be believed :—

"A whole company considered that the discipline maintained by their commanding officer was unendurable, and resolved to desert.

Instead of shrinking away, however, in ordinary deserter fashion, the company paraded at Okhta, and started towards Moscow fully equipped. In an hour or so it became known that they had gone, and the officer on duty for the day started in pursuit. He came up with the delinquent company quietly preparing to bivouac for the night, with rifles stacked in a little camp formed on the high road to Moscow. On inquiring what was the meaning of this, the officer was told that the men were going home, and that they had had enough of regimental life. He asked them if they did not know that they were all liable to be shot as deserters within twenty-four hours. They replied that they did not care what was done to them, so long as they were not made to serve, and repeated their intention to go to their villages. A curious argument then ensued, which lasted for about an hour, at the end of which time the men gave in, resumed possession of their rifles, and falling in, marched back again to Okhta with their officer. A strict inquiry has been ordered, and it is probable that the superior officers, whose severity has led to this little mutiny, will suffer, as well as the actual ringleaders of the mutineers."

That is a neat and genial way of settling a grave difficulty. It is more rational and satisfactory than the desperate and stern British method, which permits wrongs and suppresses complaints of the rank and file, giving no redress and allowing no combination for representation, —which drives the men to fury and mutiny, and punishes them with savage rigour. Democracy will yet change all that and assimilate its way to that of autocratic Russia.

It is said that the late Duke of Marlborough had a great aversion for dogs, inasmuch that, when he married Mrs. Hammersley, a great difficulty was created by an old pug belonging to her. After solemn discussion and deliberation, the dog was forced to retire on a suitable provision, amounting to upwards of £300 per annum. It was left behind in America, and has now its home in Philadelphia, where it lives like a superannuated exquisite. It is housed in a palace of a kennel with sumptuous sleeping, eating, and bathing apartments, with sides of glass. It is fed with chopped steaks and bathed every other day in hot milk, and it goes out dressed in a blanket. The Duchess receives weekly information of her pet's condition. A lucky dog is Woonwoon—as the Duchess' pet is called. Only we are afraid, in the great trans-Atlantic Republic it has no chance of being knighted on New Year's Day.

A MONTH ago the talk in the highest circles in Europe was the Emperor and Empress of Austria's acquisition of a sister-in-law from the stage. It is not six months yet that a report got abroad that the Empress' brother, Louis, Duke of Bavaria, widower of a few months' standing, had contracted to marry again. The haste was considered indecent, to say nothing of the merits of the particular engagement, involving as it did the hoary bridegroom's marrying beneath himself. Consequently, there was no surprise when an indignant contradiction appeared which went the length of suggesting that the Duke had had enough of it—too much and too long of double blessedness to tempt him again to the great Lottery called matrimony. The report has proved true, however, after all. The royal Duke indeed has not only wedded but wedded down. On the 19th November, the Duke was married at Munich—morganatically—to Fraulein Antonie Barth, a dashing *danseuse* of the court theatre. As the rumour of marriage had mentioned the lucky bride, the authoritative denial was of a piece with the mendacities prevalent in courts and cabinets, whether of the East or the West.

This marriage will be the death of the Duke, we fear. The poor sensualist seems determined to end as he began. In his youth's prime he sacrificed his position and prospects, including his claim to the family property, to his passion for an actress, subsequently created Baroness Wallersee, who died last year. The purity and love of his long married life may be imagined from the fact, that no sooner was one actress laid in her grave than this princely *connoisseur* was after another—the latest *debutante* on the boards of the court theatre. And now he has married her, one is involuntarily reminded of the question which gives title to one of the first Lord Lytton's stories, "What will he do with it?" The Duke is not more than sixty-two, but he has long since ruined his health and looks more of an octogenarian. And what are we to think of the poor accomplished artiste deliberately electing to embrace a death's head decked out in ducal robes? There is compensation, no doubt, and there may, perhaps, be relief from cicisbeism and such other accommodating customs of the European continent. Or, is there some such arrangement as the following in the background?

"In the village of Arreton, in the Isle of Wight, many years ago, there lived a young man who was betrothed to a young woman. Both were poor and in humble life; but the grandfather of the young man

had money, and he fell in love with the young woman and proposed marriage to her. The girl naturally made her young lover acquainted with this offer, with renewed assurance of devotion to him alone. He was vexed, but having pondered over the same, saw a way to extricate himself and his sweetheart from the dilemma. 'Marry him,' said he to the girl, 'he is rich; he cannot live long; when he dies, you'll have his money, and I'll have you.' She took the advice. By the marriage she became the young man's grandmother. Not long after the old man died, and then she wed her first betrothed."

Here at last is Burke flatly contradicted. Here is answer to the great political philosopher more thorough than Tom Paine ever contemplated. The philosophical statesman taught that love and wisdom or prudence are irreconcilable. The untenableness of his assumption is exposed by the instance just quoted. It is possible to make love and be wise with a vile calculating prudence, deliberately surrendering your *inamorata* to a vile rival and calmly waiting upon his bursting a blood-vessel or dying from a fall in order to call his widow your wife and enjoy his wealth.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, December 24, 1892.

### THE UNITED EUROPEAN AND NATIVE MEETING AGAINST THE ABOLITION OF TRIAL BY JURY.

It is impossible to exaggerate the strength and unanimity of the feeling which the Jury Notification of the Bengal Government has evoked. We are in the presence of a downright explosion of public opinion. It is perfectly spontaneous. If anywhere any professional agitators have been at work, they have been officiously spoiling a pure cause which stands in no need of their bolstering. Before there was time for intercommunication and interchange of thought, the country had spoken out its mind in no uncertain tones. Before anybody had time to interfere, the Press had pronounced the doom of the measure, so far as its chances of willing acceptance by the people was concerned. The question was so simple, coming to every man's business and bosom, that there was no need to consult experts. The people said as they felt and thought. There was no hesitation—no beating about the bush. The *Gazette* notifying the withdrawal of the right of Trial by *Panchayet* or Jury met, from the first, with an instant clamour of rage and alarm. From one end of the country to the other, there was a chorus of indignation.

As the blow begun in a corner came, from its very nature, to be recognised as a part and parcel of a general policy of retrogression applicable to all parts of British India, the grievance was taken up throughout the Empire. The press and public bodies in the other Provinces and Presidencies protested against the departure. The great Mahajan Sabha of the South tackled the Viceroy in Madras and taxed him with so illiberal an innovation. Meanwhile, Bengal has to reckon with it, to begin with. Not but that the people *salaam* to Sir Charles Elliott and scramble to his parties as before. For we are a truly loyal people. Nay, people may still be found of all ranks to swear that so long as he sways from Belvedere he is the wisest, brightest, most magnificent of rulers, and the Jury Notification is his highest performance in statecraft, and has endeared him to all Her Majesty's lieges. For nations cannot easily change, and we Orientals have been taught by the Bard of Shiraz,

"If the king at midday says, It is night, exclaim,  
What fine stars I see!"

With this qualification, the feeling is thoroughly

genuine and of the utmost consequence and concern. Accordingly, meetings have been held throughout the Province. The obnoxious Notification appeared in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 26th October. Early in the following month the ball was opened with great spirit at Krishnaghur, the capital of Nuddea. Other towns in Bengal and Behar promptly followed. The Counties of Hooghly, Burdwan, Dinajpur, Barisal, Khoolna, Patna, Howrah, the 24-Perganas, Mymensing, Dacca, Midnapore, Moorshedabad, all rose in protest. Meetings against the measure have been held in no less than fifteen important towns, Krishnaghur, Serampur, Hooghly, Burdwan, Bali, Dinajpur, Bagirhat, Tangail, Chukda, Barisal, Kisorergunge, Midnapur, Patna, Kulna, Bhowanipore. Perfect unanimity prevailed as well as enthusiasm at all the gatherings. At most of the meetings delegates were appointed to attend the meeting which was expected to be held at Calcutta. The crowning protest of the metropolis was delivered this week. In response to a numerous signed requisition, the Sheriff called a meeting of the inhabitants in the Town-Hall, in the afternoon of the 20th December.

Regarded as a popular demonstration against the Jury policy of Government, the meeting of Tuesday was a complete and grand success. Many as have been the gatherings from time to time, for one purpose or another, in the Town-Hall since its erection, the last was the most striking and impressing, not to say the best,—the most multitudinous yet most orderly, the most representative, the most respectable. We do not forget the gatherings of the elect, presided over by a Lieutenant-Governor or a Viceroy, at which the gods have condescended to hobnob with mortals, or those at which native gentlemen of wealth have been associated with official and unofficial Europeans in work either of charity and grace or amiability. Such combinations, however, have no popular character or authority, and their political interest is nil or nominal—at least indirect. Here was a distinct and well-understood political occasion, and we boldly state without fear of contradiction that the inhabitants of the governed classes of this city and Province never before responded in such force to an invitation to meet for a political object. In a country of continental dimensions, with a vast population of endless varieties of race and colour and creed, with divided, perhaps, conflicting interests, public meetings, like the causes which move, are apt to be sectional. Such was the great meeting on the Ilbert Bill, and such the previous meetings against or in support of what was nicknamed the Black Act. Such was even the magnificent meeting of 1853 on the renewal of the East India Company's Charter.

Such was not this week's meeting. The question of the hour appealed to every class, more or less directly; every section of the community felt aggrieved at the departure taken by Government. Hence the extraordinary variety of the assembled elements. If sectional at all, it was a pan-sectional gathering. Not only was every section represented but the best men of most sections were present—all the magnates and men of light and leading, with scarcely an exception. The only exceptions, indeed, were officials and Government pensioners. The numbers which, from all parts of the metropolis, converged to the great house on the plain of Calcutta in the afternoon of Tuesday, were simply amazing. Many of them came away in disappointment, unable to find even standing-room in any part of the vast hall,

having been anticipated there by a legion, while, like insects hovering around glass lamps in the eve of the cold weather in the Tropics, an ever-increasing crowd blocked up the stairs and the entrance below, who, from time to time, vainly struggled to effect an introduction and reach the arcana.

Calcutta is notorious for the absence of proper arrangements at its meetings. On this occasion the confusion was worse confounded by the extraordinary numbers. The meeting was timed for half-past four O'clock. As early as 1 O'clock the men engaged in clearing the Town-Hall of the decorations and other impedimenta—the flower pots and so forth—of overnight's ball of the Buffs, were hampered by the continual stream of people to attend the meeting, many of them from the country who had been waiting in town for days and who, having to report as eye-witnesses to their friends, could not afford disappointment. At 2 O'clock all the chairs were filled up in the body of the hall. By 3 O'clock all available space in the hall and corridors was occupied by its men, sitting or standing. After that it was a war against the law of impenetrability. The crush and compression was like that at an Indian fair or at a Hindu house on the occasion of the performance of a popular opera.

The aged and delicate and the more respectable were driven from the contest and made their way home, leaving the field to the enthusiastic to struggle as they might or bide their time till some buffeted insider limped out of the business. Thus hundreds, including men of high position, European merchant princes, Zemindars, signatories to the Requisition to the Sheriff, and so on, had to go away.

In a word, the meeting was phenomenal for numbers as well as for respectability and the combination of all classes and sections of the governed. Europeans and Indians were equally represented and equally well, as regards their respective numbers in the census—in their educated classes. On no public occasion since the Reconciliation meeting after the mutinies in that very hall, had the two races so cordially cooperated as in this demonstration on the Jury question. But the attendance on that occasion is not to be compared to that on this. The highest numerical success was reached in Calcutta by the Town Hall meeting of 1853—that at which the great Bengali orator Ram Gopal Ghose first exposed Sir Frederick Halliday for veracity—when the overflow of the attendance from the lower floor—in which the meeting was held—down the grand flight of steps into the street and around the colossal statue in front attracted notice from Government House. That success was eclipsed on Tuesday. The numbers have been variously estimated from five to ten thousand. The latter estimate may be exaggerated, but it is not a preposterous exaggeration counting the thousands who came and went away not finding admission. Under the circumstances, all criticism based on the capacity of the hall is irrelevant. One thing is indisputable that, all through the three hours of the meeting, men were continually coming in and going back in disappointment. One crucial instance may be mentioned. The brother of the chairman, himself a wealthy banker, a member of the Town Corporation, after hovering on the skirts of the crowd for more than an hour trying to get in, left in despair.

The Sheriff opened the meeting in the tones of a Stentor which were heard throughout the hall. He spoke, of course, in terms of graceful geniality,

showing how much he wished to please the powers yet declaring in unmistakable language his adhesion to the cause of the people. Maharaja Jotendro Mohan Tagore followed in the same style, without the same *locus standi* as Mr. Mehta had to speak. He then proposed his brother Maharaja Doorja Churn Law to the chair. The motion being seconded by Raja Pearymohun Mookerjee and carried, Maharaja Law took possession of the chief seat in the centre and opened the proceedings with a short speech which was lost in the hum of many voices and the tread, tread, tread, of many feet coming or essaying to come. It was not till the Hon'ble Dr. Mahendralal Sircar, whom the Chairman called on to move the first Resolution, had got through his first sentences that the hum, as well as the uproar from shouts of *Louder!* from the distant regions of the hall, was subdued. His exordium was out of proportion to his speech. He conceived himself bound to justify his presence and he justified himself well and ingeniously. But it was a work of supererogation. A member of the Legislative Council whose services as a legislator have been rewarded by reappointment, he can never be regarded as an intruder in any public discussion of public affairs. Nor was this his first appearance on a political platform. It was his success as a public speaker and not his eminence as a man of science that opened for him the door of the Council. On the subject itself Dr. Sircar spoke without mincing, though with moderation and the finest temper, condemning the Notification and wondering how two such good men and true, his particular friends, could concoct such a piece of folly.

Dr. Sircar was followed by Mr. Pugh, who seconded the first Resolution. His first remark was about the wonderful meeting than which, many as had been the meetings he had seen in Calcutta, it had never been his lot to address a grander gathering of all sections of the community. It was well that Europeans and natives were there combined in such force, and he hoped it would ever be so, that they would be so alert in defence of their rights, and would so combine whenever any of their rights were attacked. Speaking specially to the European part of the audience, he made an adroit allusion to the Ilbert Bill. Now they were on the same platform on which they assembled in 1884 to protest against that Bill, he reminded them that they fought for trial by jury for themselves, and now they were fighting for the right for others, and he hoped that Englishmen would never be so selfish as to withhold their help to such causes merely because they were not interested. He then entered into the whole question, making a lucid statement of judicial calmness which it was a pity the Abolitionists could not hear. If anything could bring conviction home to them against the grain, it would have been Mr. Pugh's argument. And then it is a pleasure to hear him, he is a delightful speaker, calm, self-possessed, without any vices of action or manner, fluent, yet distinct. One could almost see that he was accustomed to public meetings and had probably sat in Parliament, as he had. In moving the next Resolution, Babu Jadu Lal Mullick expressed the obligation of the people to the European community, for its cooperation and help. For the rest, he said that it was intolerable to the people of Bengal, at the fag end of the nineteenth century, to be told that they were not fit for trial by jury. He was seconded by Mr. H. B. H. Turner,

one of our leading merchants and a former Sheriff, in a short but incisive speech of emphatic protest against the strange Notification. He spoke in mournful earnest, regretted his finding himself in a meeting of opposition to a measure of Government, but then there was no help for honest men if Government should be so foolish. He still hoped they would retire from an untenable position. What could be the possible justification for such a blow? Was there a fearful increase in crime? Nothing of the kind. He finally attributed all this nonsense to Capua. It was Simla and Darjeeling that are at the bottom of all such unsympathetic administration. The rulers deliberately kept themselves out of reach of the governed. Of course, they lost all touch of them.

Then sprang the Tiger—the redoubtable William Jackson, whose monumental appearance above the surrounding level was the signal for a burst of cheering such as no other popular favorite got. He too commenced with noticing the vastness of the gathering, vaster than any meeting he had seen before. Avoiding the ground covered by Mr. Pugh, Mr. Jackson supplied his commentary on the others' argument. In one sense his was the speech of the evening. It was certainly the most diverting, the most tranchant, the most incessantly and loudly applauded. Of course, it was thoroughly candid and personal. It was one series of points and every point told. Mr. Jackson gave the genesis of the measure. It was but a symptom of the prevailing official jealousy of the educated Indians—Babudom as they are called. Thus the great assembly was fixed till a late hour by Mr. Jackson's vigorous onslaught until the audience was in no mood to hear any body else. The meeting came to an end after half past seven. It was ten before all the attending gentlemen came out and found their carriages or their tramcar.

### THE JURY MEETING.

#### DR. MAHENDRALAL SIRCAR'S SPEECH.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I do not know what interpretation you will put upon my appearance before you this evening. The question before the meeting is one of Law, and some of you, if not all of you, may be disposed to ask what right has one, whose line of life has been in a different plane altogether, to speak on an occasion like this. I admit, Gentlemen, it would be the height of impertinence and presumption and veritable charlatany on my part to address this assembly which is about to be addressed by men of acknowledged eminence in the legal profession, were it not for the fact that in every science however technical there is a practical side which is not only within the cognizance of the common sense of all men, but which it more or less concerns all men to be acquainted with. And it is my belief that had it not been for this practical side, no science could have made any considerable advance at all. There is nothing transcendental or occult in science. All science is but the organic development and growth of the common sense possessed by every man. And if I am not mistaken, and I speak with the utmost diffidence in the presence of the eminent members of the legal profession before me, Law is emphatically the quintessence of common sense as regards right and justice. Of course it has its technicalities, and formidable technicalities too, scarcely less formidable than the technicalities of mathematics and of the physical sciences, but they are such, and herein Law differs from the other sciences, the technicalities of Law are such that by one that has mastered them, they may be brought down to the level of the understandings of all but idiots. Had it not been so the administration of justice would have been impossible, at least there would have been no satisfaction from any administration of justice, however elaborate. This is the charming feature of Law of which I have had some experience during the time I had the honor of being your Sheriff, when it was to me a pleasure to see how both counsel and judge did their best, and succeeded, in unravelling the most complicated

cases in plain language to the jury in order to enable them to arrive at just conclusions. And this very necessity of having to explain cases to the jury in untechnical language is, in my humble opinion, of great advantage to the judge himself, inasmuch as it prevents him from obscuring his mental vision by burying himself in technicalities. The other advantages of trial by jury are so obvious that it would be waste of time to dwell on them at the present moment, and before an audience like this. They are so obvious and so great that no conscientious judge would willingly dispense with the services of jurors. They are so obvious and so great that the system of trial by jury has been, from very early times of their history, looked upon as a *sine qua non* in the administration of justice by the nation, the most justice-loving and practical on the face of the globe. It is in the care of this nation that Providence has placed our destiny when, under a conjunction of the most adverse circumstances, that destiny was drifting away from its legitimate direction. And right earnestly and right nobly have the statesmen, who have been sent to rule over that destiny, been doing their duty. Gradually and cautiously they have been introducing into the administration of this country reforms and principles of government, the practical carrying out of which has rendered the nation to which they belong great in every sense of the word.

Gentlemen, the system of trial by jury is one of these reforms. It was introduced some thirty years ago in only seven districts in Bengal as an experimental measure. When first introduced it had given to it all the English character of no appeal and no reference. Subsequently, wisely or unwisely it is not for me to decide just now, the legislature deemed fit to deprive it of that character, so that now there is appeal by the Crown in cases of acquittal and reference by the presiding judge to the High Court in case of his disagreeing with the jury. These were deemed to be sufficient safe-guards against failure of justice from trial by jury, and it was believed that the system would succeed. The system has been working well, and to all appearances has succeeded in fulfilling the object for which it was introduced, and what is more, it has become very popular, as this immense gathering to-day eminently proves. But somehow or other the Government of the day has been seized with the conviction that serious and frequent miscarriages of justice are taking place under the system. It is my belief, Gentlemen, that this conviction is genuine and sincere both on the part of the Government of India and of the Local Government, and we are bound to respect it. It is under this conviction that both the Governments called for opinion from both the judicial and executive authorities. The opinions are before us. What is the conclusion to be drawn from them? Government could come to only one conclusion, and that is unfavorable to the jury system in the most important class of cases where the system is and ought to be most valued. It may be presumption, Gentlemen, to differ from such august bodies as the Government of India and the Government of Bengal, and from such high authorities as the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor. But every one has a right to draw his own inferences, and unless one is a veritable coward or an idiot, one ought not to surrender one's judgment to the judgment of any authority, however high and great. I must frankly tell you, Gentlemen, that the conclusion I have come to from the opinions before us is directly at variance with that arrived at by Government. I am bound to say that the balance of genuine independent opinion is in favor of the jury system in every class of cases. Of course, the system has its faults, but what human system has not? No body would think of maintaining that the jury system in England is perfect, that no failures of justice take place under it. But would any body on that account think of inducing the English people to abolish or even to restrict it? I wish the experiment were tried by some of those gentlemen who have objected to the jury system in this country. And I cannot express my own opinion better than in the words of the Sessions Judge of Hooghly, that "it would be as unreasonable to do away with the jury system in India because it does not come up to all unreasonable expectations, as it would be to uproot a young tree because it did not grow so quickly as its planter desired, instead of cultivating, training, and sustaining it." It is true there is no question of abolishing the jury system altogether. But when the most important class of "Capital Cases," which under the law must include all cases of homicide for which the sentence may be death, or a few days' imprisonment or even a fine, when this most important class of cases is withdrawn from the cognizance of the jury, is not the system attenuated to insignificant dimensions, not worth having it at all?

Yes, Gentlemen, I must say, though I do so with the utmost regret, regret because I have the highest respect for the present ruler of Bengal as one who has not only expressed the deepest sympathy for the people of this country but given numerous practical and substantial proofs of that sympathy, which few in his position have done, I must say, because duty compels me to say, duty not only to my country but to the Government as well,—I must say, that the recent action taken by the Lieutenant-Governor in this matter of trial by jury, would have been a retrograde one for any Government, and that it is decidedly and infinitely more so for the British

Government in India, especially when at the helm of that Government we have such enlightened Englishmen as Lord Lansdowne and Sir Charles Elliott. Nothing short of a strong sense of duty compels me, against deep personal feelings, to move the first resolution which you have done me the honor to commit to my charge. Before I resume my seat I have only one observation to make, and that is, that most regrettable as has been the recent action of Government, it has done one good which, I fervently hope, will be a lasting one for this country, it has united under one bond of fellowship and allow me to say of brotherhood the European and the Indian sections of the community, and my countrymen! this meeting, this unique meeting has demonstrated, what in my heart of hearts I have always believed, that we have no better, no more faithful, no more sincere friends than our British fellow-subjects.

#### MR. PUGH'S SPEECH.

Mr. Pugh, in seconding the resolution, congratulated his hearers upon the wonderful gathering he saw before him. It had been his lot to address many meetings in Calcutta, but he had never seen, much less ever addressed, a meeting of this kind. (Hear, hear.) He entirely reciprocated what had been said as to its being a meeting at which all sections of the community were represented. He heartily rejoiced that it was so, and he hoped that whenever any attack was made on the liberties of any section of this people that they would all stand together. (Applause.) He also most cordially endorsed the view put before them, that this meeting had not been called in any spirit of hostility to the Government, but in order to let the Government know what were the views of the people of this country. He was sorry that they had not an opportunity before the notification was issued of hearing what the views of the people were; for if they had known the feelings of the people he believed the notification would never have been issued. He would confine his remarks very strictly to the subject of the first resolution, as other speakers would address them on how the late Notification came to be issued. The question had been asked why did European British subjects want to interfere in a matter of this kind? He had already pointed out one reason. They had all got a certain amount of sentiment in them, and that sentiment moved them when they saw the liberties of a neighbour attacked to go to his help. It might be said that the country could not be governed by sentiment, but he would reply that no wise ruler would disregard the sentiments of the people he had to govern. (Applause.)

Now they were on the same platform, to use the word in a very commonsense way, as they were on in 1884. They were then defending themselves in the matter of trial by jury and seeking its extension, and now they were again engaged in the same cause. Then they were fighting for their own hand, and now they were fighting for the hand of others. They would remember that in the great debate which then took place the Maharaja of Durbhunga had expressed a hope to see the jury system extended over the whole of India, and Lord Ripon held out hopes that the people of this country might climb up to this level. He also said that he would not vote in favour of the agreement which had been arrived at were it not that the prospect was open to the people of this country to rise to the same level. And speaking for himself and for the great mass of those who had fought on the same side as himself, they looked forward at that time to the extension of the jury system, and they held out hopes to the Native community that they would rise to the same level as that in which they themselves were more happily placed.

There was another point with regard to European British subjects. As they all knew, many merchants in Calcutta had charge of large industrial estates in the mofussil, and they felt that it was a duty on their part to look after and protect the liberties of those who were committed to their care. Then there was another point. The Europeans felt that if they were to follow an apostle of the gospel of selfishness, even then they would have to stand forward in support of this struggle. Trial by jury had been likened to a tree, and it was a good simile. But supposing you take one of those fine trees on the Maidan, and you cut off one side of it, and you cut off the top. How long would it be before that tree was cut away altogether? Every one would say it was of no use keeping a tree of this kind, it might as well be taken away altogether. He argued, therefore, that, supposing trial by jury was withdrawn in certain cases, any one might come forward and say, "you have withdrawn trial by jury in the case of offences against the person, it is useless to keep it on for offences against property."

Then they would go a step further. Supposing Europeans allowed trial by jury to be withdrawn in this way, in what position would they stand if they asked for the retention of the system purely for European British subjects? Sir William Jones had said that trial by jury was one of the three anchors of the constitution, and if it was true in his time it was equally true in the present day. Yet if they looked at the bundle of papers issued in connection with the Notification, they would find that four out of five Commissioners based their arguments on the theory that trial by jury ought to be given up in England and else-

where. When people argued in this way, the keystone of their argument was wholly wrong. If one of these gentlemen went home and stood for Parliament, and told the electors that one of the great boons he was going to confer on them was the abolition of trial by jury, he would be hooted and hounded out of the place. Nay, a friend here [Mr. Pugh, looking at Mr. Digby,] who had experience of electioneering, tells me that he doesn't believe the man would get away with a whole bone in his body. It mattered very little whether the germ of trial by jury existed of old in panchayets, or whether it was granted by the British Government. Lord Cornwallis wrote in favour of it in 1793, and laid down the principle that it was desirable to associate the people of the country in every possible way with the administration of justice, and in 1827 a regulation was introduced in Madras the preamble of which was to the same effect. In 1831 a very large and influentially signed petition was presented to the House of Commons asking to have trial by jury introduced into this country. The result of this seemed to have been that in 1832 trial by jury in a very modified form was introduced into Madras. The juries had very little power, but the principle was recognised. In 1855 a circular order was issued by the Government of Bengal in which it was said that it was inexpedient to have juries composed of vakils and muktears, and recommending that something should be done to make the duties of juries less irksome, but since that time nothing in this direction had been done.

The point was this, that these things were said in 1855 which were being said in the present day, but before the Notification was issued nothing had been done to remedy these evils. They would find that defects had been pointed out as to the election of juries and other matters, but that steps had not been taken with reference to any of these points. One point which had been brought out with great clearness was that juries had an intense distrust of Police evidence, but what had been done to improve the status of the Police and to see that no persons below a certain grade should have the investigation of a case before sending it to a Magistrate? They were in the same position as formerly, and how were they to say that they should take up this tree and cast it away when they had taken no pains whatever to give it free growth? But even if they said that trial by jury was introduced in 1862, how did they stand with regard to it? Sir Cecil Beadon, then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, was so pleased with it that before he left he was prepared to have extended it very largely in this country. Later still Sir Rivers Thompson, a man who had exceptional opportunities for judging, was so favourably impressed by trial by jury that he not only did his best to have it extended to Europeans but also the rest of the people of the land. (Hear, hear.) The Notification had been sprung upon the country when the people had no idea that anything of the kind was intended. It could only be justified on the ground that there was grievous failure of justice or for grave political reasons.

But there were no political reasons whatever, and no wise ruler should do anything to harass the people or cause distrust of its motives. With regard to the failure of justice he would point out that the reports to Government were on a totally different question. It was one thing to ask people what they thought of a system, and another to ask them if they thought it ought to be abolished. The Judges of the High Court had directed their attention to remedying the system. An attentive perusal of the reports showed that they did not afford any justification to Government for the action they had taken. But the Government ought not to act upon the opinion of these officers without ascertaining the opinion of the people. They should also produce statistics with regard to the results of trial by jury. Three per cent. is the total number of jury cases referred to the High Court, and if this was so, it formed a strong point in favour of jury trial. He could put no construction upon the withholding of these statistics except that Government were aware that they would be against them. He gathered that the Government now admit that the greater part of the Notification was without justification, and in that case these parts should be withdrawn. If they relied on murder cases alone they should give the statistics with regard to murder cases. Even in regard to the percentage of murder cases they were set right by the High Court, and so there was no failure of justice at all. The matter was still in the hands of Lord Lansdowne, and he trusted that that meeting would appeal to him to put a stop to the excitement which pervaded the people by withdrawing the Notification. They would give Lord Lansdowne and the Government any assistance they could to obviate any failure of justice.

#### MR. TURNER'S SPEECH.

Mr. H. B. H. Turner said:—Maharaja and Gentlemen,—It is with no pleasure that I take part in a meeting called to protest against the action of Government. It is only that I feel so strongly the mistake which the Government has made, and the hope that a protest couched in moderate language may induce a reconsideration of the whole matter that reconciles me to occupying this position of seeming opposition, but which I trust may

come to be looked upon rather as one of loyal advice. I have considered the papers which have been published as the record upon which the withdrawal of certain jury trials has been determined, and I must confess my surprise that such a change in the administration of criminal justice should have been made upon the grounds which these papers disclose. And be it remembered in districts, many of which are the headquarters of Europeans, and where Anglo-Indians and Eurasians are most numerous. Had these papers shown that serious crime existed in those provinces, or that the alleged failure of justice following upon erroneous verdicts of the juries had resulted in an increase of crime—or that murders were more frequent, or murderers more often escaped punishment in districts where jury trials were held, than in those where there are no juries; had it been shown that special efforts had been made to improve the class of juries, and that nevertheless the system still failed, or if any emergency had arisen, then perhaps the action of the Government might have been understood. But there is nothing of this in the papers which have been made public. The utmost that is indicated is that the system needs improvement, but that there is no urgency for reform. And after all who are responsible for the quality of the juries empanelled? Have those to whom the duty of selection was entrusted done their part? My friend Mr. Pugh has shown that nothing has been done, and if not, is not the failure, if failure there be (and the facts stated in our memorial throw a doubt upon this point,) of the system attributable rather to this cause than to the system itself? Attention has often been called to the disadvantages under which both the Government and the public suffer from the fact that for the greater part of the year the Government are beyond the influence of public opinion, in regions so remote that the pulse of the public cannot be felt. It is to this violation that a good deal of want of sympathy must be attributed. So keenly has this been felt that over and over again has it been urged that Simla and Darjiling as seats of Government should be abandoned, and promises, not perhaps in the formal way needed to make them positive undertakings, on the part of Government, have been made that no large measure affecting public interests should be passed into law at Simla. This year has unfortunately witnessed a departure from this promise, and I feel sure that had the communications which have passed between the heads of Government and the gentlemen who have so worthily represented the public in this jury matter been possible before the Notification was issued, this particular question would, in all probability, not have arisen. Another point has also been frequently urged by the non-official public, and that is that before the Government is committed to any definite policy by the publication of a Bill or other document the public might be taken—so that any arguments which might have escaped the attention of the advisers of Government might have effect, without any appearance of the Government being placed in a false position. In this present case it is remarkable that, although inquiries have been made over a period of nearly two-and-a-half years, not a whisper has reached non-official ears, and so the Notification, with its sudden application, fell upon us as a bombshell, and no man knew for the moment what it meant, nor why it was discharged. Gentlemen, I do not pretend to be the mouthpiece of the commercial community of Calcutta, but I think I may say with assurance, that they and their motives have been misunderstood, and it is for this reason that I have spoken at such length. I wish it to be understood that it is not only the manner of the Notification, but also the principle of the whole thing, which I consider to be at fault. With these remarks, gentlemen, I beg to second this Resolution, and to commend it to your favourable consideration.

#### MR. JACKSON'S SPEECH.

Mr. William Jackson, who was received with cheers, said.—It was with some diffidence that he ventured to address an assembly larger than any that he had had the pleasure of seeing before. In rising to address the meeting upon this question, he intended to avoid to some extent any ground covered by Mr. Pugh. He could not honestly say that the withdrawal of the right of trial by jury was not maliciously and wilfully done. When they came to consider the circumstances under which it was done, the place at which the case was dated, and who were present there, they would see that everything pointed as conclusively as possible to the fact that this was intended to be a slap at Babudom, at the people whom they detested and hated for having a press that criticises everything they do. He would give them the dates. They would find that this matter had been creeping along its slow course between—he had better be exact in his dates, lest he should find himself corrected in the *Englishman* to-morrow morning—between the 22nd of June, 1891, and the 25th of August, 1892. Between this time—June, 1891, and August, 1892—there was time to obtain the opinion of almost every human being in India. What was done in the interval? Simply nothing. The two people certainly involved in the matter were Sir Philip Hutchins and Sir Charles Elliott.

They hated the whole system under which Bengal had been ruled. They forgot that the people had lived for years under the dominion of courts of justice presided over by men the pick of the Indian bench, that for years and years their liberties had been protected by the finest bench that the Empire had hitherto had. They go up to the North-West, and fancy they can tread along like Akbar going to his peacock throne. They come here and find their acts cavilled at and criticised and they do everything they possibly can to avenge themselves. They were not all idiots. They were suddenly persuaded by reading a mass of papers which proved nothing, and pretended to say that in consequence of the opinion of so and so they came to this conclusion. Did they honestly believe this? There was nothing in these opinions which justified the notification that had been issued.

Mr. Jackson entered into a long and forcibly worded commentary on the minutes of the Judges. The opinions of the Executive officers might, he said, be put in the waste paper basket. He pointed out that Sir Comer Petheam and Mr. Justice Trevelyan said nothing. Mr. Justice Tottenham was of opinion with regard to the respective merits of jurors and assessors that "the one was as good as the other, if not better?" The great panacea that was held out by the High Court was "Come to us; then you will get the best kind of justice. We dispense an article of a very superior kind." He had been unfortunately a very long time a member of the Bar here. He recalled the day when no Barrister Judge upon an occasion of this kind would have failed to record a separate minute. It was a matter of the utmost importance, and it showed to his mind some deterioration that the Barrister Judges were not able to record a separate minute in this case, but must go humbly behind their Civilian colleagues. There had, however, been no attempt to suggest anything with regard to abolition of trial by jury in these cases. The opinions quoted stated only that trial by jury had been not altogether successful. He would like the ordeal of justice in the High Court to be put to the public, and ask them whether the High Court would come out any better.

Mr. Jackson was at a loss to understand how any person of any common sense could dare to propose the revocation of section 307 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Could they conceive a section that could go lower than that? How was it possible? Was not the Sessions Judge allowed the most ample powers in the interests of justice to refer to the High Court? What in the name of Heaven did they want? If it was not in the interests of justice, what did they want this power for at all? And if they had the amplest powers of referring then why in the name of Heaven did they complain of the failure of the jury system?

The curse of the whole administration of justice in this country was the feeling with the Civilian that every decision reversing his own was a rebuff to himself. It was all a personal matter with him. "I have been offended: you have insulted me: you have reversed my decision." This practice of treating the reversal of the decision as a personal rebuff was one of the curses of the system under which we are governed. The speaker submitted that, where cases are improperly referred, the expenses should be paid by Government.

Turning again to the question of the High Court minutes, Mr. Jackson continued. Having recommended these improvements, none of which go to the extent of abolition of trial by jury, they now come to the two solitary opinions upon which the action of Government was based—the opinion of Justices Amir Ali and O'Kinealy. This was one of the most amusing minutes on which the Government of India had founded anything he had ever heard or read of. He quoted Mr. Justice Amir Ali's opinion that "in cases of homicide, even when the crime is of an atrocious character, Indian juries are notoriously averse to bringing in a verdict which would submit the accused to capital punishment. In other cases, *e. g.*, dacoity and rape, race feelings and popular prejudices, besides other influences, play a great part."

The Government had, it would be noted, carefully eliminated the cases with regard to capital punishment which were the cases in which the Government was most interested, because it was the most convenient form in which it could entangle a great land owner. It was the one in which he was the most likely to be caught. Mr. Justice Amir Ali had said that race feelings and popular prejudices played a great part in cases of dacoity and rape; yet dacoity and rape had been most carefully left to the jury to play a great part in. Among other absurdities was this that the Government was most anxious about capital cases, nothing on earth would make it give in about that; but if murder were committed in a dacoity, that was still left to the jury under the Notification as it stands. Anything more absurd or ridiculous could not possibly be. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Amir Ali had said that this system of reference threw a heavy responsibility upon the Judge. What did he mean by the term? A man sitting there to administer justice is told by the Act that whenever he thinks it necessary in the interests of justice to do a particular thing he shall do it. That is the heavy responsibility which is thrown upon him. What was he paid for? But it was one thing asking a man to give his reasons and state why he:

does a certain thing, and it was another thing in the ordinary course to allow a case to flow in a smooth stream from the Sessions Court until it gracefully floated before the Appellate Bench.

The speaker quoted Mr. Justice Amir Ali's opinion on jury trials submitted in 1884, in which the latter stated that there were many assessor districts at that time quite as advanced and fitted to receive the jury system as the so-called jury districts themselves. The change in Mr. Amir Ali's views was, he pointed out, an illustration of the value of the High Court as a field for expanding one's mind. Though it was the hand of Esau, it was Jacob's voice. How could a man have changed his opinion in a period of time like that, and give no reason whatever for it, nothing having occurred in the meanwhile?

The speaker challenged the Government to show any statistics in support of their case. He would make a further challenge. Had they consulted a single one of their law officers on the subject? Had they consulted either of their legal non-official members of their Council? He would like, most of all, to know the name of the gentleman who first started this subject. The sun suddenly burst into Simla, and they were told at one particular moment that the Government of India had discovered so and so and so and so. He wanted to know the name of the man who started the thing in motion. If they could only find that, they would have the explanation of a great many things connected with the question. They had no information as to what suddenly struck the Lieutenant-Governor on the 20th October, 1892. What occurred to him to force him all of a sudden to carry out a measure of this kind? To his mind there was a great deal behind that had not been explained. It was the old old trick that had so often been tried in India, under the idea that when a thing was a *fait accompli* it was all over with it altogether. "Do it sharply; they will get accustomed to it, and let the matter slide."

He would ask them also to remember the state of the things under which they were living. He would not say that the present state of affairs arose altogether from the attitude of the whole body of the Civil Service. There were many men among them who would scorn to have anything to do with it, but there were men whose sole idea was to govern India on this footing. The speaker continued: "We had one of them years ago in Sir George Campbell. We have got this man now; and he will do entirely as he pleases, wholly irrespective of the opinions and the feelings of any one."

Referring to the attitude of the Civilian Judges, Mr. Jackson contended that they never forgot their own privileges. They had succeeded in evading the 35 years' rule just like barristers; they next succeeded in getting the pension of £1,200 a year, just like barristers; they then succeeded in not paying anything to the pension fund, but when it came to the next thing they want the Civilian cake as well. When it comes to the appointment of Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal or Member of Council then they are pucca Civilians. If the rule were adopted that the moment a Civilian went into the High Court, his career, so far as the public service was concerned, was closed, they would then have absolute judicial independence; but not until then. There are always some men looking out for something else. Mr. Jackson assured his hearers that they could never know whether one of the members of the High Court was not contemplating succeeding Sir Philip Hutchins himself.

Mr. Jackson raised the question whether, under the circumstances, the Notification was valid. Referring to Section 269 he doubted whether, under the general powers conferred therein, a privilege like this should be included. They had, however, a specimen upon the present legislative board of the style of trickery adopted by some of the Government officials in endeavouring to get their measures passed. They would find at Page 1300 of the *Calcutta Gazette* of July 27, a suggestion of Mr. Risley, one of the people who now adorn the Lieutenant-Governor's Council. This was the way in which legislation was conducted in India. The whole system was a sham. The mere fact of a Lieutenant-Governor or Government official saying anything must not delude them into the belief that it was necessarily true. They had to look after them. The passage in Mr. Risley's note was as follows:—"The point, however, that I would ask His Honor to consider is not that drainage is in itself more or less important than water-supply, but that the people, or rather that small section of the people which can make itself heard, believe very strongly in the former and do not care very much about the latter. Consequently, if there is any prospect of legislative action to enable us to compel people to provide good water, it would be judicious to include drainage in the same *project de loi* simply in order to gild the pill of compulsion." Gild the pill! And again "when once we had got the powers, it would rest with us to use them for drainage or water-supply as may seem proper." Mr. Jackson urged that in comparison with this the three card trick was an honest and open one.

Sir Henry Harrison, writing on the same occasion, had said:—"At the same time I submit that it is incorrect and injudicious to bring into prominence the compulsory character of it. What is

primarily needed is 'enabling' legislation." Enabling legislation! These were the views of Sir Charles Elliott's advisers. Let us then see what Sir Charles Elliott himself had said. The only way of dealing with the man was to see whether his ordinary conduct was straight and above board. On page 1325 he had said: "There seems to be a general agreement of opinion that special legislation is necessary, but it is thought that the draft suggested in my note would bring into prominence the compulsory character of it. This criticism is, I think, a sound one." That is the modest remark of the Lieutenant-Governor. In dealing with a man like that he was sorry to say that he could not believe that Sir Charles Elliott had been in any way misled. He had simply, as a matter of fact, taken his own course from beginning to end. The speaker continued, "You have got to remember this, that throughout the whole of Calcutta and Bengal in particular, they hate you. In the first place as a matter of fact the Simla clique hate you, because in the present you form a majority of the people who succeed in competition for the Civil Service. It is no use disguising these things. They live in a place where no breath of public opinion ever reaches them and it is thus that they think that they can simply override everything. If your newspapers comment upon anything that they may do, the very fact is looked upon as an insult. It is people of this class who come down here with the intention that in every act that they do with regard to Bengal precisely the same course shall be adopted. As far as this gauc province is concerned, if you are to be confined to Civilian Lieutenant-Governors in the future they should be men who have lived in the province and no one else."

A man unaccustomed to this province forgets that the atmosphere here is different, and you have always some fads brought from one province to another. How many meetings for instance in Bombay have they ever had about anything? This is in every sense the metropolis of India, (applause) and, as a matter of fact, we go into matters of any kind, we express our opinion with the utmost freedom, and all these people cannot understand it. It is a matter that they hate and detest, and they think that, with the aid of these two working here, they will be able to carry it out.

Sir George Campbell, you will remember, was going on introducing fad after fad (applause)—Bengal municipalities—but the reins of Government were in a firm hand, and he was completely snuffed out by Lord Northbrook. In one year Sir George Campbell was on his way to England. At the present moment if we had a ruler who would take upon himself the discharge of his duties, the chances are that there would never have been any agitation at all or anything to speak about now.

They want to climb down, but they wish to climb down still adhering to the case with regard to capital punishment. You cannot give in on this point. If you do, you will stand stultified before the people of England. The mode in which the question has been dealt with is absolutely ridiculous. Who has ever heard of a system by which all cases in which Government is interested—treason and felony, cases of murder, everything in which the peace and tranquillity of a district are concerned—are left to be disposed of by Government? Government does not care how those cases are decided in which it is not interested. The fact of the matter is that it was not intended as anything else than as a slap at you. The Notification has been issued with such precipitancy that, as a matter of fact, it does not touch abatement of murder, and no attempt has been made to discriminate between certain offences.

With regard to the statement that juries are disinclined to return a verdict of guilty in capital cases, no Judge was compelled to sentence any man to death for murder. It was an entirely optional thing with him. Any man who chose to say "I have religious convictions against sentencing a man to death for offence of murder is justified by the law. The only case in which he had no choice was under the terms of Section 303 referring to murder by a person under sentence of transportation of life. It is true that if they imported into the Criminal Procedure Code a provision by which in any case where the Judge does so state he must give his reasons, he presumed what would be done would be this: The Lieutenant-Governor would discover that the services of that man would be wanted in another place. If, as a matter of fact, the prejudices of juries are due to the penalty of death, then in that respect they are also due entirely to the Judges who are always passing these sentences because by the law they are entitled not to pass them if they like.

On one occasion when this matter came on for discussion, Mr. Jackson had said to a very ardent supporter of the Government, one of the authors of these very minutes, "Would you be tried by any Civilian or any other Judge on the Bench?"—"Oh no," he said, "that is quite a different case."

The speaker continued: "I think, gentlemen, with regard to a matter of this kind that everything justifies us in the agitation which at present is going on. Agitate, not merely for the revocation of this Notification but in time to come for the finality of the verdict. This constant going backwards and forwards is of little good with regard to the State at large and is perfect death to the unfortunate man who is the subject of these numerous trials.

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DROIT ET AVANT.

# Reis and Rayyet

(PRINCE & PEASANT)

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

AND

REVIEW OF POLITICS LITERATURE AND SOCIETY

Vol. XI.

CALCUTTA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1892.

No. 55

## CONTEMPORARY POETRY.

### THE HAUNTED CASTLE.

ONCE upon a time I pondered,  
Musing on things high and deep,  
As my castle halls I traversed—  
Lofly tower and donjon-keep.

Here, I cried, all is familiar ;  
Many a year I've owned this place ;  
Yet, methinks, some closer searching  
Unknown mysteries might trace.

When I know each lofty chamber,  
Pillared hall and shadowy cell ;  
Yet, it may be, there are corners  
Where dark things unnoticed dwell.

Here are galleries of beauty,  
Where the glorious sunbeams fall ;  
There are corridors mysterious,  
Tenanted by ghosts in thrall.

Haply yonder winding staircase  
Leads to chambers unexplored ;  
I would fain, my lamp re-trimming,  
See what chattels there are stored.

What is here—a secret panel ?  
Never this my gaze hath met ;  
And I, pausing on the threshold,  
Hesitate to enter yet.

Oft I've passed this very doorway ;  
Smooth and perfect seemed the wall ;  
But the lamplight, faint and waning,  
Glanced not where the shadows fall.

Courage, Soul ! why so reluctant ?  
Press the spring and enter in.  
Ah, what fearful revelation  
Meets my gaze—a Secret Sin !

Sorely is my spirit troubled  
By this unexpected sight ;  
But this most unwelcome inmate  
Must be dragged forth to the light.

What, another—and another !  
This must be the haunted room !  
Hark ! I hear the spectres pleading  
For a respite from their doom :

'Truly you mistake our nature ;  
False intruders we are not.  
Let us dwell in peace and quiet  
In this dim secluded spot.

'Know that all our names are noble—  
Self-reliance ; Dignity ;  
Moral Worth ; Religious Duty ;  
Prudence ; Zeal ; and Clemency.'

'False !' I cried, 'are all these titles.  
Will they bear the searching light ?'  
Then I turned the lamp full on them,  
And they cowered with affright.

One by one they shrank and quivered  
'Neath the fiercely blazing flame,  
And I read upon each spectre,  
Writ in fire—its real name :

Self-reliance was Presumption ;  
Dignity, a proud flesh-worm ;  
Moral Worth, Self-exaltation ;  
And Religious Duty, Form ;

Prudence proved Convenient Falsehood ;  
Zeal, false energy, self-idea ;  
Clemency, a Sin Defender.  
How I shuddered as I read !

Quickly then from out its scabbard  
Forth my Spirit-sword I drew,  
And this band of vile impostors  
With its double edge I slew :

Cast them out, and cleansed the chamber,  
Letting in a fresher air ;  
And lo, seven other spirits—  
Pure and lovely—entered there !

In that cell a lamp now burneth  
With a light that ne'er shall cease ;  
And the erewhile haunted chamber  
Is a home of joy and peace.

—Chamber.

ELIZABETH ROWBOTHAM.

### THE SONG'S ERRAND.

O SONG ! go greet her whom I may not greet,  
My tender thoughts outpour ;  
Tell her that though so far apart we be,  
I do remember evermore.

Ask her, O Song, if she hath quite forgot  
That far-off, golden noon ;  
'Twas the year's sweetest season, and my heart  
Throbbled to the passionate heart of June.

Down in the garden where the birds and bees  
Revelled, I wandered long ;  
Till on mine eyes there fell the fairest sight,  
And on mine ears the sweetest song.

Subscribers in the country are requested to remit by postal money orders, if possible, as the safest and most convenient medium, particularly as it ensures acknowledgment through the Department. No other receipt will be given, any other being unnecessary and likely to cause confusion.

I gazed into the depths of wondrous eyes,  
I clasped a soft white hand ;  
And Love awaked, and a diviner air  
Breathed low upon the sea and land.

And then I knew that Love transfigures yet,  
As in the days of old :  
The world was fair, and we were young—O Song,  
Such hours are lived, but never told !

She dwelleth calm amid her cloistered shades—  
I tread life's busy mart ;  
She dreameth not, in murmuring prayers to Heaven,  
Of restless head and weary heart.

O Song, 'tis summer, and the roses blow  
Where winter's snow hath lain ;  
But tell her, tell her that life's June of love  
Will never come to me again.

HUGH LINDSAY.

—Chamber.

### WEEKLYANA.

THE news of news this week is the following by telegraph :—

"London, December 28.

The *Times* deprecates the withdrawal of trial by jury in India in the teeth of the very decided movement on the part of the natives against such withdrawal, and in the absence of any demand for it on the part of unofficial Europeans.

The *Times* goes on to say that it is unable to discover in the Government statistics any evidence whatever of the defeat of justice resulting from trial by jury. It declares our ideas of personal and political liberty to be identical, and that the withdrawal or restriction of trial by jury is only possible upon production of indisputable proofs that the system has been so perverted by extraneous influence as to have failed in attaining the primary objects aimed at, and rendering their attainment impossible."

THE eighth Indian National Congress opened on Tuesday, the 29th December, at 1 P.M., in the great pandal erected in the grounds of Lowther Castle. About a thousand delegates were present and more were coming in.

A great crowd of visitors thronged the visitors' galleries. The arrangement inside the pandal was excellent. Pundit Bishamber Nath, Chairman of the Reception Committee, read the address of welcome to the delegates, concluding with calling upon them to elect a president for the session. Rao Bahadur Ananda Charlu, of Madras, proposed, and Mr. D. E. Wacha, of Bombay, seconded that Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee be asked to preside. This was carried amidst great cheering.

The President then delivered a ringing address for two-and-a-half hours.

The various secretaries of districts were then asked to elect members to form the Subject Committee.

A SEPOY, Dhan Singh by name, put the muzzle of a rifle to the stomach of his Havildar while he was asleep, and fired ; he then ran amok, and getting under a bridge 300 yards from the native lines, commenced firing at all who showed. He then fixed his bayonet, and commenced promenading up and down, when a corporal's guard advanced to arrest him. While parleying, a brave sepoy dressed as a villager, rushed from behind and pinned the murderer's arms, when he was overpowered and arrested.

NAWAB Mehdi Ali Khan, of Hyderabad, has been lecturing his countrymen in Urdu at Chudderghat. His subject was the relation of religion to science. He held that science is not compatible with dogmatic religion, though it is with that natural or divine religion, the germs of which are to be found in the breast of every human being, whether white or black, red or brown, and that, as science must be true, it is so much the worse for the religion that is not compatible with it. He rejoiced to think that Islam was among the least dogmatic of creeds. He, therefore, thought it strange that, during the last five hundred years in which Christendom has made such startling progress in science, there has been little movement amongst Mahomedan nations.

ASTROLOGY in England has not only its almanacs but also its periodical press. There is an *Astrological Magazine* which lately asked Mr. Gladstone to furnish, if he could, the precise hour of his birth on the 29th December. The great statesman promptly responded saying that he could not, but had heard that it was about breakfast time. Mr. Sala reminds the readers of the *Englishman* that Sir John Falstaff was more precise touching the chronology of his nativity—"about three of the clock in the afternoon."

AT Colombo, a woman was charged with stealing a "cock bird," and found guilty by the Magistrate of theft of a "fowl," but the more curious eye of the Supreme Court discovered a confusion of sexes. Such an error is bad in law as well as in grammar. The "cock" of the charge proved to be a "hen." The accused was discharged.

THE Governor has ordered English as the language of the Madras City Civil Court.

IT is said that the Governor-General of Portuguese India "has notified his intention to abstain from reading any newspapers published within his jurisdiction, and will return all that may be sent to him with an intimation to that effect." That is like Portuguese enlightenment at the end of the 19th century.

A SPLENDID example to misers has just been left in his will by a successful Scotch publisher. The late Thomas Nelson, publisher, Edinburgh, of Thomas, Nelson & Sons, Edinburgh, London and New York, was able and willing to provide, by a trust disposition and settlement, for the following charities :—

|                                                                              |         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| New Shelter Halls in poor districts in Edinburgh ...                         | £50,000 |
| Free Church of Scotland ... ..                                               | 10,000  |
| Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh ... ..                                          | 5,000   |
| National Bible Society of Scotland ... ..                                    | 1,000   |
| Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society ... ..                                  | 1,000   |
| Edinburgh Sabbath Free Breakfast Mission ... ..                              | 250     |
| Edinburgh Society for the Relief of the Destitute Sick ... ..                | 250     |
| Edinburgh Association for Incurables ... ..                                  | 200     |
| Edinburgh Royal Blind Asylum and School ... ..                               | 100     |
| Edinburgh Deaf and Dumb Benevolent Society ... ..                            | 100     |
| Edinburgh Institution for the Relief of Incurables at their Own Homes ... .. | 100     |
| Edinburgh Carruthers Close Mission ... ..                                    | 100     |
| Edinburgh City Mission ... ..                                                | 100     |
| Fund for the Relief of Indigent Gentlemen in Scotland ... ..                 | 100     |

£68,300

THE other testamentary dispositions are :—

"£5,000 per annum to his wife, but in the event of her entering into a second marriage the annual payment to her is to be restricted to £2,500. These sums are to be inclusive of, and not in addition to the £600 secured to her under their contract of marriage. She is also to have the use for life of his house, St. Leonards ; £50,000, upon trust, for each of his daughters for life, and then for their descendants as they shall appoint, but with power to confer upon any husbands who may survive them the income of £10,000 ; £50,000 to each of his sons, payable on their respectively attaining twenty-five ; £20,000 each to his sisters Mrs. Anne Brown, Mrs. Margaret Adams, and Miss Jessie Nelson ; £20,000, upon trust, for his brother James Nelson for life, and then for his said three sisters equally ; £2,000 each to his nieces and nephew, Mrs. Mary Evelyn Annandale, Mrs. Catherine Florence Macleod, Miss Heta Edith Nelson, Miss Alice Maud Nelson, and William Frederick Inglis Nelson, the children of his late brother William Nelson ; £2,000 to Mrs. Catherine Nelson, the widow of his said late brother ; and £250 each to George Watson and Robert F. McEwen if they shall accept the office of trustee. The rest, residue, and remainder of his whole means, estate, and effectable and movable, real and personal, of whatsoever nature or denomination and wheresoever situated, is to be held for his sons equally, and to be paid to them on their respectively attaining the age of twenty-five years. Full powers are given to the trustees, if he has not formed one in his life time, to form a jointstock company (limited) for the purpose of taking over and carrying on the publishing business of Thomas Nelson and Sons, of Edinburgh, London, and New York, which belonged exclusively to the deceased, and upon the younger of his two sons attaining the age of twenty-five years the trustees are to transfer to them, equally, the shares, debentures, and mortgages of the said company, which they shall then hold, in so far as they may not be required to provide the annuity for his wife."

If anything can atone for the sin of morbid acquisitiveness, it is such contingent liberality.

A RICH story is told of the horribly rich man who has just left his forty crores to take care of themselves while he went on the Great Journey "for good":—

"His minister came to him one morning and said to him: 'Mr. Gould, I am a poor man and I have a large family. I have managed to put by 10,000 dol., and if I could double it, I should not be anxious about the future of my family if I were called away.' 'Minister,' said Mr. Gould, 'I will tell you how to do so provided that you will tell no one else;' and he advised him to purchase largely of this particular stock for a rise. The minister did so, and the stock was in great demand. But a month or two afterwards the market price fell heavily. Again the minister called on Mr. Gould, 'I am ruined,' he said; 'you have deceived your pastor.' 'Pastor,' replied Mr. Gould, 'I told you to keep my advice a secret. Did you do so?' 'Well,' said the minister, 'I did mention it to a few of our elders.' 'So I thought you would,' said Gould, 'and I have got off the whole of the stock that I held on them and their friends; here are your 10,000 dol. back, and here are 10,000 more for your trouble in the matter.'"

IN the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 14th December, the Local Government appointed Mr. T. W. Richardson, sub *pro tem*. Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the General, Revenue and Statistical Departments, to act as Registrar of Parsee Marriages beyond the local limits of the ordinary civil jurisdiction of the High Court, in addition to his own duties. This week's gazette announces the appointment, by the Chief Justice, of the same gentleman for the same duty within the local limits of the ordinary original civil jurisdiction of the Court, also "in addition to his own duties." So Mr. Richardson is now an all round recording angel of Parsee matrimony.

BY the way, this gentleman occupies an interesting position. A sub *pro tem*. Under-Secretary is the ideal "little man dressed in brief authority," &c., who, if not quite an angel himself, is able to distress angels. He is the missing link in Bureaucracy, between the Great Unwashed and Uncovenanted and the recognised Heaven-born.

AT Malaga, on December 7, Francisca Pino, suspecting Soledad Ruiz, a young woman, of being intimate with her husband, waylaid and stabbed her, inflicting with a large knife a deep wound in the neck, which afterwards proved fatal. Such is the green-eyed monster—and as bad in the West as in the East.

## NOTES & LEADERETTES

with

### OUR OWN NEWS.

THE chief European news since our last is the diabolical attempt in Ireland to intimidate authority. On Saturday the 24th December, it was known at Dublin that the Liberal Government had refused to release Daly, the Fenian. That very night a dynamite explosion occurred outside the Detective office in Dublin, situated directly under the library in the Chief Secretary's office and close to the Castle. Luckily, Mr. John Morley was not in his library. The poor detective on duty was torn to pieces out of life.

An Ameican named Kevans, who was arrested on the night of the 27th at Nenagh, in Tipperary, is suspected of being connected with the outrage.

FURIOUS fighting has been going on in the French Chamber. On the evening of Friday se'nnight M. M. Floquet and Rouvier were assailed by a violent storm. They both stoutly denied touching the Canal gold. The former had come to know as Premier that immense sums were being lavished on the Press and he intervened to prevent the demoralization of the Republican Press. M. Rouvier gave Warren Hastings' explanation. He had simply saved the Republic by drawing money from private sources for the Secret Service Fund. Arrests are being made and important public men are in alarm.

A letter copying book has been seized in the office of the Panama Canal Company implicating numerous Senators and Deputies as dishonest receivers of large sums.

On Saturday, a vote of confidence in the Government was passed in the Paris Chambers.

Meanwhile, a Boulangist plot seems hatching in France.

THE express speed of our Lieutenant-Governor has somewhat abated. On Tuesday, the Bengal Government made over to the Home Department the Memorial against the Jury Notification adopted at the Town Hall meeting on the previous Tuesday. We hear Sir Charles Elliott is surprised at some of the statements made in the document. He has taken some pains to rebut them. Since the publication of the Notification, Sir Charles had been collecting statistics from various quarters in its justification. Indeed, after the public condemnation from all sides which greeted the Notification, His Honour took seriously to the study of the question. Since the public criticism evoked by his *Gazette Extraordinary* of the 10th November containing the justificatory official papers, he has devoted his whole acute mind to the subject. Alas! it is all Love's Labour Lost. No investment in Chubb's Patent will recover the purloined horse!

THE Government of India have given their decision on the representation of counsel for the defence in the Ulwar murder case. Only the sentence of death pronounced upon Akhai Singh, the hired assassin, has been commuted to penal servitude for life: but with the sentences passed upon the other prisoners the Government of India decline to interfere. Major Ramchunder will pay for his crime on the gallows. Government scout the plea that the command of a Native Ruler can extenuate an abominable crime.

THEY are all going to Babylon the Great. This time it is Kupperthala's turn. The Lieutenant-Governor of the Panjab has sanctioned the Raja's grand tour through the world, and will probably lend him the services of Colonel C. H. T. Marshall to accompany him, for which His Highness has applied. The party will, we believe, take in America before proceeding to Europe, and will remain abroad for six months. His Highness will doubtless look in at some of the ports in China and Japan. Why should he neglect Australia? As he is not to have another opportunity in his short life, we would recommend South America also, which is likely to come home to Indians of the East better than the noisy bounding life of the energetic Teutonic settlements. In North America not the least interesting would be a visit to Canada, a British dependency, with its French population, its old English, Scotch, and Irish emigrants, its "gentlemen choppers," its class feuds, its chequered and tumultuous history, its extraordinary fertility, its cheap living, and, lastly, its memories of some of our own greatest and best Viceroys.

NO more native Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University! The choice of a successor in the Vice-Chancellery to Dr. Justice Gurudas Banerjee has fallen on Mr. Justice J. Q. Pigot, B.A. Indeed, so urgent is the demand for this gentleman that he is first created a fellow and then appointed Vice-Chancellor. A lucky fellow! Some fellows indeed are so lucky! Poor Sir John Phear, who from a Cambridge don proved one of the best Judges of the Bengal High Court, was, after years of activity as an educationist within and without the governing body of the University—to the extent of supporting schools out of his private purse—repeatedly passed over, until it became plain that the Government of India—or rather the miserable clique of officials who have the ear of the Viceroy—would never make him the Vice-Chancellor, when he threw up his barren fellowship in disgust. We trust the Vice-Chancellor elect will justify the extraordinary rage in his favour. He is, we believe, a Trinity Collegeman of Dublin. These Dubliners are all of the right stuff.

THE *Hindoo Patriot* shews enterprise. This morning it is in a position to publish the confidential letter No. 4675J., dated the 21st December 1891, from Mr. H. J. S. Cotton, Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, referred to in the India letter of the 25th August, 1892, approving of the proposed action of the Bengal Government in the Jury business. From this letter, it appears that Sir Charles Elliott was wroth that the third batch of prisoners in the Shambazar riot case were let off by the Judge on the unanimous verdict of not guilty by the Jury. The Bengal Government had taxed the Judge for not referring the case to the High Court under section 307 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Mr. Rampini had taken time after the verdict of the Jury to consider the course he should take, and decided to set free the prisoners. Mr. Cotton in the letter informs the Supreme Government that in the course of confidential correspondence on that

trial, between the Judge and the Bengal Government, the Judge had "explained that he was actuated by the belief that the verdict of the Jury being unanimous, it was useless to hope that the High Court would reverse it." Hence the necessity for the change of the law suggested.

And this sort of confidential communication with the judiciary the Lieutenant-Governor permits himself to indulge in! Matters have come to a sorry pass indeed when executive officers, how high soever, can demand such explanations of Judges and when Judges can submit to such confessional. We wonder whether Lord Lansdowne has anything to say to such an anti-British departure.

MR. Justice Collins fined the High Sheriff of Hampshire, Sir Henry Tichborne, Bart., five hundred guineas for absenting himself at the Winchester Assizes to go on a visit to South Africa, without leave of the Court. The Judge thought that the High Sheriff as a great officer, charged with the administration of the law, should be the last to set an example of disobedience. Mr. Justice Collins, however, did not feel confident that the punishment would be upheld, though he had taken every available advice before awarding it. Even for an English baronet, 500 guineas seems to our mind excessive for a first offence of omission. The fine will, we believe, be reduced if not remitted altogether—after Sir Henry has undergone the expense and trouble of an appeal.

HERE is as singular an instance of judge-made law as we have ever known. At the same Assizes, before the same Judge, Charles Ashby, a fireman in the Royal Navy, and Amy, his first wife, were each charged with bigamy. They had been married in March 1887. It did not turn out a happy union, and they separated—in peace. The husband went abroad, after having, by a deed dated the 1st September 1891, made over the wife to one Willis for the consideration of £30. Having thus successfully and with rare prudence and profit disposed of "my Amy, mine no more," Ashby opened negotiations in other quarters, and finally had another—Fall. He had informed his new mate of his first wife and produced the deed of sale for her satisfaction. His luck in this regard followed him to the very dock of the criminal court. For the Judge too was satisfied, inasmuch as no one was deceived, and ordered the prisoners to enter into recognisances to come up for judgment when required. That is more like a good old Kadi of the olden times than a British Judge.

The main circumstances of the case are not, we are afraid, so uncommon as we are taught to think. In the face of such revelations, it is vain for Englishmen to complain of the belief, so prevalent on the Continent and in America, that the lower orders in Great Britain sell their wives. The myth of the Lord Mayor annually holding an auction of British girls, is no doubt exceedingly foolish and betrays stupendous ignorance of British law and constitution and the state of society in Great Britain within these three centuries. But the absurdity can scarcely be said to be without foundation.

CHARMED with the music of an itinerant guitar thrummer and music-hall singer, the wife of a rich Maltese merchant in Algeria left her home and husband to follow the fortunes of her charmer. For her friends and kinsmen it was a case of mysterious disappearance, and so it remained. Gradually she came to be advertized as "La Belle Zerrada," the *danseuse* who was eagerly sought after during the last Paris Exhibition. But they never suspected it was she. She has now been miraculously restored to her own. Recently, while walking along the Place de l'Italie, in Paris, the disconsolate husband caught the strains of some Arab music. Led by natural curiosity to trace the familiar sound to its source, he entered the booth of a mountebank, and to his horror found his lost wife dancing on the stage to the music that had attracted him there. He rushed to clasp her in his bosom. A fight between him and her present protectors followed. She fainted. The Police were called in. Both the parties, with the living treasure-trove, were taken to a commissary, who, without British circumlocution, there and then ordered the return of the wife to the husband.

WHO would look for fun in a law periodical? The *Deccan Budget* has actually found it in the last *Indian Jurist*—in the following gentle passage-at-arms between the editor and a correspondent:—

"SIR,—In your last you have affixed the letters S. J. to Mr. Joseph's

name, meaning no doubt 'Sessions Judge,' but unfortunately you have set them apart as standing for 'Society of Jesus.' Does it not verge on libel to call that learned Judge a 'Jesuit'?"

OUTIS.

Kurnool, 14th November, 1892.

"[We are not afraid that the learned Judge in question will object to being briefly described as 'S. J.' or 'D. J.' until he becomes 'C. J.' In many instances the meaning to be attached to an abbreviation depends upon its surroundings. Thus: 'W. C.' stands for 'West Central' when written on an envelope under 'London.' In other places this abbreviation usually stands for something else.—ED. J. J.]"

One of our underlings, to give another case, received some letter for us and signed the receipt, putting after his name the initials, "B. C. S." Asked whether he was a competitionwallah or a statutorywallah he answered that he was neither this wallah nor that wallah, but only a Bill Collecting Sircar. That silenced all objection. The poor man's right to the distinguished letters is as good as that of any heaven-born *Hoozoor*.

GREAT wits jump together, it is said. So despots, great and small, with or without concert. At any rate, it is a singular coincidence that at the same time both the Autocrat of All the Russias and the Satrap of all the Provinces comprised under the Government of Bengal, were meditating a crushing blow on the popular institution of Trial by Jury in their respective territories. The more impatient of the two took less time to make up his mind. The Bengal ukase appeared on the 26th October, giving the country just five days' notice to bury the Jury system and all its belongings and associations and turn a new leaf. By the 1st of November all was over with the old procedure and the people were expected to enjoy the rare felicity of all offences and crimes being disposed of by an infallible judiciary of foreigners who lived among themselves, isolated from the native inhabitants whose language they do not know. The Czar consumed the greater part of the same month, and it was not till the last week of November that His Majesty's Jury Notification was issued.

THE Maharaja of Mysore has been on a visit to the metropolis since the 20th of this month. The Viceroy is shewing marked attention to His Highness. He is a most intelligent, quiet, and courteous prince and those who have come in contact with him speak highly of his condescending manners. He went to the races on two occasions in the Viceroy's company, and his plain and simple costume and his pleasing behaviour were much admired by the crowds assembled at the Race stand. Among the Native Chiefs of India, the Maharaja stands second in rank, (the first being the Nizam of the Deccan), with an annual income of a crore and half. The Prime Minister, Mr. Sheshadri Iyer, who accompanies his Chief, himself draws a monthly salary of Rs. 5,000.

Mr. Iyer is a B. A. of the Madras University and an officer of great ability. In his administration, under the immediate and active guidance of the Maharaja, the important innovation inaugurated by His Highness of a Council of representatives from various parts of the state assembling at the capital of Mysore yearly to discuss questions of vital interest to all classes of the population, has been nourished and is taking root. In fact, Mysore is now considered the model native state in India, and we congratulate His Highness for having brought the state to that condition. We wish him a happy New Year, and trust that he may fully enjoy his visit to this city of Palaces and return home with pleasant memories of the capital of the Empire.

WITHIN the last few days three Mahomedan gentlemen of high position in the North West, have come down to Calcutta on a short visit. They are Nawabs Sufdar Ali Khan Bahadur, and Hyder Ali Khan Bahadur, (a prominent member of the Rampore Family in Rohilkhand,) and Mirza Mahomed Abbas Bahadur, a Statutory Civilian and Assistant Commissioner of Hurdul in Oudh. Mirza Abbas is the only son of the late Mirza Agha Ali Khan, *alias* Agha Sahib, who was for many years the Nazim (Commissioner) of the Chucklah of Sultanpore in the reign of the late Wajed Ali Shah. The father was of great help to the British in establishing their administration in Oudh, after the annexation and the Mutiny, and was in consequence held in great esteem by the authorities up to the time of his death which took place only 3 years ago.

## OUR HYDERABAD COLUMN.

December 24.

THERE is great ferment at Hyderabad and everybody is on the tip-toe of expectancy. Some great changes in the administration are surely to take place at no great distant date. Constant consultations are being held in the palace as well as at the minister's residence and very wild and exaggerated rumours are afloat in the city of the coming changes in the *personnel* of the Hyderabad administration. Rumour says that Nawab Vicar-ul-oomra Bahadur, the Revenue and Military Moin-ul-Maham (Assistant to the Minister) is to be made Naib Dewan, and that the late Peishkar's maternal grandson, Raja Kishan Prasad Bahadur, is to succeed the Vicar-ul-oomra as Revenue and Military assistant to the minister, that the posts of the remaining three Moin-ul-Mahams are to be done away with altogether, or their number is to be reduced to two. They say that Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk Bahadur is to be made Chief or General Secretary and that Mokhtadir Jung Bahadur, the Suba of Aurangabad, and Mr. A. J. Dunlop, the Inspector-General of Revenue, are jointly to conduct the duties of the Revenue Secretariat to the Minister. It is known for certain that a European gentleman is to be appointed as Controller-General of the Hyderabad State and that he will in future exercise a strict supervision over the finances of this poor plundered state. They say that Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk's appointment as Chief or General Secretary is much dreaded throughout the whole of His Highness's dominions, he being the most lavish and aggressive Secretary this poor State has ever had. I am afraid he is awfully unpopular in the city and throughout the dominions and very much distrusted by the officials of the State. It is also whispered that Nawab Imad-ul-Mulk Bahadur (Syed Hossain Belgrami) will shortly retire on pension. It is in the air that certain outsiders from Bombay or Calcutta will be put in charge of high posts. It is high time that something like this be done, as the *protégés* of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan have signally failed. The general impression is that it is owing to their administration that outsiders are being pitchforked into places right and left and that they have made the administration of the state three times more expensive than it was under Sir Salar Jung I. It is believed the state is in debt over head and ears, and should Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's *protégés* continue any longer in power the administration is sure to be taken over by the British Government on account of the embarrassed state of the finances.

THIS year the races have attracted very large crowds at the race stand, and particularly on Monday the 26th instant, when the Viceroy's Cup was run for, there was hardly moving space in the extensive grounds of the stand. From the strange faces seen on that occasion, it was evident that an unusually large number of European ladies and gentlemen have come into Town from the Mofassil, during Christmas week, and also a goodly number from Europe.

The race for the Viceroy's cup was a splendid one. The winner was "Highborn," owned by the Maharajah of Cooh Behar. Showers of congratulations from his numerous friends for his good luck poured upon the Maharaja, who was present at the spot.

THE first general social gathering of the season took place in the Belvedere grounds yesterday in the afternoon. Sir Charles and Lady Elliott played the part of host and hostess with great courtesy and affability. The Viceroy and the Marchioness of Lansdowne honored the garden party with their presence and stopped there for about three quarters of an hour. A very large number of European ladies and gentlemen and native gentlemen were present, and it was evident that they all enjoyed this opportunity of meeting old friends and making new acquaintances. Almost all the prominent members of both the European and Native communities were there. Many distinguished strangers could also be seen, such as the Maharaja of Mysore and Admiral Kennedy.

WE learn from letters from Hyderabad, that one of the chief topics of the day there is the expected examination of the Prime Minister on behalf of the defence in the Pamphlet Scandal case. Sir Asman Jah is trying his best to avoid appearing in Court, but it is not yet known whether the Counsel for the defence will so easily let him off. Our information is, that if the Court will summon him to give his evidence, the Nizam will not stand in the way. It was at the instance of Sir Asman Jah, instigated by Mushtak Hossain, that His

Highness was reluctantly induced to give his evidence in the Diamond case. How could he consistently refuse to give his Minister permission to appear in a case in which his evidence might be of vital interest to the defence? If His Excellency is ultimately compelled to give evidence, fearful exposures are likely to be made in the hands of Mr. Norton, which will conclusively prove to the world the rottenness of His Excellency's administration.

"ENGLISH Preparatory Course with Notes," is the title of a neatly got up, handy and small-priced text book in English, just brought out by Babu Saradaprasad Banerjee, well known as a Headmaster of over thirty years' experience, and for some time a Professor of English in the Metropolitan Institution. The selections are both in Prose and Poetry, after the manner of the University Entrance Course, the writers laid under contribution being all classical but modern. The chief aim of the compiler has been to place before the young learners, from standard authors, writings characterised above all by simplicity of style, and one can conceive the pains it must have cost him in carrying out this object. For this is a genuine selection—not a perfunctory collection of random materials. Baboo Saradaprasad is not only a successful schoolmaster—his early success at Narail was phenomenal—but he is, what few schoolmasters are, a ready, correct and forcible writer. Accordingly, in compiling this little book he was entirely in his element. Hence his success. The selections are unexceptionable, and the notes which are just by way of hints are likely to be a help not merely to the boys, but sometimes to their betters. The book is worthy of its author, and we believe it is destined to work its way into popular estimation as it fully deserves.

EVERY one will remember Burke's magnificent *eloque* on John Howard. That great man, who began life as an apprentice to a grocery, to use the eloquent words of the philosophical statesman,

"went forth through the world, not to survey the sumptuousness of palaces, or the stateliness of temples, not to make accurate admeasurements of the remains of ancient grandeur, not to collect medals or to collate manuscripts, but to dive into the depths of dungeons, to plunge into the infections of hospitals, to survey the mansions of sorrow and pain, to take the gauge and dimensions of human misery, depression, and contempt, to remember the forgotten, to attend to the neglected, to visit the forsaken, and to repress and ameliorate the distresses of all men in all countries. His plan is original, and is as full of genius as of humanity. It was a voyage of discovery, a circumnavigation of charity, and the benefit of it is felt more or less in every country."

A female Howard has arisen in a Miss Marsden, who has undertaken the mission to relieve lepers in the same way that Howard devoted himself to the mission to the victims of pre-Howard prison discipline. And as Howard travelled through Europe to acquaint himself with the condition of the prison population and was not satisfied till he had taken in in his survey the vast and as yet mostly untrodden empire of Russia, so his successor in benevolence has gone in quest of the sufferers from a loathsome disease to the ends of the earth as it were—to far Cathay. While a nurse to the wounded in the last war between Russia and Turkey, she came across two lepers, whose pitiable condition stirred the entire compassion of her nature in behalf of that class of miseries. She read and enquired and finally embarked on the mission of helping these poor waifs of the human family. Having heard at Constantinople of a Siberian herb for the cure of leprosy, she tried to procure it. Not succeeding, she resolved to go herself to fetch it from its habitat. Accordingly, she set out in search of the modern Golden Fleece, performing an arduous journey to the heart of North Asia, in the course of which she travelled in sledge and tarrantass no less than 14,000 miles and 2,000 on horse-back. After all her troubles and sacrifices, however, she was fortunate enough to find her Fleece: Unfortunately for her and the world, it proved silver rather than golden. The herb was not a myth, but it was a disappointment. It was no cure for the horrid disease. Yet its influence is good, relieving the poor sufferers. There, in Siberia, she discovered plenty of these. There is quite a colony of lepers who are pining away their days in misery and want. For sixty-four years they have been crying for help, but the great world of Christendom has not heard them. Miss Marsden has written a book which will be shortly out with a dedication by permission to the Queen. The proceeds will go to the mission. The good lady is trying to raise funds. She meditates for the purpose a lecturing tour in the United States.

HERE is a truly British *tableaux vivants* which we read in an English paper:—

"Ye Olde Englyshe Feste.—Great success attended the proceeding at the Manchester Hotel, Aldersgate-street, London, in connection with the revival of 'Ye Olde Englyshe Feste' in honor of Lord Mayor's Day. The meeting was largely due to the efforts of Mr. Newell, the courteous manager at the Manchester Hotel, whose happy suggestion it was that the election of Mr. Alderman Renals, as one of the sheriff, should be celebrated by the revival of this time-honoured custom. The company numbered about 250, a very large proportion being of the gentler sex, and the proceedings were of a most enjoyable character. Shortly before half-past six the procession, which was much more imposing than in former years, entered the banqueting room, and marched round the hall in the following order:—Captain of the Guard, Two Beefeaters, Dick Whittington, Sir John Falstaff, Simon the Cellarer, Assistant, the Jester, Chef de Cuisine, Kitchen Apprentices bringing in Turkeys, Scullion bringing in Turtle Shell, Varlet bringing in Dish of Spratts, Two Cooks bringing in the Boars' Heads, the Court Chaplain, Baron of Beef and his servitors, Two Beefeaters, Pages, Two Cooks bringing in the Turkeys, Pâtissier with Plum Pudding, Two Apprentices with Gateaux, Varlet with Mince Pies, Baker with Monster Loaf, Page with Fruit. During the progress of the banquet an excellent selection of music appropriate to the occasion was played by the instrumental quartet in attendance. At the conclusion of the feast the procession of beefeaters, &c., was re-formed, the remains of the baron of beef being carried away, amid laughter and cheers, to the accompaniment of the Dead March in 'Saul.'"

Beef all over!—nothing but beef! And what wonder? Nothing like the Roast Beef of Old England—to the *khas* Englishman! He not simply relishes it but tenderly loves it. He not only lives on it, but he is ready to die for it. He dances in delirious joy at its sight. He smells it near and inhales it in the atmosphere far afar. He touches it, tastes it, cuts it and clips it and slices it, opens it with the knife, and admires its internal beauty, eats it and devours it. He hears of it, and thinks of it and meditates on its manifold perfections. He believes in Beef. He leaves to the Heathen Hindu to worship the fetish of the beef tree (so to say)—the cow, content himself to worship the fruit. In fine, the Briton cannot go beyond his baron—of beef. And here, in the above, is as good a proof as might be needed.

We are willing, as far as possible from our abstemious Hindu coign of advantage, to sympathise with the grotesque fun of this new celebration by the cits of Cockaigne, of the ridiculous old *tamasha* of the Lord Mayor's Day. We confess the apotheosis of the stomach and exaltation of meat and wine—in the absence of all allusion to the feast of reason and the flow of soul—strikes us as gross and animal. Still it is appropriate to the people at large, above all, as it now appears, to the Philistines of the City.

But the rites of the worship of creature comforts have been carried too far. Nothing can reconcile us to the desecration of the solemn music of the Dead March in Saul. That last act in the drama stamps the whole thing as bacchanalian orgies.

That effort of Cockney genius reminds us in the East of a historical demonstration in Delhi at the height of Mogul Power. When the stern Mahomedan Puritan on the throne, Aurungzebe, issued his fiat against singing and dancing as contrary to the law of Islam, the strolling players and low Bohemians and street Arabs of the capital led a coffin past the balcony of the Palace in procession, howling and crying and beating their breasts to attract the notice of the Emperor, who came out and enquired what the matter was, and was told that Music had been stabbed to death and they were carrying the corpse to give it decent burial. There was true art in that idea. But the poor unlettered mourners did not shock the highest associations connected with the solemn fact of death.

## REIS & RAYYET.

Saturday, December 31, 1892.

### THE TRIALS OF TRIAL BY JURY IN BENGAL.

THE alleged justification for Sir C. Elliott's Jury Notification is that the system of trial by jury favors the escape of criminals. Judges and Juries have always been looked upon with abhorrence by executive Magistrates and others charged with the detection and prevention of crime. It is they who are systematically crying them down, saying that

juries are partial and Sessions Judges do not convict on the clearest evidence. Such is the instinct of thief-catchers and criminal-hunters. But they have not unoften been proved false alarmists. Had the rulers at the helm been illiberal or weak, Juries would long since have been abolished. The measure was attacked no sooner it was inaugurated. In one case within a year or so of the introduction of the system in Bengal, we find the High Court writing to the Bengal Government that "the Commissioner for the Suppression of Dacoity should have refrained from imputing improper motives to any of the jury acquitting any of the dacoits committed by him unless he was prepared to substantiate his charges of undue influence in favor of the prisoner acquitted."

Hear now how a Sessions Judge was attacked and vilified for not convicting prisoners sent up by the Magistrate. The Government of Bengal cannot be ignorant how and why the report of a Tipperah Magistrate, the scion of a great Civilian House, on the Police administration of the district, was made the subject of special enquiry and how it ended to the entire discomfiture of the Magistrate. That functionary conceived that there was great increase in the number of murders, and attributed it to the impunity which grave criminals had invariably met with and to the excessive difficulty, even on apparently the clearest evidence, of obtaining a conviction before the Sessions Court. Heinous offenders of every kind, he observed, had escaped punishment during the past two years of his report, either on trial before the Court or as appellants. He had also remarked that there had been a large increase of the more heinous offences against property, which too he attributed to the same cause. The Judge resented this attack upon himself and applied to the High Court for redress. The Magistrate was called upon to justify his remarks. He at first refused to supply the statistics on which he had founded his opinion. He thought he was not bound to make good the remarks made in a privileged communication. Then he replied that his observations did not apply to the year just passed but to two antecedent ones. The Commissioner at last submitted an abstract of cases and appeals for the three years, which shewed that there were altogether 9 cases in the first year and 13 in the second, the two years to which the Magistrate's remarks were said to refer, and 8 cases in the third. There were no other cases which the Magistrate could possibly have based his remarks upon. But among the cases of the first two years there was not one of murder though there was one of dacoity and riot attended with murder, one of culpable homicide, two of causing miscarriage, and one of causing death by mis carriage, while of the more heinous offences against property, there was not a single case. It was found, in the sober official language, that the Magistrate's explanations accounting for the increase of murder, and of the more heinous offences against property, were insufficient, that he had no adequate grounds for imputing to the Judge either excessive leniency or a habit of acquitting in the face of evidence and, in a word, that no good and valid ground whatever existed for his remarks.

In the end the Magistrate was reprimanded and sent to another district. The Judge and the High Court were satisfied.

Whenever a verdict did not meet with the approval of any officer, the poor Jury system was to blame. But the good sense of the authorities had hitherto prevailed against clamour. In the course of the

controversy which, from time to time, has been held on the subject, many interesting and even valuable opinions have been delivered. As they seem to have escaped Government, we will try to lay some of them before the public. Here is a remarkable opinion of no less a man than Sir George Campbell :—

"In my opinion trial by jury in criminal cases as an invariable rule of absolute right is incompatible with—*first*, a despotic administration, that is, a form of Government not politically free; and, *second*, a society composed of two or more classes or races not socially and politically homologated and amalgamated.

For it is of the nature of trial by jury that the jury exercise a practical power of occasionally overriding the law in a direction which they may consider equitable and expedient in the particular case, of in fact acquitting on the ground of 'served him right,' and when the laws are not made by the same popular class from which the jury is taken, such variations between the law and popular opinion are more frequent, and the equitable power of varying the law is inconsistent with the scheme of Government.

And when unamalgamated classes are living and dealing together, trial by jury is sometimes not trial by peers in the only sense in which trial by peers is proper, that is, when the jurymen are the peers of both parties, of the injured party and of the accused. When class questions arise between the two unamalgamated classes or races to try a man of one class for an offence connected with such a class question by a jury of his own class only is a course which cannot be depended on to lead to a fair result. Hence it may happen that, while the laws of the Governors forbid *sutees* or sacrifices to Kallee, the feeling of jurymen may be that such acts are not criminal, and they may acquit with or without pretexts, which would not otherwise have influenced them, and when on an Indigo question a native is tried by a jury of natives, or a European by a jury of Europeans, the impartial public may distrust the verdict as possibly more or less influenced by a class bias. Such a difficulty seems to be felt not only in the Nuddea Sessions Court but also in the Consular Courts of China and Japan.

On the other hand I have a strong opinion, which is, I think, fully borne out by the papers now before us, that if provision be made for exceptional cases the use of juries is most valuable, both to improve and popularise the administration of justice, and as a means of socially and politically raising and educating the people. The experience which we have of the system in Bengal seems undoubtedly to show that it has succeeded beyond the most sanguine expectations. Therefore I think that the proper remedy for the very few exceptional cases of wilful miscarriage which have occurred is to provide a special remedy for such cases, not to destroy or suspend the whole system either in all districts or in any district.

I observe that it has been proposed by some of my colleagues to suspend trial by jury in the Nuddea District. Now, so far as one can judge by the reports, that appears to be the very District in which the system has, generally speaking, worked most successfully. The reports and opinion of the intelligent Judge who presides over the Nuddea court were till recently altogether in favour of the system. The proposal for suspending the system in Nuddea appears to be founded on two cases only, in one of which there may possibly have been some pretext for doubt in the minds of the jury, while in the other there could scarcely have been any whatever; both were class cases connected with indigo; in both the jury were no doubt influenced by a class feeling.

Now, it seems to me that, if the whole system of trial by jury in a great district is to be suspended indefinitely on account of the occurrence of one or two cases of miscarriage, such suspension will from time to time occur in one district after another, and the fair working out of the system will be impossible. This remedy for such exceptional cases seems to me cumbersome and inconsistent with the system as a system, nor does it provide the means of meeting future difficulties of the same kind. I think that it is necessary to provide a permanent means of meeting such difficulties without crushing the whole system, and I venture to propose the following, *viz.*, that by legislative enactment the High Court should be authorized, in any case in which it seems proper to do so, to order that the trial of a particular case shall not be by jury, but that the case shall be tried by a special court of three Judges, at least one of whom shall be of not less degree than Civil and Sessions Judge, and none shall be of less degree than Magistrate of a District, or Principal Sudder Ameen (provided that such Magistrate has not

been concerned in preparing the case for trial,) that the verdict of such Court of three Judges, if unanimous, shall be final on questions of fact, if by a majority shall be open to appeal on questions of fact.

This rule would, of course, be inconsistent with the English idea of trial by jury as a political safeguard. It is in order to withdraw political cases from juries, and because in this country political cases ought to be withdrawn from juries, that I would give this power to the High Court. The court not being in any degree a political or an executive body, its exercise of this power would be free from the objections which might be made to the exercise of such a power in individual cases by the Government or by any executive authority. It would probably be but seldom necessary to exercise such a power so that the consequent pressure on judicial officers would be but slight, and when required such a tribunal as I propose could be very easily extemporised. The necessity of substituting such a tribunal would prevent the light withdrawal of cases from juries, and also prevent, in those advanced Districts in which trial by jury has been established, a recurrence to that most unsatisfactory tribunal, a Judge with Assessors. I cannot but think that a simple remedy for all difficulties might thus be provided and one of permanent operation. With such a safeguard I think that, after the favourable experience we have had, trial by jury might perhaps be extended to some other Districts and to some other offences. But this would depend on the supply of sufficiently qualified Judges.

With respect to the difficulties of detail in the working of the jury system, it is clear that a wrong conviction can be righted on the representation of the Judge. The danger consists in two cases, first, where an ill-qualified Judge, not doing his duty fairly and temperately, and expressing clearly and lucidly both sides of the case, impose on a subservient jury his own opinions, and thereby obtains, as the verdict of a jury, a conviction which is really his own, and thus shuts out appeal on the facts in the very case in which it is most required. Second, where the jury wrongly acquits. The first danger can be obviated by employing in jury districts only specially qualified and reliable Judges, a course which the Court has lately urged on Government. The second is to a certain extent a necessary evil of the jury system, but if provision be made for withdrawing the few special cases on which a political, religious, or class bias may be apprehended, I do not think that the evil will operate to such an extent as to weigh heavily against the advantages of the system.

I concur in thinking that the numbers of the jury should be reduced to five. The number to which the ancient traditions and customs of the country attach a peculiar judicial sanctity, making the jury in fact a *Punchayat*, and relieving the people from the too great burden of a public service which in its present shape is new to them. I also think that the radius for describing the jury area should be increased to, say, fifteen miles, and it is quite clear that most stringent measures are required to enforce a careful and accurate preparation of the jury lists."

#### HYDERABAD.

It must be fresh in the minds of all how, about the time of the Viceroy's advent in Hyderabad, the Nizam had asserted his authority by suddenly ordering the banishment of Mushtak Hosain and the suspension of Mehdi Hassan. Since then, the country has been plunged into the vortex of speculation and alarm. A feverish anxiety has been felt by everybody in the Deccan, as to what the result of all this is likely to be. Two things, however, bid the people hope that nothing but good is to come out of this *coup d'état* against the Mayor of the Palace. In the first place, it is a decisive proof of capacity and character that the Nizam should have at once realized the extent of his own power and asserted it. He has thus, on his own responsibility, in spite of the earnest and repeated protests of the Prime Minister, rescued the administration of his state from the hands of the two foremost men who had brought it to a condition of the greatest disorganization and disrepute. The next favourable circumstance in the connection was the Viceroy's arrival at Hyderabad at a most opportune moment, and giving His Highness most

distinctly to understand what his real position, power and responsibilities are, and offering him every assistance which he may be in need of from the Supreme Government. The people of Hyderabad have, in a mass and in various ways, signified their satisfaction at the disgrace of the tyrants who had brought the administration to the worst possible condition, and they are praying to God Almighty for long life and prosperity to their chief, and for strength to effect such reforms in the Administration as may be beneficial to the country at large, and to the millions of His Highness's subjects. It is to be hoped that their rational anticipation is not doomed to disappointment.

Just now, it is a reign of suspense and uncertainty. There is even a suspension of vital functions, to a great extent. There is nothing or little doing. Sir Asman Jah was too notoriously identified with the disgraced Hassan and Hosain not to suffer from the blow which drove them from power and office. Willy nilly, he must share their fortune and fate. Notwithstanding the politic assurances of the Nizam to the contrary, he feels himself and his administration condemned in their condemnation. The foundation of the Pillar of State having been removed, how can it stand? Deprived of his leader, the blind man is condemned to inaction; he can at best only grope within the most limited area. It remains for the Nizam to end this unsatisfactory state of things. His Highness has unmistakably demonstrated that he is alive and awake, but he is not stirring right, in right earnest. He has just begun the good work but has stopped there. He has smashed the incompetent and unfaithful ministry, but has not yet removed the broken columns and carted away the *debris*. Still less has he given orders for a new edifice. At most, he has ordered a shanty or shed for temporary convenience.

Disappointing for the moment as is His Highness's attitude, it is not incapable of explanation. The formation of a new ministry is everywhere a difficult and delicate matter. In the Mussulman State of the Deccan, it is one of peculiar embarrassment. Just now a new element of delicacy has been accidentally introduced which may account for the hesitation of the Ruler. It is highly probable that the Nizam has not yet taken any steps for reorganization, pending the final decision in the Pamphlet Scandal case, which has been dragging its slow length along. This case most probably prevents the Prime Minister from resigning his post. In the absence of the only two men in whom he had extraordinary confidence, and who have been publicly disgraced, as well as in the consciousness that the Nizam is highly displeased with him for the disrepute into which he has brought the administration, Sir Asman Jah finds it exceedingly difficult to hold on. Both Master and Minister have good reasons to wait till the trial is over.

Just now, the Nizam must be at a loss to know how to introduce reforms, as he has no confidence either in his responsible ministers or in his personal advisers, including, we are afraid, his very Private Secretary. Having been studiously kept out of administrative details, he cannot possibly be expected to judge, from his own personal knowledge, what measures would be really beneficial to the state and to his subjects, or acceptable to the nobles. From information received from time to time, we find that the only man who has come to the fore in this crisis, is Nawab Surwar Jung, otherwise known as Agha Mirza Beg. He was one of the dozen or more of tutors of His Highness, during his minority. As Agha Mirza

was not a creature of the high officials in power in either of the two administrations under Salar Jung II. and Sir Asman Jah, they did not give him an appointment in the administration, but granted him a large pension, after His Highness's pupilage had come to an end, and persistently kept him out of office.

This is the man who is believed at Hyderabad to possess the greatest influence with the Nizam, at the present moment, and whom His Highness has appointed to the post of Secretary in his household affairs. People think that the chief cause of Agha Mirza's rise is the great interest which he has tenaciously taken in the Scandal Pamphlet case, notwithstanding the extraordinary efforts made by the ministry to hush it up.

We are glad at Agha Mirza's coming into power. We do not know him but we remember his family. He comes of a fine stock. From all the accounts we have received, we are led to believe that he is a man of high character and decent ability. From the attitude this gentleman has so long maintained in the evil atmosphere of Hyderabad, there is every ground for hope that he will not abuse the confidence which the Nizam has placed in him. We have, nevertheless, our misgivings, and they arise from two considerations. One is that, having had no experience whatever in administration, Agha Mirza may fall into the hands of old intriguers whose advice he may be compelled to seek and by whom he may be misled into committing serious mistakes. The other is a general consideration that applies to all, more or less, namely, that the great temptations of power and absolute authority may prove irresistible. It is just possible that the exercise of such exalted office may turn his head and ultimately launch him into the same channel in which Mushtak Hosain came to grief.

Let us, however, for the sake of Agha Mirza himself as well as his Master, hope for the best. His birth and character are all in his favour. He is, besides, a man of intelligence and good parts, and if he only consults really good honest and able men and acts according to their advice, and, above all, according to his own pure instincts, there is little fear of his going astray.

He could not have forgotten the couplet in Sadi's *Gulistan*—*Har ki Shah an kunad ki oo goyad, hyfe bāshad ki juz nekoo goyad, i. e.,* "the man, according to whose advice the sovereign acts, it is a matter of much regret if he says anything to the sovereign that is not good (for the King and his subjects)." If Agha Mirza only keeps the moral of this couplet as his guide, and says nothing to his chief which is not conducive to the good of the latter and his subjects, he is sure to earn a reputation that will raise him in the estimation of the whole world.

There can be no doubt whatever that no reorganization can take place in the administration, until there is a change of ministry, and if Sir Asman Jah has not himself the good sense to resign, after the exposures that have recently taken place, the Nizam ought to give him a broader hint, which he could not affect to miss. And then either of the two prominent noblemen, Sir Khursed Jah and Nawab Fukhrul Moolk, should be appointed Minister. The reorganization could then be made by the new Minister, with the full sanction of His Highness and to the entire satisfaction of the people. It will, in our opinion, be a great mistake, if any material changes in the details of the administration are made, while the present Minis-

ter is still in office. As sincere wellwishers of His Highness, we have ventured to offer him the above advice, and we are sure that a bright future awaits His Highness, if only he gives the lie to his enemies who have persistently proclaimed to the world that he is not only incompetent, but lazy and disinclined to work. We sincerely trust that as he has commenced, he will continue, taking a lively interest in ruling his kingdom.

### THE JURY DESPATCH.

Government of India, Home Department (Judicial),  
No. 32 of 1892, Calcutta, the 21st December 1892.

To the Right Hon'ble the Earl of Kimberley, K.G.,

*Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.*

My Lord,—We have the honour to forward for your Lordship's information copies of the papers entered in the annexed Schedule relative to an enquiry which has recently been made into the working of the system of trial by jury before Courts of Session in this country.

2. The jury system prevails in Sessions Courts in India only in a comparatively small number of districts and in respect of particular classes of offences. Section 269 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1882, following in this respect the provisions of the Codes of 1861 (section 322) and 1872 (section 233), authorizes the Local Government to direct by order in the official gazette that the trial of all offences or of any particular class of offences shall be by jury in any district, and also to revoke or alter any such order from time to time as may be found necessary. Certain Local Governments have at various times taken action under the powers conferred by this section or the corresponding sections of previous Codes, and the result is that trial by jury now obtains in Sessions Courts in respect of a limited group of offences in the Madras Presidency generally, and in a few selected districts of Bengal, Assam, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and the Bombay Presidency. The system has not been introduced at all in the Punjab or the Central Provinces. In Burma it is in force only in the Recorder's Court at Rangoon and in the sea port town of Moulmein; it was introduced in Akyab in 1863, but was withdrawn from that town in 1875. The Province of Burma however was not included in the scope of our recent enquiry.

The enquiry did not extend to the working of the jury system in Presidency towns. All cases committed to the various High Courts are tried by jury under rules special to those Courts; and, so far as we are aware, the system in Presidency towns has worked with fair success. The remarks which follow have reference only to the jury system as carried out in Sessions Courts in the interior.

3. In 1884 the Government of Lord Ripon considered the advisability of urging the Provincial Governments to take more general action under the powers enabling them to extend the system of jury trials in Sessions Courts, but, after a careful review of the results, it was decided that it was not expedient to take any steps in this direction. The correspondence on the subject between the Bengal Government and the High Court, and the other officers in Bengal who were consulted, will be found in the Proceedings Volumes of that Government (Proceedings of the Bengal Government in the Judicial Department, for July 1884, pages 9—14. Proceedings in the Judicial Department, for October 1885, pages 197—210.) Mr. Peacock's letter No. 1924 J., dated the 17th July 1884, contains an interesting review of previous discussions and opinions down to 1872, when the Criminal Procedure Code of that year introduced the safeguards against improper verdicts which have since been continued. It will be seen that in their letter No. 1271, dated the 22nd April 1885, the High Court (three Honourable Judges dissenting) expressed a strong opinion that, for reasons given by them, the time had not arrived for any further extension of the system of trial by jury in the Lower Provinces. Among these reasons were (1) the difficulty of procuring proper persons as jurors, and the distaste for the duty shown by those whose services as jurors are especially desirable; (2) the prevalence of superstition and prejudice, which not unfrequently led to failures of justice; (3) the occasional perversity of jurors, instances of which had come to the notice of the Judges; and (4) the inability of the juries to grasp numerous details in complicated cases.

4. In 1888 our attention was drawn to the opinions expressed in some of the Provincial reports on the administration of the police and criminal justice that there had been a considerable increase of crime in late years, and under our orders an enquiry was made into the state of crime in the larger Provinces, the results of which were reported to your Lordship's predecessor with our Judicial Despatch No. 24, dated the 8th July 1890. It was alleged by several of the authorities consulted that the jury system had favoured the escape of criminals, and the inefficient working of the system was stated to be one of the causes of failure of justice.

We accordingly directed a special enquiry into this matter in our letters Nos. 740—745, dated the 31st May 1890 (enclosures Nos. 1 to 3 to this Despatch). We now forward copies of the replies which we have received from Local Governments (enclosures Nos. 4 to 11), and copies of the letters which, after considering these replies and the opinions of the Judges of the High Courts and local officers, we have addressed to the several Governments summing up our conclusions on the subject (enclosures Nos. 12 to 16).

5. The results of the working of the jury system have to be considered from two points of view:—

*First*, with reference to the localities and classes of offences to which the system has from time to time been applied by Local Governments; and

*Secondly*, with reference to the restrictions which have from time to time been imposed on the system by law, and the further restrictions now proposed as safeguards against failures of justice.

6. In the Madras Presidency the jury system was first introduced in 1862-63 in certain selected districts, and cases punishable under the following sections of Chapter XVII. of the Penal Code (offences against property), were declared triable by jury:—sections 379, 380 and 382 (theft), 392 to 395, 397 to 399 and 400 (robbery and dacoity), 411, 412 and 414 (receiving or possessing stolen property), 451 to 459 and 461 (house-trespass in order to commit theft, etc), and attempts to commit and abetments of these offences. The system was considered to work satisfactorily, and by the Madras Government's order No. 811 (Judicial), dated the 20th March 1883, it was extended to all the Sessions divisions of the Presidency except those in the Agency tracts of Ganjam and Godavari. It was at the same time withdrawn from the Vizagapatam Agency, in which it had not been found successful. The classification of the offences declared triable by jury remained the same as before. The subsequent working of the system, as noticed in the annual reports and in the special reports recently under our consideration (enclosure No. 4), has on the whole not been satisfactory, and a general tendency on the part of juries to convict on insufficient evidence has been complained of by many officers. Our conclusions as regards this Presidency are summed up in paragraph 6 of our letter of the 25th August 1892, to the address of the Madras Government (enclosure No. 12). The classes of offences declared triable by jury seem to be on the whole well chosen, and are, indeed, in our opinion capable of some slight extension; but we doubt whether the system is thoroughly suitable to all the areas to which it has been applied, and we are not satisfied that the defects which have been brought to notice are not in some measure due to the premature and wholesale extension of trial by jury to every district throughout the Presidency. We have commended this point to the consideration of the Local Government.

7. In the Bombay Presidency trial by jury was introduced in the Poona District in 1867; in 1884-85 it was extended to the districts of Ahmedabad, Belgaum, Thana and Surat, and to the city of Karachi. It thus obtains in six out of the twenty-three districts which constitute the Presidency. Offences are classified as triable by jury according to the degree of punishment attached to them. In Ahmedabad all offences punishable with death (and such offences only), in Belgaum, Thana, Surat and Karachi all offences punishable with death, transportation for life or imprisonment for ten years, and in Poona all offences so punishable which fall within Chapters VIII (offences against public tranquility), XI (false evidence and offences against public justice), XII (offences relating to coin and Government stamps), XVI (offences against the person), XVII (offences against property), and XVIII (false documents and offences against property marks) of the Penal Code, are triable by jury before the Court of Session. We entirely agree with the Local Government, the High Court and local officers generally (enclosure No. 5) as to the unsuitability of the present classification of offences triable by jury. As expressed in the minute of one of the Honourable Judges, a beginning was made "at the wrong end," the trial of offences punishable with death and of other serious offences having been entrusted to juries at the outset, instead of cases involving simpler issues or less serious consequences such as those which have been declared triable by jury in Madras and the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. In Ahmedabad, Surat, and Belgaum there appear to have been grave and repeated failures of justice in murder cases, owing to the refusal of the jurors to convict even on clear evidence when there is a probability of a capital sentence being passed. A perusal of the reports leaves no doubt in our mind of the propriety of the recommendation made by the Honourable Justices Birdwood, Telang and Farran, that capital cases should be altogether withdrawn from the cognizance of juries in these three districts. We have asked the Local Government to consider the advisability of revising the list of offences declared triable by jury in the Bombay Presidency; but have not as yet received information whether any action has been taken.

8. In Bengal and Assam (which was then a part of the Province of Bengal) the Local Government extended the jury system in 1862 to the Sessions Divisions of the 24 Perganas, Hooghly (including Howrah), Burdwan, Murshidabad, Nuddea, Patna, and Dacca, and to the districts comprised in the Assam Valley Division. The

system thus prevails in eight districts (constituting seven Sessions Divisions) out of forty-six in Bengal, and six districts (constituting one Sessions Division) out of eleven in Assam. The offences which were made triable by jury in these areas are those which fall under Chapter VIII (offences against public tranquillity), Chapter XI (false evidence and offences against public justice), Chapter XVI (offences against the person), Chapter XVII (offences against property), and Chapter XVIII (false documents and offences against property-marks) of the Penal Code, and also attempts to commit and abetments of these offences. In the Assam Division all cases committed to the Court of Sessions were declared triable by jury in 1862; but in 1868 the operation of the system was restricted to the offences falling under the five chapters mentioned above. The reports received from the Bengal Government (enclosures Nos. 6 and 7) and the Calcutta High Court (enclosure No. 8) show that the jury system has worked in an extremely unsatisfactory manner in the Lower Provinces, and that flagrant miscarriages of justice are of not uncommon occurrence in important classes of cases. Very recently the Bengal Government, acting under the powers conferred by section 269 of the Criminal Procedure Code, has revised the list of offences triable by jury. It now includes all offences under Chapter XI of the Penal Code (false evidence and offences against public justice), the offences of kidnapping, abduction and rape, sections 363 to 369, 373 and 376 in Chapter XVI (offences against the person), all offences under Chapter XVII (offences against property) and Chapter XX (offences relating to marriage), and also attempts to commit and abetments of any of these offences. These changes have been made with a view to the improvement of the jury system by withdrawing from its application those offences which experience has shown to be unsuitable for trial by jury and the trial of which has brought most discredit on the system in Bengal. In connection with this subject we invite your Lordship's attention to the letter of the Bengal Government, No. 4527], dated the 12th December, and its enclosures (enclosure No. 20 of this Despatch), which exhibit in a tabular form some statistics of the results of jury trial during the past five years in the eight districts where it is in force. It will be seen that in that period 1,489 cases were tried with the assistance of juries, of which 698 came under heads now withdrawn from their cognizance, while 791 remain so triable. Of the former, the Judge differed, or rather was constrained to record his dissent, from the verdict of the jury in 97 cases, or 13·8 per cent.: in 62 cases, or 8·8 per cent., he referred the verdict to the High Court under section 307 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and in 34 cases, or 4·8 per cent., that Court reversed or modified the finding of the jury. Of the latter, the Judge differed in only 7·7 per cent., and referred in only 4·1 per cent., while the High Court interfered with the verdict in only 13 cases, or 1·6 per cent. The second table is still more instructive, showing that in murder cases alone more than 10 per cent. (22 out of 203) were referred to the High Court as having resulted in a distinct failure of justice, and that in 13 cases, or 6·4 per cent., the High Court actually set aside the verdict. In the other cases now withdrawn (495), the Judge differed in 14·1 per cent., but referred only 8·08 per cent., and obtained a modification of the jury's verdict in 4·2 per cent. The fourth table shows that of the 27 cases in which the Judge expressed dissent from the verdict in charges of murder, in 25 he differed from an acquittal and in only two from a conviction. Under the other heads of cases now withdrawn the Judge differed from the jury in 59 cases of acquittal, or 11·9 per cent., and in 11 cases of conviction, or 2·2 per cent.

These statistics appear to us entirely to justify the action taken by the Bengal Government, and conspicuously so as regards murder cases. It is to be remembered that of these cases the great majority are of a simple character, offering little difficulty in their decision: most of the offences which come to trial are committed by low-caste persons in a humble station of life, and there are few or no inducements for the jury to return a perverse verdict. The cases in which such a verdict is returned are usually those in which a person of respectable caste or station is involved, and these necessarily form but a small proportion of the whole. But the scandal caused by the perverse acquittal of a Brahman or other well-to-do person, and the injury to public morals by the lesson thus taught that such persons can commit crime with impunity, are very great. We consider it of the utmost importance that such miscarriages of justice should be prevented, and that no countenance should be given to the idea that the Courts apply one description of justice in dealing with persons of respectable birth or traditional sanctity, and another in dealing with the landless labourer or low-caste aboriginal. Where the latter are concerned, juries, except where religious objections to being the cause of taking life prevail, are not generally unwilling to convict; but these cases, as already noticed, are usually easy of decision, and the assistance afforded by the jury to the Judge is not greater than he would derive from assessors, whom he is able freely to consult on all questions of Native feeling and usage.

It will be observed that the Bengal Government has now for the first time added to the list of offences triable by jury those

under Chapter XX of the Penal Code, relating to marriage. The cases left for trial by jury in Bengal, even after the reduction now made, are more numerous than those which have hitherto been so triable in Madras and the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. Although fewer cases will in future be tried by juries in eight districts, the revised arrangements, after they have been sufficiently tested by experience, may render it possible to extend the jury system to areas where it has not yet been introduced. Under the former arrangements it was found impossible to effect any extension of the system since it was first applied as an experiment in 1862.

The Chief Commissioner of Assam has also revised the list of offences triable by jury in that Province so as to assimilate it to the list adopted in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh as described in the next paragraph.

9. In the North-Western Provinces and Oudh the jury system is in force only in Allahabad, Benares and Lucknow (or in 3 out of 49 districts), where it was introduced in 1885. The cases triable by jury are those relating to offences punishable under sections 363 to 369, 372 and 373 (kidnapping and abduction) and 376 (rape) in Chapter XVI of the Penal Code (offences against the person), sections 379 to 382 (theft), 397 to 399 and 401 (robbery and dacoity), 403 and 404 (criminal misappropriation), 411 to 414 (receiving or possessing stolen property), 426 to 432, 434 to 436 and 440 (mischief), 448 and 450 to 462 (house-breaking, burglary, etc.) in Chapter XVII (offences against property); all offences falling under Chapter XX (relating to marriage); and attempts to commit and abetments of these offences. The opinion of the Local Government is that, restricted in this manner, the jury system has, on the whole, worked satisfactorily in the three districts where it prevails.

10. From the summary just given it will be seen that the system of trial by jury before the Court of Session is not an established part of the machinery of justice in this country, but an exceptional procedure which the law empowers the Local Government to introduce in any particular area and in respect of particular classes of cases, and to extend, restrict, or modify from time to time as may be found necessary. It is only in force in a very small proportion of the districts in Bombay, Bengal and the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. In Madras, where it has been more widely introduced, it is confined to certain specified offences against property of which theft is an element. In the North-Western Provinces and Oudh it is limited in a similar manner, but extends also to the offences of kidnapping, abduction, rape, criminal misappropriation and mischief, and to those relating to marriage. In the latter Provinces the system appears to have worked satisfactorily: it has been cautiously introduced, and the offences classified as triable by jury have been carefully selected. In Madras it is reported not to have worked well in recent years, possibly in consequence of its premature extension to the entire area of the Presidency except the Agencies or non-regulation tracts. In Bengal and Bombay, where the classification of the offences declared triable by jury was based on a different principle and includes a wider range of cases, the results are more unfavourable, and the system is reported to have been the source of grave scandals in the administration of justice, notably in cases of murder and culpable homicide. It is unnecessary for us to repeat here what is stated in detail in the reports received from these Provinces. Your Lordship will observe from the papers (enclosures Nos. 4 to 11) that in certain class of cases juries in India have been found to be devoid of a due sense of their responsibility and public duty. If the jury system is to be placed on a proper footing, so as to be capable of assisting, instead of tending to defeat, the due administration of justice, it seems to us essential that cases in which the personal feelings or caste and social prejudices of the jurors interfere with their public duty should, as far as possible, be excluded from trial by jury, as well as cases in which jurors are liable to be influenced by extrinsic reasons (such as a disinclination to put it in the power of the Judge to pass a capital sentence) or by their sympathy with criminals, and cases which present a complication of details requiring an appreciation and discrimination of the evidence beyond the mental capacity of the persons at present available to serve on juries. The list in force in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh seems to us suitably to classify the offences which may under present circumstances be properly entrusted to the cognizance of juries. It is more comprehensive than the Madras list, and at the same time it excludes cases, such as those of murder and culpable homicide, in which the personal feelings and prejudices of the jurors are most liable to lead to failure of justice, and cases such as those relating to riots, which require careful and minute attention to the evidence and an intelligent discrimination of the parts of it bearing against each individual accused. The latter class of cases generally involve the placing of a number of persons on their trial at the same time, and the hearing frequently extends over several days. It is not the practice nor is it possible in this country to lock up the jurors at night, and they cannot be kept away from outside influences.

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